

# on the go

**2026 Route 66  
Road Fest**

**10 Famous Foods  
in Boston**



**March  
April  
2026**

PERIODICAL

# In This Issue

## 6 Route 66 Road Fest 2026

June 27-28, 2026 promises to be a weekend brimming with memory-making, road-tripping vibes

## 12 10 Famous Foods in Boston

Ten delicious dishes that define the city's culinary scene, featuring New England seafood and more

## 16 Blue Marsh Sensory Delight

Experience this easy loop trail as it leads through underbrush and tall trees filled with singing birds



## Departments

- 2 PRESIDENT'S NOTE
- 4 CLUB UPDATE
- 10 TRAVEL NEWS
- 20 ON THE ROAD
- 24 WHAT'S GOING ON



## Cover

The highway that officially became US Route 66 on November 11, 1926, was the road many took in pursuit of opportunity, adventure, and discovery. This centennial isn't just a milestone; it's a celebration of the hopes, dreams, and journeys of generations of travelers. Whether you've traveled Route 66 a hundred times or never set a wheel on it, this summer offers a rare chance to celebrate the Mother Road in style. More on page 6.

## On The Go

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# President's Note

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Peter J. Armstrong  
*President/CEO*

“...one error in judgment  
behind the wheel...can have  
tragic consequences...”

## Working on Work Zone Safety

By show of hands, who remembers the excruciating seven-hour traffic snarl on Route 78 back in January? For those who may have missed it, here are the highlights.

Saturday, January 17, 2026 - At mile-marker 39.1, Greenwich Township, a chain-reaction crash was caused when a Freightliner tractor-trailer driver lost control of his west-bound vehicle on the snow-covered highway. The driver was going too fast for road conditions, causing the truck to strike the concrete median barrier.

Another ten vehicles, including three more tractor-trailers, crashed into the immobilized rig, injuring seven of the drivers and passengers involved in the incident. All but one of the affected vehicles required a tow from the crash scene. The removal process was severely impacted by the miles-long backlog of traffic, delaying the timely arrival of emergency tow vehicles needed to restore traffic flow on the major artery that carries about 45,000 vehicles through Berks on any given day.

AAA wants to thank the following emergency responders who worked tirelessly to clear the roadway of damaged vehicles and assist the injured: Pennsylvania State Police, Always Towing, Cetronia EMS, Fleetwood Fire Co., Hamburg EMS, Kempton Fire Co., Kutztown Fire Co., Life Lion EMS, V&M Towing and others.

I mention this incident because, while it did not happen within a construction zone (a bit east of the Route 78/Route 61 project), April 20-24, 2026 is National Work Zone Awareness Week. Construction zone or not, the January incident is a reminder of how one error in judgment behind the wheel can have tragic consequences.

In an effort to reduce the frequency/severity of work zone crashes by improving driver behaviors, Pennsylvania implemented the Automated Work Zone Speed Enforcement program in March 2020. In 2023

PA Governor Shapiro signed HB 1283 into law (Act 38 of 2023), making the Work Zone Speed Safety Camera program a vital part of the Commonwealth's effort to protect the men and women who work in these high-risk areas as well as the motorists who travel through them and the emergency responders who rush to crash scenes to pick up the pieces after an incident.

How are we doing since the added crash reduction efforts? In 2020 - the first year with the AWZSE - there were sixty-eight work zone crashes in Berks County. Would you expect a decrease in incident numbers? Unfortunately, drivers weren't getting the message. In 2021 there were 124 work zone crashes in Berks - an increase of 182 percent! The years 2022, 2023, and 2024 saw 88, 59, and 49 work zone crashes respectively. The results of these crashes - seven fatalities and eighteen serious injuries.

While work zone workers are the most vulnerable, most people killed in work zone crashes are motorists, highlighting the need for all drivers to stay alert.

The AAA Foundation for Safety, in collaboration with the University of Washington, is hosting the 2026 Safe Mobility Conference in Seattle at the end of this month. Featured speakers include AAA Inc President & CEO Gene Boehm, AAA Western & Central New York President & CEO Marke Dickinson, and AAA Washington President & CEO Heather Snively.

The event brings together professionals and students from industry, academia, government, and advocacy to connect and share ideas aimed at making mobility safer for all road users. It is through such collaborative efforts that a broad approach to addressing issues such as work zone safety can be formed.

Visit the official National Work Zone Awareness Week website, [www.nwzaw.org](http://www.nwzaw.org), for information on this annual awareness campaign and tips on what you can do to help improve work zone safety.

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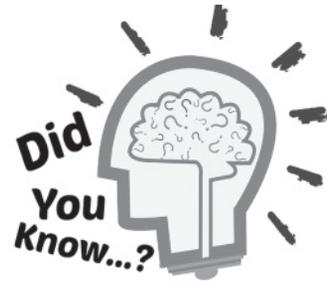
# Club Update

## Did you know...used up car batteries cannot be thrown out in the trash?

It's true! You can't just set out your old car battery with your other household refuse. Instead, they can be taken to local recycling centers or to scrap metal facilities.

Find the battery-associated words in the puzzle below and submit to be entered to win a prize!

S A I C H I E V Z A C Q T V  
 F T U V Y H H E P C O V Z  
 R K R P T C J S J T S H Z K  
 O S D V I E Z B V U Z S V S  
 Q Z V E C G E E B Y C S O U  
 G R U V A R S V W T L C L L  
 U C L H P A T R P B F Y Y P  
 Y F B W A H A E U D B D A H  
 J U M P C C R S G M F L G A  
 L F E O E S T E P W B Z E T  
 X U U Q L I H R T Q A F A I  
 G P M N C D Z W M L W G K O  
 M D G Y Y Q L C H A R G E N  
 R B E U C A Y W Z D X D J T



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When you buy a new battery from AAA's Mobile Battery Service, we take away the old one to be properly recycled! When it's time to replace your battery, we'll deliver and install it in your driveway, at your office or wherever you are. **We come to you!**

