



Adult Summer Challenge

2026 Road Trip Book List

Updated 6/26

STOP 1: Choose Your Passenger

Theme:	Title:
Animal	<i>The Best Dog in the World: Essays on Love</i> edited by Alice Hoffman
Animal	<i>She and Her Cat</i> by Makoto Shinkai and Naruki Nagakawa
Animal	<i>The Wisdom of Wolves</i> by Jim & Jamie Dutcher
Magical Creature	<i>The Goblin Emperor</i> by Katherine Addison
Magical Creature	<i>Faebound</i> by Saara El-Arifi
Magical Creature	<i>Jonathan Strange & Mr Norell</i> by Susanna Clarke
Extinct Animal	<i>The Last Animal</i> by Ramona Ausubel
Extinct Animal	<i>Dinosaurs at the Dinner Party</i> by Edward Dolnick
Extinct Animal	<i>God's Junk Drawer</i> by Peter Clines

STOP 2: Choose Your Vehicle

Theme:	Title:
VW Camper (1960s)	<i>Slouching Towards Bethlehem</i> by Joan Didion
VW Camper (1960s)	<i>The Nickel Boys</i> by Colson Whitehead
VW Camper (1960s)	<i>The Lowland</i> by Jhumpa Lahiri
Ford Econoline (1990s)	<i>Parable of the Sower</i> by Octavia E. Butler
Ford Econoline (1990s)	<i>The Beach</i> by Alex Garland
Ford Econoline (1990s)	<i>This Time Tomorrow</i> by Emma Straub
Mercedes Sprinter (2010s)	<i>The Flatshare</i> by Beth O'Leary
Mercedes Sprinter (2010s)	<i>Know My Name</i> by Chanel Miller
Mercedes Sprinter (2010s)	<i>There There</i> by Tommy Orange

STOP 3: Choose Your Sights

Theme:	Title:
Mountains	<i>The Nature of Disappearing</i> by Kimi Cunningham Grant
Mountains	<i>Hollow Beasts</i> by Alisa Lynn Valdes
Mountains	<i>The Next Everest</i> by Jim Davidson
Museum	<i>The Cartographers</i> by Peng Shepherd
Museum	<i>All the Beauty in the World</i> by Patrick Bringley
Museum	<i>The Metropolitan Affair</i> by Jocelyn Green
Beach	<i>Body Friend</i> by Katherine Brabon
Beach	<i>Deep End</i> by Ali Hazelwood
Beach	<i>Swimming to Antarctica: Tales of a Long Distance Swimmer</i> by Lynne Cox

STOP 4: Choose Your Music

Theme:	Title:
Classical	<i>The Violin Conspiracy</i> by Brendan Slocumb
Classical	<i>East of Eden</i> by John Steinbeck
Classical	<i>Song of Solomon</i> by Toni Morrison
Rock n Roll	<i>Just Kids</i> by Patti Smith
Rock n Roll	<i>The Maidenheads</i> by Benny B. Peterson
Rock n Roll	<i>Room Full of Mirrors: A Biography of Jimi Hendrix</i> by Charles R. Cross
Country	<i>August Lane</i> by Regina Black
Country	<i>Dolly: My Life and Other Unfinished Business</i> by Dolly Parton
Country	<i>Deep Blues: A Musical and Cultural History of the Mississippi Delta</i> by Robert Palmer

STOP 5: Road Trip Mishap

Theme:	Title:
Out of Gas	<i>The Raven Scholar</i> by Antonia Hodgson
Out of Gas	<i>The Tainted Cup</i> by Robert Jackson Bennet
Out of Gas	<i>How to Solve Your Own Murder</i> by Kristen Perrin
We're Lost	<i>A Discovery of Witches</i> by Deborah Harkness
We're Lost	<i>The Shadow of the Wind</i> by Carlos Ruiz Zafón
We're Lost	<i>The Art Thief: A True Story of Love, Crime, and a Dangerous Obsession</i> by Michael Finkel
Detour	<i>The Magical Language</i> of Others by E.J. Koh
Detour	<i>The Love of My Afterlife</i> by Kristy Greenwood
Detour	<i>Metal from Heaven</i> by August Clarke

STOP 6: Choose Your Snack

Theme:	Title:
Hot & Spicy	<i>Heated Rivalry</i> by Rachel Reid
Hot & Spicy	<i>Warrior Princess Assassin</i> by Brigid Kemmerer
Hot & Spicy	<i>Thank You for Listening</i> by Julia Whelan
Healthy & Refreshing	<i>Codependent No More: How to Stop Controlling Others and Start Caring for Yourself</i> by Melody Beattie
Healthy & Refreshing	<i>What Happened to You? Conversations on Trauma, Resilience, and Healing</i> by Bruce Perry and Oprah
Healthy & Refreshing	<i>High Functioning Anxiety: a 5-Step Guide to Calming the Inner Panic and Thriving</i> by Lalitaa Suglani
Satisfy a Craving	<i>Flavors of the Sun: The Sahadi's Guide to Understanding, Buying, and Using Middle Eastern Ingredients</i> by Christine Sahadi Whelan
Satisfy a Craving	<i>Mayumu: Filipino American Desserts Remixed</i> by Abi Balingit
Satisfy a Craving	<i>Italian Snacking: Sweet and Savory Recipes for Every Hour of the Day</i> by Anna Francese Gass

STOP 7: Final Destination

Theme:	Title:
Let's Do It Again	<i>Elsewhere</i> by Alexis Schaitkin
Let's Do It Again	<i>Annie Bot</i> by Sierra Greer
Let's Do It Again	<i>Gideon the Ninth</i> by Tamsyn Muir
Let's Go Abroad Next Time	<i>Crooked Plow</i> by Itamar Vieira Junior, translated by Johnny Lorenz
Let's Go Abroad Next Time	<i>Kitchen</i> by Banana Yoshimoto, translated by Megan Backus
Let's Go Abroad Next Time	<i>Hurricane Season</i> by Fernanda Melchor, translated by Sophie Hughes
Let's Write About It	<i>In the Shadow of the Mountain: A Memoir of Courage</i> by Silvia Vasquez-Lavado
Let's Write About It	<i>My First Summer in the Sierra</i> by John Muir
Let's Write About It	<i>The Caliph's House: A Year in Casablanca</i> by Tahir Shah