Interstate Road Trip: Adelaide to Darwin

A Few Important Tips Before You Go

Travelling from Adelaide to Darwin covers long distances through remote areas where services can be limited and conditions can change quickly. Being well prepared and staying alert on the road is essential for a safe journey. The following tips will help you travel more safely and confidently.

1. Prepare Your Vehicle and Essentials

Ensure your vehicle is in good condition before departure, including tyres, brakes, fluids, lights, and battery. Also pack essential items such as chargers, power banks, medication, sunscreen, and sunglasses.

2. Plan Fuel Carefully

Fuel stations can be far apart in remote areas. Refuel whenever possible rather than waiting until your tank is low. Carrying extra fuel in approved containers (such as jerry cans) is also recommended for emergencies.

3. Carry Enough Water and Food

Bring at least 10 litres of drinking water per person, along with non-perishable food such as snacks, nuts, and protein bars in case of delays.

4. Use Reliable Navigation Methods

Download offline maps before travelling and do not rely solely on mobile reception or GPS apps. Always check official road reports for South Australia and the Northern Territory, as conditions can change quickly.

5. Stay Connected and Share Your Plans

Mobile coverage can be limited in remote areas. Telstra generally offers the best coverage.

For longer trips, consider a UHF radio or satellite device, and always inform someone of your travel route and expected arrival time.

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6. Drive Safely in Remote Conditions

Maintain a safe following distance, avoid sudden braking or overtaking, and be cautious on unsealed or rough roads. Be aware that road trains and heavy vehicles are common on outback highways, and speed limits can reach up to **130km/h** in NT.

7. Watch for Wildlife and Livestock

Animals such as kangaroos and cattle often appear on unfenced roads, especially at dawn and dusk. Drive carefully and stay alert at all times.

8. Manage Driver Fatigue and Visibility

Take regular breaks to avoid fatigue. Long, straight roads can reduce concentration. Be cautious in low visibility conditions such as dust, heat haze, rain, or early morning light.

9. Wet weather and Flooding Safety

Avoid driving during the wet season where possible. In wet conditions, slow down and increase following distance.

Never drive through flooded roads, and if you encounter flooding, turn around immediately.

10. Protect Yourself from Sun and Heat

Use sunscreen, wear sunglasses, and choose protective clothing to reduce sun exposure. Also carry insect repellent and cover up when stopping near water or at dusk to avoid mosquitoes.

11. Know Emergency and Breakdown Procedures

If your vehicle breaks down, stay with it. If safe, make yourself visible, and wait for help. Do not attempt to walk long distances in remote areas unless absolutely necessary.

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South Australia Travel & Safety Information

For additional travel advice and safety information, please visit:
South Australia Road Safety
Traffic SA (Road Closures & Conditions)

Emergency Contacts

Emergency Services: 000

Police Assistance: 131 444

Traffic SA: traffic.sa.gov.au

Northern Territory Travel & Safety Information

For additional travel advice and safety information, please visit:
https://northernterritory.com/plan/useful-information/safety-information

Emergency Contacts

Emergency Services: 000

Police Assistance: 131 444

NT Road Report: https://roadreport.nt.gov.au/

Safe travels and enjoy your time in the Northern Territory.

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