#### Word List

DISCHARGE	VOLTAGE	CHARGE
CYCLE	JUMP	START
SULPHATION	RESERVE	CAPACITY

Mail to: AAA Battery Puzzle, PO Box 7049, Reading, PA 19610-6049  
 Drop off: AAA Reading-Berks, 920 Van Reed Road, Wyomissing

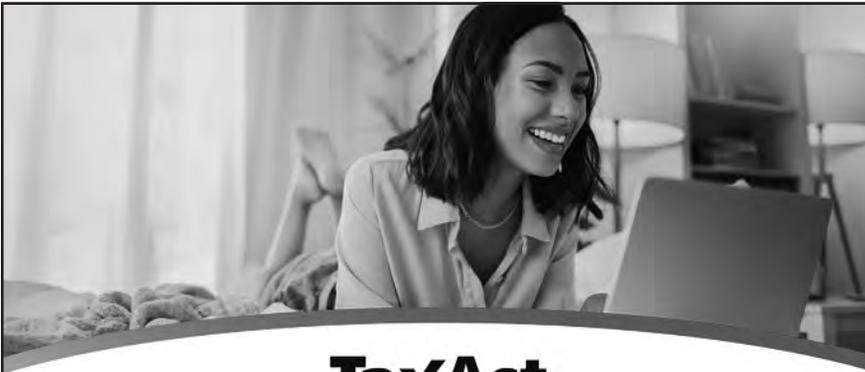
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Member # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone # or email \_\_\_\_\_

## WERE YOU A AAA SCHOOL SAFETY PATROL MEMBER?

We're looking for the oldest former AAA School Safety Patroller in Berks County.

If you served as a safety patrol member before 1970, please call 484-987-7025 or send an email to [cgouker@aaardg-berks.com](mailto:cgouker@aaardg-berks.com) with the school you attended and the year(s) you served.





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# 2026 route 66 road fest

*This June, the Mother Road turns 100! Celebrate at the Route 66 Road Fest in Tulsa, OK to get the Great American Road Trip spirit*

If you've ever dreamed of hitting the open road, wind in your hair, and a soundtrack of nostalgia playing in the background, the Route 66 Road Fest is your ultimate destination. This two-day celebration of America's most legendary highway—happening June 27-28, 2026, in Tulsa, Oklahoma—offers a thrilling mix of history, entertainment, and family fun.

Here's why you absolutely can't miss it:

### **1. Step into history like never before**

Dive headfirst into the story of Route 66 with interactive exhibits that bring its nearly 100-year legacy to life. Discover the tales of the pioneers, communities, and businesses that made this highway a cultural icon. With vintage photographs, rare artifacts, and dynamic storytelling, it's like traveling back in time without ever leaving Tulsa.



### **2. Marvel at hundreds of jaw-dropping classic cars**

Car lovers, rejoice! The Route 66 Road Fest boasts one of the most impressive classic car showcases you'll ever see. Picture rows upon rows of gleaming vintage vehicles—from roaring muscle cars to stylish convertibles—that once ruled the Mother Road. Snap a selfie with your dream ride and relive the golden age of American road trips.



### **3. Fun for the whole family**

Whether you're eight or eighty, the Road Fest has something to delight every traveler. Kids will be all smiles with engaging hands-on activities and games, while adults can explore exhibits and discover the rich history of Route 66. It's a chance to make memories together while learning about one of America's greatest adventures.





#### 4. Step inside retro charm with vintage RVs

Ever wondered what road-tripping was like before Wi-Fi and GPS? Get up close and personal with a stunning collection of vintage RVs, each packed with personality and history. Peek inside these retro campers to experience the nomadic lifestyle that once defined cross-country travel. Who knows? It might just inspire your next adventure!

#### 5. Shop, savor, and discover something new

The bustling vendor marketplace is a treasure trove of Route 66 memorabilia, unique crafts, and mouthwatering regional snacks. Whether you're hunting for a quirky souvenir or looking to support local artisans, this marketplace guarantees you'll take a piece of the Mother Road home with you.



#### 6. Live music, stories, and entertainment galore

Get ready to be entertained! The festival's main stage will feature live music performances that echo the spirit of Route 66, alongside fascinating presentations from Route 66 experts and storytellers. It's the perfect blend of fun and learning, keeping you engaged all weekend long.



# Kia, Hyundai Restitution Settlement

On December 16, 2025, Pennsylvania AG Dave Sunday announced a settlement that affects owners of Hyundai and Kia vehicles. Under the multistate settlement with the auto makers, Hyundai and Kia will offer a free hardware fix for millions of vehicles sold nationwide that lacked industry-standard anti-theft technology. The failure resulted in an outbreak of car thefts and joy riding incidents across the U.S., threatening public safety.

Under the agreement, Hyundai and Kia will:

- Meet industry standards in manufacturing going forward for engine immobilizer anti-theft technology;
- Offer free zinc-reinforced ignition cylinder protectors to owners and lessees of eligible models, including those that previously were only eligible for the companies' software updates;
- Pay up to \$4.5 million in restitution, nationwide, to impacted consumers who experienced incidents of theft and resulting damages; and
- Pay \$4.5 million to the involved states to defray the costs of the investigation.

"This settlement is a big step towards offering peace of mind to Pennsylvanians who should not have to worry about losing their vehicles when they are locked up," Attorney General Sunday said. "I encourage all impacted Hyundai and Kia owners in Pennsylvania to make appointments for the free service to reinforce their vehicles."

According to one source, in 2015, only 26% of Kia and Hyundai models sold in the U.S. were equipped with engine immobilizers, compared to 96% of the vehicles sold by other manufacturers.

After car thieves discovered a simple process to steal the essentially unprotected vehicles, the method went viral and the number of Kias and Hyundais stolen exploded. To make matters worse, many of the stolen vehicles were then used in the commission of crimes and were involved in crashes, some fatal.

Instead of quickly reacting to the crisis and providing a solution, Hyundai and Kia waited until 2023 to launch a service campaign to update the software on most of the affected vehicles. They also offered to install ignition cylinder protection, but only for roughly twenty percent of their vehicles that were ineligible for the software update, which as it turned out was easily foiled by car thieves.

