

10 Road Trip Ideas That Are Way Cheaper Than Flying

March 10, 2026

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While there are few things I love more than jetting off on a lengthy vacation, sometimes a quick road trip is all that's in the cards. Whether you're dealing with a demanding work schedule or you're on a tight budget, road trips are a stellar (yet underrated) travel option. There's something uniquely fun about packing up your car and setting off with some friends or a partner—and don't even get me started on road trip snacks. Plus, air travel is undeniably stressful (and seems to be getting increasingly expensive), so any excuse to skip the TSA line and opt for the comfort of your own space is a win in my book.

If you're thinking of planning a road trip this year, allow me to provide some inspiration. Regardless of whether you have a whole week to work with or just a long weekend, these road trip ideas deserve a spot on your bucket list.

2. Channel Nancy Meyers on the East Coast



Source: Rich Martello | Unsplash

Newport, Rhode Island, to Portland, Maine

Calling all Nancy Meyers fans! If you want to tap into all things coastal grandmother, a road trip around New England is the perfect fix. Although you'll cover a lot of ground, the drive from Newport to Portland, Maine, is just under three hours, making it doable for a quick weekend escape. Starting in Newport, indulge in all things New England luxury—think Gilded Age mansions, stunning sailboats, and waterfront happy hours. Be sure to make a dinner reservation at Pasta Beach for delicious Italian cuisine, and stop by Castle Hill Inn for lawn cocktails and boat views.

Along your way to Portland, some stops worth making include Boston, Massachusetts, and Kennebunkport, Maine. These two cities offer unique experiences (big city vibes versus small town charm), but both are great for a quick stop to break up your drive or for a one- to two-night stay. Once you reach Portland, immerse yourself in the rich maritime history and fishing scene. Portland is also an artsy and food-rich destination, so you'll want to come hungry and ready to do plenty of walking around the cobblestone streets.