



MOUNTAIN TERRAIN DRIVING TIPS

Prevent Overheating

- Climbing steep mountain roads may make your engine overheat. If your vehicle struggles to maintain a consistent speed, shift into a lower gear. Downshifting gives the engine more power when climbing. Monitor the engine's temperature; if your car overheats, find a safe place to stop so it can cool down. Use pull-off areas whenever possible or look for a straightaway or another spot where approaching motorists will be able to see you clearly.

Use Lower Gears to go Downhill

- When driving down a mountain, do not rely solely on your brakes to reduce speed, as this can cause them to overheat and fail. Shift into a lower gear before going downhill to allow the engine to slow the vehicle down without over-using the brakes.
- When using brakes on declines, use the tap method (quick, light taps on the brake pedal) to keep them cool. Pay attention to speed signs, and anticipate steep, hairpin turns by braking before you take the plunge. By braking before turns, you shift the forces to the back of the vehicle instead of the front, which offers greater control and the ability to more easily coast through snaking roads.
- Remember to take turns slowly and watch out for falling rocks, other debris on the road, and wildlife that could appear unexpectedly. Keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front of you to account for the increased stopping distance when traveling downhill

Tips for driving in the mountains at night

- Night driving adds an extra layer of complexity on a mountain road. Your visibility is limited, and the winding roads can be disorienting. Stay attentive and slow down to give yourself enough time to react to unexpected obstacles. Use your headlights effectively but switch to low beams when approaching oncoming traffic.

Be prepared and stay alert

- Driving in the mountains may be the perfect opportunity to ensure that you've replenished your emergency triangle kit. Make sure you have water, snacks, a first-aid kit, and a flashlight. Bring a paper map of the area where you'll be driving, as cell signals can be unpredictable in remote areas. Check the weather before heading out and avoid driving in extreme conditions but be prepared for a departure from the forecast. Take breaks if you feel fatigued, and always focus on the road.
- Even the briefest moment of distraction can cause drifting, which could encroach onto oncoming traffic's space and cause a crash. Use roadside pullouts for scenery stops, and whenever traffic behind you exceeds two or three vehicles, allow them to pass at the next legal pullout.
- Although it's tempting to look at the breathtaking scenery while driving, stay focused on keeping an even distance between the yellow lines.