"For too many Oregon families, this wasn't just about missing a car - it was about a compromised sense of safety," said Oregon AG Dan Rayfield. "When vehicles are easy targets, neighborhoods pay the price. This settlement is about fixing what should have been done right the first time."



He continued, "Hyundai and Kia will now provide real, physical protections at no cost, and that means fewer thefts, safer streets, and some peace of mind returned to people who were unfairly put at risk."

Eligible consumers will have one year from the date of notice from the companies to make an appointment to have the ignition cylinder protector installed at their local Hyundai or Kia authorized dealerships.

The auto manufacturers chose not to include anti-theft engine-immobilizer technology in millions of their vehicles sold throughout the U.S., including in Pennsylvania. An engine immobilizer prevents thieves from starting a vehicle's engine without the vehicle's "smart" key, which stores the vehicle's electronic security code.

Car thieves easily devised a method to gain access to the affected models without needing to have the smart key. The settlement holds that Hyundai and Kia were too slow in coming up with a solution for the vehicle owners.

Apparently there were also thefts and attempted thefts of affected vehicles after April 29, 2025 in spite of updated software. Those consumers may file a claim for restitution for certain theft and attempted theft-related expenses.

States involved in this settlement besides Pennsylvania are Connecticut, Minnesota, New Hampshire, California, Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, Nevada, Washington, Arizona, Colorado, D.C., Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

# Flat Broke

Dear Ask Ed,

I recently had a flat tire in my driveway. My neighbor, who has a repair garage, took the tire to his shop and plugged it for me. He brought it back to me and I thought all was well until I took my car to be inspected. The inspector said that everything else with my car was okay but it failed because of the type of plug that was used to fix my flat. How can that be?

Looking forward to your answer.

Paul F.

Hello, Paul.

Without knowing how your flat tire was repaired, I can only guess what is going on here.

I'm guessing that the type of fix was a temporary one, and your neighbor used a rope-type plug that looked like this before he trimmed the part that stuck out above the tire tread:



This type of fix works along with the tire's internal air pressure, which jams the tacky plug material against the sides of the puncture. The plug acts as a simple stopper, creating no chemical or vulcanized bond with the tire.

This temporary solution allows you to drive your car to a tire shop where you can have the affected tire properly repaired or replaced. The lifespan of such a temporary measure is never certain. Some may hold for thousands of miles, while others can fail suddenly and without warning. Its potential longevity is irrelevant next to its inherent unreliability and the associated risks or added costs you could incur.

Major industry authorities, including the U.S. Tire Manufacturers Association, don't consider an external plug a complete or safe permanent repair. For this reason, this type of temporary fix was sufficient reason for the PennDOT inspector to fail your vehicle's safety inspection.

My advice would be to take the tire to a trusted repair facility or tire shop so it can be properly repaired and you can drive your car without fear of another tire failure.

They will use a tire patch that creates a permanent,



airtight seal from the inside of the tire. The process requires dismounting the tire from the wheel, after which a technician will use a low-speed buffer to prepare the tire's inner liner for a permanent bond. A coat of vulcanizing cement is then applied before the patch is pressed firmly onto the liner and rolled with a stitcher tool to remove any air pockets and help create a perfect seal.

A patch's bond to the inner liner is permanent and meant to last the entire life cycle of the tire, but this isn't necessarily the end of the possibility of another tire failure. What remains is the unsealed puncture channel where, over time, moisture can penetrate causing the tire's internal steel belts to rust, leading to tire separation and catastrophic failure. So while the patch itself lasts, it can shorten the safe and reliable life of the entire tire.

For this reason, the Tire Industry Association, the U.S. Tire Manufacturers Association, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recommends a combination plug-and-patch repair to correctly address a puncture from two directions. The single-piece unit uses its patch component to seal the inner liner against air loss and its integrated stem to fill the puncture path, blocking contamination.

One last word on this subject. A safe car tire repair depends entirely on the tire's overall structural integrity, and attempting to fix a truly compromised tire is a dangerous mistake. Replace unsafe tires and you'll take the right step to remaining safe every trip, near or far.

Hope this helps. Happy motoring!

Ed

Contact Ask Ed with your automotive questions:

AskEd@aaardgberks.com or write to Ask Ed, AAA, 920 Van Reed Road, Wyomissing, PA 19610.

## Your Best Bet in a World Full of Travel Cons

In an era of hyper-connectivity, the allure of the "perfect trip" has never been more intoxicating, yet the dangers lurking behind every click have reached a new level of sophistication, often using AI to mirror legitimate services.

We travel to escape the mundane, fueled by an optimistic belief that "authentic" experiences and life-altering connections are just one booking away. As these schemes evolve, the role of a travel agent has shifted from mere convenience to an essential shield.

To truly embrace the world, we must first recognize that the most valuable part of any itinerary is not the destination itself, but the peace of mind that comes from knowing someone has vetted the path ahead.

In 2026, the digital landscape for travel is more complex than ever. To protect your vacation, it is critical to recognize the digital and physical "red flags" that signal a potential scam.

Ultimately, travel should be about the wonder of discovery, not the stress of avoiding scams. By partnering with a AAA travel agent, you are not just booking a trip; you are securing the freedom to experience



the world with your eyes wide open and your mind at ease. In a world of deepfakes and cloned booking sites, an agent provides:

- Vetted Relationships: We work with trusted, long-term Preferred suppliers
- A "Live" Safety Net: While an algorithm will not help you at 2:00 AM when a flight is canceled, an agent acts as your advocate. Every AAA client receives a 24/7 phone number to call for emergency assistance.
- Regulatory Protection: AAA Travel Agents are bound by industry standards and consumer protection laws that personal DIY bookings lack, providing a layer of financial security against insolvency or deceptive practices.

## PA Turnpike Rates Increase Modestly in '26

Pennsylvania Turnpike users will dig just a little deeper for the convenience in 2026. At 4%, this year's boost is the lowest rate increase since 2014. Per the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission news release of 12/30/25, the entirety of the increase funds will go toward the repayment of Act 44 debt service.

The release went on to say that the Act 44 increase moves the per-mile rate on the mainline and Northeast Extension from \$.07 to \$.073 and the segment fee from

\$1.09 to \$1.13. PA Turnpike portions without a per-segment and distance traveled rate will see a straight 4% increase to existing trips (rounded up to the nearest penny).

E-ZPass customers driving passenger-type vehicles can expect an increase from \$1.86 to \$1.94. Toll By Plate customers will see a typical increase from \$3.72 to \$3.88. The most-common Class-5 tractor trailer toll increases from \$23.16 to \$24.12 for E-ZPass and from \$46.32 to \$48.24 for Toll By Plate customers.

According to the news release - available at [paturnpike.com/news](http://paturnpike.com/news) - said that the increase in 2027 the toll increase will be 3.5% and 3% by 2028. Prior to Act 44, the Pennsylvania Turnpike only raised tolls five times in sixty-four years.

Want to know how much you will pay for using America's First Superhighway on your next trip? Check out their online toll calculator at [paturnpike.com/toll-calculator](http://paturnpike.com/toll-calculator). Plus locate service plazas along your route for food, amenities and more!



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# 10 famous foods in boston

*As one of the oldest port cities in the country, Beantown offers a lot more than simple traditional fare*

## **1. Boston Baked Beans**

Quite possibly the most famous food in Boston is the classic baked beans, a traditional favorite consisting of navy beans simmered with molasses, brown sugar and salt pork or bacon. In the 1700s, Bostonian cooks got inventive with a significant influx of molasses from the Caribbean, coming up with this salty-and-sweet dish which has remained popular for centuries.

The beans are typically soaked overnight, then simmered for several hours until they become tender and infused with molasses and pork's sweet and savory flavors of the molasses and pork. The hearty seasonings and long cooking time give the beans a distinctive rich, slightly sweet taste and hearty texture. Boston baked beans can be a main dish or a side, eaten with cod cakes, hot dogs, cornbread, or, in traditional local style, with a side of brown bread.

Try some at *Bostonia Public House*, 131 State Street.

## **2. Lobster Rolls**

A Boston-style lobster roll consists of fresh lobster meat, usually steamed or boiled, served on a toasted, buttered New England-style split-top bun. The meat is typically dressed in mayonnaise to give it a creamy texture and it can also be flavored with dressings like melted butter or lemon aioli. The finished sandwich is often served with a side of coleslaw, fries or potato chips.

At least two states – Maine and Massachusetts – claim to be the birthplace of the lobster roll and countless cities and towns in the Northeast are home to variations on the theme. Regardless of where you come down on the issue, it's undeniable that lobster rolls are a delicious summertime favorite in Boston dining rooms.

Try some at *Yankee Lobster Company*, 300 Northern Ave.

## **3. Yankee Pot Roast**

Before it became a favorite for households nationwide, pot roast was the quintessential wintertime comfort food for generations of New Englanders. Drawing influences from a variety of Old World recipes, it started as a way for cold Bostonians to keep warm and satisfy their hunger in the freezing New England winters.

It typically consists of a large cut of beef, such as chuck roast or round roast, slow-cooked with an assortment of vegetables, herbs and spices. The meat is simmered in a flavorful broth or red wine until it becomes tender and flavorful, while the vegetables – usually a combination of onions, carrots and potatoes – give the whole dish an earthy, rich flavor and a thick, stew-like texture.

Try some at *The Pleasant Cafe*, 4515 Washington Street

## **4. Clam Chowder**

Like many well-loved Northeastern dishes, clam chowder's origins are lost to history. It may have been a local invention, or it could have been based on British or French dishes introduced to the region in the colonial era.

However it first made its way to tables, Boston lays a solid claim to being the home of the version now known and loved throughout the United States. It's a simple, hearty stew made with clams or other shellfish, bacon or salt pork, potatoes and cream or milk. Onions, celery, chicken broth and other ingredients are sometimes added for a richer flavor and more varied texture. When you visit, sample clam chowder as the locals enjoy it: on its own, with oyster crackers on the side.

Try some at *Joe's Waterfront*, 100 Atlantic Avenue.

## **5. Boston Cream Pie**

Despite the name, Boston cream pie is more of a cake, consisting of two layers of sponge cake dressed in thick,

sweet custard and topped with chocolate glaze. Traditional recipes also call for rum syrup.

This rich, decadent dessert is thought to have been invented in 1856 at the Parker House Hotel, now the Omni Parker House, in downtown Boston. While it can still be found there, bakeries, cafes and restaurants throughout the city feature it as a regular item, including Mike's Pastry in the North End and several other destinations included on AAA's North End Dessert Crawl.

Try some at Omni Parker House, 60 School Street.

#### **6. Roast Beef Sandwiches**

A far cry from a typical roast beef sandwich, this salty, savory delight is thought to have been created at Kelly's Roast Beef on Revere Beach, north of Boston, in 1951. Quickly becoming a favorite, Bostonian cooks developed a unique variant consisting of thinly sliced roast beef on a toasted onion roll. If you want to sample the sandwich the way natives enjoy it, ask for a "three-way": dressed in barbecue sauce, mayonnaise and American cheese.

Try one at Kelly's Roast Beef, Logan Airport, Terminal B.

“...quintessential winter-time comfort food...”

#### **7. Fenway Franks**

Hot dogs are a go-to meal for New Englanders and the Northeast in general, but Boston has a singular twist on this simple dish, named for the iconic home of the Boston Red Sox. Whereas they're usually cooked by steaming or grilling, Fenway franks are first boiled and then lightly grilled before being stuffed into an open-topped roll and drizzled with yellow mustard, relish, or just plain.

Try one at Fenway Park, 4 Jersey Street.

#### **8. Traditional Clambake**

Practically every coastal American culinary tradition has some form of seafood broil, but for Boston, it's the venerable New England clambake. It consists of a mouthwatering assortment of seafood, primarily clams and lobster, mixed with corn, red potatoes and onions, baked or steamed in a pot over an open fire or hot stones. Old-school cooks still prepare it in a seaweed-lined pot for extra flavor and

moisture.

Try some at Eventide Fenway, 1321 Boylston Street.

#### **9. Cannolis**

Boston can lay claim to one of the oldest Italian-American communities in the country, with the first arrivals dating to the 1820s. Two hundred years later and one of the city's most beloved desserts is the tantalizing cannoli. This classic Italian pastry is made up of a crispy cylindrical shell made from sweet dough stuffed with a mixture of slightly sweetened ricotta cheese flavored with vanilla, citrus zest and fruit, nuts or chocolate chips. Locals contend that the best cannolis can be found in the North End, the longtime home of one of the city's largest Italian neighborhoods.

Try some at Mike's Pastry, 300 Hanover Street.

#### **10. Oysters**

The shores along Boston Harbor and the area's many rivers have been a favorite fishing ground for centuries, first with the Native Americans who originally inhabited the area and by city-dwellers ever since. Even today, Boston is a major fishing port, so it should come as no surprise that it's where you can expect to find some of the freshest, most delicious oysters on the East Coast. Oysters are such a beloved local staple that many restaurants offer "Oyster Hour" deals, with plates of fresh shellfish going for as little as \$1. After a summertime trip to one of the beaches near Boston, enjoy some oysters and other fresh seafood.

Try some at Neptune Oyster, 63 Salem Street.



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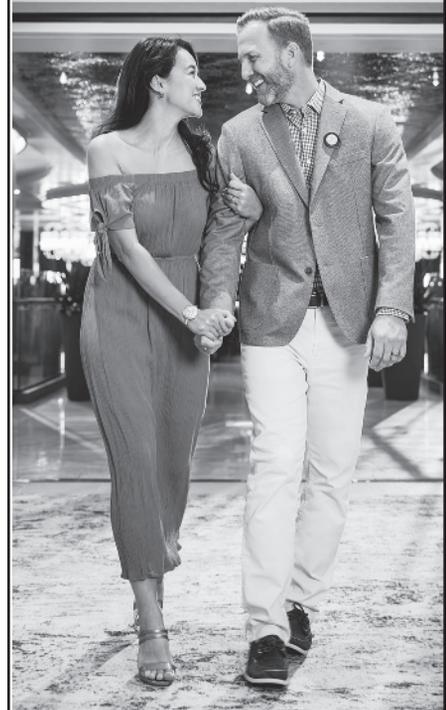
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# Where to Stop at an Intersection

Do you know where you should bring your vehicle to a stop at an intersection? Even though this procedure seems like a basic driver education principal, a significant number of drivers (some studies suggest 65%) daily demonstrate that they have no idea what the answer is, or choose to disregard the correct method.

When approaching an intersection, the driver should look to see what type of pavement markings are there to guide traffic interaction. Is there a wide white line (stop line), a marked crosswalk, or both? Neither?

## Where to Stop (in order of priority)

1. Stop Line: This is a wide, solid white line painted on the road. Drivers must stop with the vehicle's front tires just behind it.

Most modern traffic lights have sensors cut into the pavement just behind the white stop line. When the sensor detects the vehicle above, the change in the magnetic field triggers the traffic light cycle, improving traffic flow. Proper positioning of the vehicle to the stop line (not too far back and not forward of the line) puts the vehicle where the sensor will detect it and allow the traffic signal to do its job.

The sensors are an improvement over simple timers, allowing for better coordination and responsiveness to actual traffic.

2. Crosswalk: If there is no Stop Line, the driver should stop before the crosswalk, the legal space where pedestrians may be trying to cross the intersection.

Crosswalks can be marked or not marked. Markings can differ and generally are either Traditional (typical white parallel lines from one corner to the other) or High-Visibility (HV). HV designs can include white painted ladder (perpendicular) lines, diagonal (zebra) stripes, bar pairs, or Triple Four ("X-Mark") combination of parallel lines and diagonal

markings that lend better visibility due to the use of materials such as durable paint and embedded plastic/epoxy.

There can also be decorative crosswalk markings, such as colored brick or other materials laid out in artistic or geometric patterns for aesthetic or traffic calming purposes.

Drivers should keep in mind that crosswalks do not have to be marked in order to exist. This is termed a natural crosswalk, and is a legal passage built into most intersections where sidewalks line up across the street. Even without painted or decorative markings, pedestrians have the right to cross in this space, and drivers must yield.

3. Edge of intersection: If there is no stop line or crosswalk (natural or marked), drivers must stop at the point nearest the intersecting roadway where a clear line of visibility can be achieved to detect oncoming traffic coming from all directions, WITHOUT entering the intersection itself.

No matter the type of intersection, the driver must bring the vehicle to a full and complete stop, where your vehicle's body settles. Check for pedestrians before allowing your vehicle to resume motion. Never insist on the right-of-way; yield to those with it. Look left, right, and left again before resuming travel.



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# Destinations & Diversions

## Blue Marsh Eyes of the Eagle a Sensory Delight

The Blue Marsh Eyes of the Eagle Sensory Trail and Garden is getting ready to celebrate its 30th anniversary this spring!

This little hidden gem is accessed from Parking Lot D at the Blue Marsh Lake Day Use Area. It is a quarter mile loop trail providing a natural looking durable surface, laid out to accommodate side by side walkers, wheel chairs and crutches. Guide ropes are mounted along the perimeter to assist blind and visually impaired visitors. Park benches are evenly distributed along the trail as rest stops.

The trail was the vision of Eagle Scout Steven Stauffer from Troop 150 (Hawk Mountain Council) who proposed a "universal access" facility for his Eagle Scout project in 1993. With land set aside for such a project, Park Manager Al Schoenebeck approved it. Trail construction was completed in 1996.

Steven's design included three separate nature experiences - a woodland, a tree canopy, and a wildflower meadow. A lookout platform was added a few years later by Steven's brother, Mike, for his Eagle Scout Project where Steven was later married.

The meadow evolved into a garden maintained by various community groups. Its modern-day mission is to plant and promote native plants, which support our ecosystem, especially birds, insects and other creatures. To foster that mission the garden is certified as a Penn State Pollinator Garden and as a Monarch way station.

The Eyes of the Eagle Sensory Garden offers a variety of opportunities to explore, learn, relax and be inspired. It has a long history of use for educational field trips with visiting school children. Planter displays are changed seasonally with interesting natural materials for a sensory experience

For the past two summers, the Schuylkill Valley and Bernville Community Public Libraries have hosted a Read and Walk once a month during the summer for children under the age of eight. You may want to visit

the library websites for additional information about 2026 events and activities at [www.berkslibraries.org](http://www.berkslibraries.org).

The garden shares space with many nature enthusiasts. Each late fall through early spring, park volunteers hang and regularly fill bird feeders within the garden. The site is frequently visited by bird watchers, many who are members of Baird Ornithological Club and the Mengel Natural History Society.

When you visit, be sure to sign the Garden Visitor log book. Here are two entries from the many comments found there:

"Today is our first visit to Blue Marsh. We walked the Sensory Trail as part of my daughter's white cane lesson with her orientation and mobility teacher. Beautiful and engaging trail. We will be back again and again."

"Hello, my name is Joey S. I love coming back to see what changes/ improvements have been made to the garden. I built the four staircase planters you see around the garden as my Eagle Scout project.

It is thrilling to be able to see what fun things were added to them. As someone earlier stated, it really is an escape from real life!"

The garden is maintained by the Berks County Master Watershed Steward and Master Gardener program and volunteers. Visit often because trail upgrades are in the works!



# Handling Winter Air Travel Interruptions

Weather is considered an “act of God”. Airlines will rebook you on flights that are available but are not required to do much more. The issue is when flights are full, rebooking passengers can be a challenge and could be days later.

Check your airline’s website - or better yet, download their app - to receive up-to-date alerts on your flight status. Check these options before calling the airline’s customer service number which may result in a long wait time. If you do call, you may have better luck dialing the international or rewards phone number.

Don’t book more than one flight. Duplicate bookings will not only cost you a non-refundable ticket but could also cause both flights to be canceled. Many carriers have algorithms in place to spot dupes and cancel both itineraries which could leave you with no flights at all.

Know your rights as an air passenger and review your airline’s carriage contract for information on their policies for flight delays, cancellations, and rebooking. By law, travelers are entitled to a refund when an airline cancels their flight.

If travelers encounter a problem that cannot be resolved by their airline, they may wish to file a complaint

with the U.S. Department of Transportation or FAA. For more information on how, visit <https://www.transportation.gov/airconsumer/file-consumer-complaint>

## Keep in mind for next time

Work with a knowledgeable travel agent, like a AAA travel agent, when booking your trip. They’ll serve as your advocate in case your flight is delayed or canceled and can help with any last-minute travel plans. They may be able to help find an alternate flight to avoid disruption of your travel plans.

Consider flight travel insurance, but read the fine print to understand what it covers. Purchase coverage close to booking, and well ahead of your trip. For example, if you buy travel insurance after a winter storm is already in the forecast, you may not be covered if your flight gets delayed or canceled.

Book morning flights. Early flights are less likely to be delayed and canceled, and even if they are, you have more flexibility to rebook for later that day.

Be sure to include all medications, snacks, and change of clothes in a carry-on bag in case your flight is canceled after you’ve already checked your baggage.

## Annual Meeting

To AAA Reading-Berks members:

In accordance with the Bylaws of AAA Reading-Berks, you are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of the Club will be held at 4:30 PM on Thursday, April 16, 2026, in the downstairs meeting room at AAA Reading-Berks, 920 Van Reed Road, Wyomissing.

Notice of nominations for Club Directors – in compliance with Article IV, Section 7 of the Club Bylaws, a com-

mittee has placed in nomination the following members as Directors for a three-year term: Doug Smith, Peter Armstrong, and Mike Frasch.

*Note: Any 1% of the membership in good standing may also make nominations, providing such nominations are received by the secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the annual meeting.*



## AGING PARENT RESOURCE FORUM

For adult children supporting aging parents

**Monday, April 6**

**4-6pm AAA Reading-Berks**



A “drop in” health fair-styled event intended specifically for those caring for an elderly parent or relative. Attendees will be able to speak with professionals offering financial resources, assistive services, and connections to people and programs that can serve them and their loved ones. No appointment required. Lower level of AAA, 920 Van Reed Rd, Wyomissing.

# How to Find a Good Mechanic in 5 Steps

Are you due for routine car maintenance, or looking for an expert for an unexpected fix? Once you've figured out how to find a good mechanic, save their details! Reliable mechanics can keep you safe and confidently on the road.

We recommend researching reliable recommendations and checking for professional certifications to ensure the shop operates with complete transparency. Read on to learn about these and other steps for finding an honest mechanic.

## Step 1: Research Repair Shop Types

The first step is to know the type of repair shop you need. There are four basic types of repair shops, and the type you choose can make a big difference in your experience, costs, and the quality of work.

### 1. Dealership Service Departments.

Best for: New or under-warranty vehicles, or complex manufacturer-specific issues, including recalls.

#### Pros:

- Factory-trained technicians who specialize in your vehicle's make
- Access to proprietary diagnostic tools and manufacturer service bulletins
- Genuine OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) parts and updates on recalls or warranty repairs

#### Cons:

- Often the most expensive option for labor and parts
- Less personal, you might not speak directly with the technician
- May recommend extra services that aren't strictly necessary

Tip: Dealership repair shops can be great if your car is still covered by warranty or if you drive a newer or luxury vehicle and would benefit from factory-level expertise.

### 2. Independent Repair Shops.

Best for: Out-of-warranty vehicles, long-term relationships, and cost savings.

#### Pros:

- Usually lower labor rates than dealerships
  - More personal service, often means you'll deal directly with the owner
  - Flexibility to use high-quality aftermarket or OEM-equivalent parts
- #### Cons:
- Quality varies widely, not all independents provide the same level of service
  - May lack some brand-specific tools or training
  - Warranties on repairs can differ from shop to shop

### 3. Specialty Repair Shops

Best for: Vehicles with unique needs (e.g., European, hybrid, diesel, transmission, or performance tuning)

#### Pros:

- Deep expertise in a specific make or system
- Often more efficient at diagnosing and fixing specialized issues
- Better access to rare parts and specialized knowledge

#### Cons:

- May cost more than a general independent shop
  - Limited scope, may not be suitable for general maintenance
- Tip: Great if you drive a specialized vehicle or have a specific problem (like a hybrid battery or transmission repair).

### 4. Auto Repair Chains

Best for: Routine maintenance and simple, high-volume services.

#### Pros:

- Competitive prices and frequent coupons or deals
- Convenient locations and standardized processes

- Often good for oil changes, brakes, batteries, or tires

#### Cons:

- Technician skill level can vary
- Focus on volume may mean less personalized attention
- Some may upsell services aggressively

## Step 2. Evaluate Ratings and Reviews

Look carefully at any online reviews, noting any patterns. One or two poor reviews are normal for any business, but if there is a pattern of similar negative comments, this is a red flag. Be especially cautious if multiple reviews mention surprise charges or issues right after repair.

## Step 3. Look For ASE Certification

ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) Certification confirms that mechanics meet national standards for competence. Technicians must retest every five years to confirm they still meet current standards. Having this certification should be a minimum for finding a good mechanic.

## Step 4. Know The Red Flags

Some mechanics may raise red flags, such as being disorganized or evasive about giving an estimate. Beware obvious red flags when looking for a mechanic, and overall, trust your gut if something doesn't feel right.

## Step 5: Communicate Well With Your Mechanic

Good communication with your mechanic can save you time, money, and frustration and ensures your car gets the right care the first time.

You may be planning on keeping your car longer. Using these tips will help you with how to find a good mechanic, hopefully someone you can rely on long-term!

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<sup>2</sup> For new accounts, as of October 2025: Variable Purchase and Balance Transfer APRs of 11.99% - 31.99% based on your credit worthiness at the time of account opening and the Prime Rate. Variable Cash Advance APR of 32.99%, based on Prime Rate. Minimum Interest Charge is \$3. Balance Transfer Fee of the greater of \$10 or 5% of the transfer. Cash Advance Fee of the greater of \$10 or 5% of the advance.

<sup>3</sup> Valid one time only. Offer will be received within 1-2 billing cycles after qualifying spend.

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## Path to Adventure: Connecting History w/Outdoors

Looking for the perfect spot to stretch your legs, grab a bite and dive into Pennsylvania's scenic beauty? The Pennsylvania Turnpike's new Sideling Hill Trailhead is a gate-

- Food, restrooms and picnic facilities just steps away
- Green spaces and a pavilion for a peaceful pause
- Wayfinding signage to help you navigate the trail network

- Enhanced lighting for safety and security
- Future plans call for EV bike charging stations, providing power for eco-friendly riders

### Adventure Awaits

From the Sideling Hill Trailhead, visitors can connect to more than 600 miles of trails within a 25-mile radius, including gems like Buchanan State Forest, Raystown Lake and Bicycle Route S. It's also the perfect starting point for exploring the Old PA Pike

(TOPP) Trail, a unique cycling route that runs through the historic Sideling Hill and Rays Hill tunnels – once part of the original PA Turnpike and the unfinished South Pennsylvania Railroad.

### Plan Your Stop

Located just outside the Sideling Hill Service Plaza's gates, the trailhead offers easy access to all plaza amenities, whether you

arrive via the PA Turnpike or another route.

Please note, 1.5 miles of 2-lane, active roadway separates the TOPP trail from the Sideling Hill Trailhead. Of the 1.5 miles, approximately 0.6 miles will be on the Sidehill Hill Plaza access road with "shared use" signage and roadway markings. Approximately 0.4 miles will be on North Hess Road, which is a PennDOT road and part of PA Bike Route S. Approximately 0.5 miles will be on Pump Station Road, which is a township road with no "shared use" signs or roadway markings. Operated by the Bedford/Fulton Joint Recreation Authority (BFJRA), it has no on-trail amenities and limited cell service. Explorers should plan accordingly.

Ready to roll? The Sideling Hill Trailhead isn't just a stop – it's a starting point for adventure, history and relaxation. Stay up to date on the latest developments by subscribing to the PA Turnpike's e-newsletter at [paturndpike.com/news/the-road-ahead](http://paturndpike.com/news/the-road-ahead).



way to adventure. Opened this past September, this first-of-its-kind destination combines convenience, history and outdoor recreation – all in one stop.

### Why Sideling Hill Trailhead?

Whether you're a seasoned cyclist, weekend explorer or just passing through, the trailhead offers plenty of opportunities for a refreshing break:

- Ample, safe parking for cars, trucks and RVs
- Bike wash and repair stations to keep your ride ready for the next leg
- Secure bike racks while you explore
- ADA-compliant walkways with easy access to the Sideling Hill Service Plaza





# HIGHLIGHTS OF BRITAIN



## TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

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- Conway Castle
- Edinburgh Castle
- Roman Baths
- Scottish Evening\*
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- Stonehenge
- Tower of London
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<sup>3</sup>Tropical Days Continental United States Offer: Valid on new bookings made 03/01/2026 – 04/30/2026 for travel 03/01/2026 – 12/14/2026. Requires roundtrip airfare and accommodation of 5 nights or longer at a participating hotel or resort. Discount is per booking and taken at time of booking. Not valid for contracted groups.

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## Funny Farm Rescue and Historic Smithville

Tuesday August 25, 2026 \$149\* pp  
Our day will begin with a visit to the Funny Farm Rescue and Sanctuary. Today, there are over 600 rescued animals all living the best lives possible at the Funny Farm Rescue & Sanctuary, most roam free. We will have a behind-the-scenes tour. After a hayride, we go for lunch at the Historic Smithville Inn and then the rest of the day is on your own to enjoy the village. You may want to bring an extra pair of shoes!

## Niagara Falls New York

Four days Sept 14-17, 2026 \$1,225\* pp dbl occ  
Did you know that you can see Niagara Falls without going to Canada? From the Seneca Niagara Casino, you can ride the NEW Maid of the Mist, tour the Cave of the Winds, dine at the Top of the Falls Restaurant, visit the Made in America Store and so much more. Plus, you get all the luxury lodging, gaming action, and fine food that Seneca Niagara Casino & Hotel has to offer. Also included is a stop in Cleveland to visit the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

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Come to Vermont and take home memories wrapped in the warmth of a Currier & Ives Holiday. You will appreciate the simplicity of a hand-made evergreen wreath decorating a barn door; hear the jingle of bells as your team of horses and fellow carolers cruise through the woods and just take in the traditional holiday nostalgia.

\*For more information or to book any of these getaways, contact Rose Fisher, 610.374.5600 x 7938 or [rfisher@aaardgberks.com](mailto:rfisher@aaardgberks.com).

# Explore Your World

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## Highlights of Britain

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### AAA Reading-Berks EVP/COO

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\*Rate is per person, based on dbl occ. Includes RT air from PHL, interflights  
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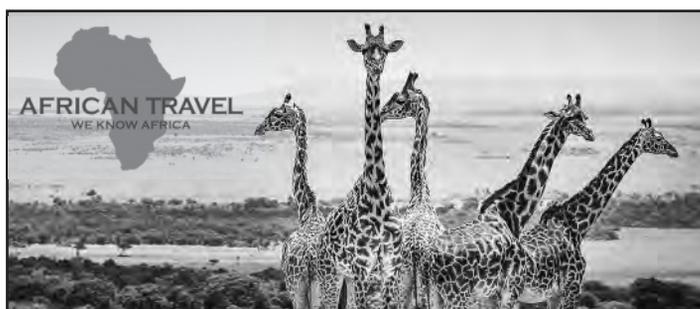
## Kenya Wildlife Safari

### African Travel, AAA Vacations

December 6-16, 2026 *from* \$8,195 pp\*

This journey blends iconic game drives, breathtak-  
ing scenery, and warm Kenyan hospitality into an  
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Nakuru, Maasai Mara.

\*Rate is per person, dbl occ. Includes land and roundtrip economy airfare  
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### Celebrity Cruises *Infinity*

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# what's going on



**Free Public Presentation**  
**Wednesday, April 29**  
**3:00pm AAA Reading-Berks**

RSVP [Victoria@610-741-5810](mailto:Victoria@610-741-5810)  
<https://www.dementiafriendspa.org/eventdetail/1194>

## NEW LOCATION - Bill's Emergency Roadside Service

Besides providing AAA roadside service to members 24/7/365, Bill's has long been a valued part of AAA's Approved Auto Repair program, offering members a 10% labor and 5% parts discount\* on repairs performed at their new 324 Elsie Street, Shillington shop. Available services include state inspections, repairs, and headlight restoration. Call 610-207-2946 for details.

\*Max discount \$75. AAR discount cannot be combined with any other discount. Valid AAA membership card must be presented at time of service.

## Approved Auto Repair

### Always Towing & Service Center

201 S. Third St, Hamburg 610-914-4567

### Audi Reading

2746 Bernville Rd., Leesport 484-220-1200

### Bill's Emergency Roadside Service LLC

324 Elsie St, Shillington 610-207-2946

### Dave's Auto Service

925 W. Philadelphia Ave, Boyertown 610-367-1844

### Dubble's German Motors

2697 Bernville Rd, Rdg 610-375-8330

### Dulin's Tire & Service Co.

3151 Centre Avenue, Reading 610-929-5820

1530 Lancaster Avenue, Shillington 610-775-0375

### Fred Beans Ford

525 Route 100 N, Boyertown 610-367-2081

### Haldeman Ford

15465 Kutztown Road, Kutztown 610-683-3553

### Lee Myles Auto Care & Transmissions

914 Fern Avenue, Reading 610-775-3820

6714 Perkiomen Avenue, Birdsboro 610-404-4227

1051 Old Fritztown Rd, Sinking Spring 610-678-4496

320 Abington Dr, Ste 3C, Wyomissing 610-928-9564

### Rich's Automotive Sales & Service

Rt.12/1340 Clarion St, Reading 610-376-4045

## Approved Auto Body

**Fred Beans Collision Center**, 525 Route 100 N, Boyertown 610-367-2680



Approved  
Auto Repair



Approved  
Auto Body



# Approved Auto Repair

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# 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

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CST# 2052644-40

Wintergarden

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Rivers



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\*Offer ends 12/31/2026. Up to 20% discount will vary depending on location, date, length of rental, car class, & other factors. \$30 on a weekly rental base rate, minimum 5 days. Discounts apply to Pay Later base rate. Taxes, fees, & options excluded. Promotion Code 211950 and AAA CDP# 219 must be provided at time of reservation for full offer discounts. This offer is available at participating Hertz locations in the US, Canada, & Puerto Rico. Age, driver, credit, & qualifying rate restrictions for the renting location apply. Advance reservation required. Offer not valid and rate change or additional fees may apply in the event of reservation modification, early / late vehicle return or if not returning vehicle to renting location. Valid on all car classes except large SUVs, minivans, & Dream. Offer has no cash value, and may not be used with other discounts, promotions, or special rates. Valid for vehicle pickups through 12/31/2026. Subject to availability, blackout periods, & additional restrictions. At the time of rental, present your AAA membership card for identification.

<sup>1</sup>The 1 free day rental offer is an exclusive offer for AAA members who enroll at [AAA.com/hertzgold](http://AAA.com/hertzgold). Valid for new Hertz Gold Plus Rewards® (HGPR) members only. Free rental day will be awarded in the form of 950 Gold Plus Rewards points after the member's first paid Hertz Gold Plus Rewards rental. Free day excludes taxes, fees, & options. © 2026 Hertz System, Inc. All rights reserved. CS 1025033

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