

# Chapter 18

## Planning Your Travel

18.1 Local Travel

18.2 Long Distance Travel

18.3 Special Vehicles

## 18.1

# Local Travel

**M**ost of your driving will be short, local trips. Therefore, it is important to plan carefully for local travel. If you do, you will save yourself time, money, and fuel.

### Short Trips

A short trip can be as simple as driving to a neighborhood store. Or it can mean driving to the other side of a large city. In any event, you want to arrive safely and on time. Before you start this kind of trip, ask yourself the following two questions.

**Is This Trip Needed?**

**Do I Have Enough Time?**

## **Planning Ahead**

### **Vehicle Preparation**

### **Route Selection**

### **Know Your Route and Addresses**



You can help plan the route as a passenger.

A well-planned trip can be a satisfying, memorable experience. To make a trip work, you need to plan many details in advance.

### Map Reading

Your first and most valuable trip planning tool is a current map. Maps are available from state and city offices of promotion and tourism, motor clubs, bookstores, and on the Internet.

Good maps include a **legend** that explains the markings and symbols used on the map, such as this one. Comprehensive maps also include a mileage chart to show distances between important points of interest, an index to locate cities, and enlarged detail maps of major cities.

### How to Find a Town


















Most maps have an index listing the coordinates of places on the

**map.** To find a city, locate the letter and number that follows it in the index. Next, find the same letter and number on the edge of the map and draw imaginary lines horizontally and vertically.

### Calculating Distances

There are three ways you can use a map to estimate distances. Use the map scale to estimate distance between towns and cities. On this map, one inch equals about 30 miles. You can use a mileage chart, which lists the distances between cities.

Colored numbers on a map indicate distances between cities, towns, or points of interest marked with like colored symbols. Black numbers indicate the distance between major intersections. You can add numbers to determine the mileage between two locations.

| Map Legend  |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Roads and Related Symbols</b>  |   |
|    | Free Limited Access Highways  |
|    | Under Construction  |
|    | Toll Limited-Access Highways  |
|    | Under Construction  |
|    | Other Four-Lane Divided Highways  |
|    | Principal Highways  |
|    | Other Through Highways  |
|    | Interstate Highways   |
|    | U.S. Highways   |
|    | State and Provincial Highways   |
|    | Miles (red) between arrows<br>One mile or less not shown  |
|   | Interchanges and Numbers<br>(For most states, mileages between interchanges may be determined by subtracting one number from the other) |
| <b>Cities and Towns</b>   |   |
|   | Urbanized Areas   |
|   | Separate cities within metro area   |
|  | National Capital; State Capital   |
|  | Cities, Towns and Recognized Places;<br>County Seats; Neighborhoods (Size of type indicates relative population)                        |
|  |   |

A map's legend explains its markings, symbols, and distance scale.

# Map Legend

## Roads and Related Symbols



Free Limited Access Highways



Under Construction



Toll Limited-Access Highways



Under Construction



Other Four-Lane Divided Highways



Principal Highways



Other Through Highways



Interstate Highways



U.S. Highways



State and Provincial Highways



Miles (red) between arrows



One mile or less not shown



Interchanges and Numbers  
(For most states, mileages between interchanges may be determined by subtracting one number from the other)

## Cities and Towns



Urbanized Areas



Separate cities within metro area



National Capital; State Capital



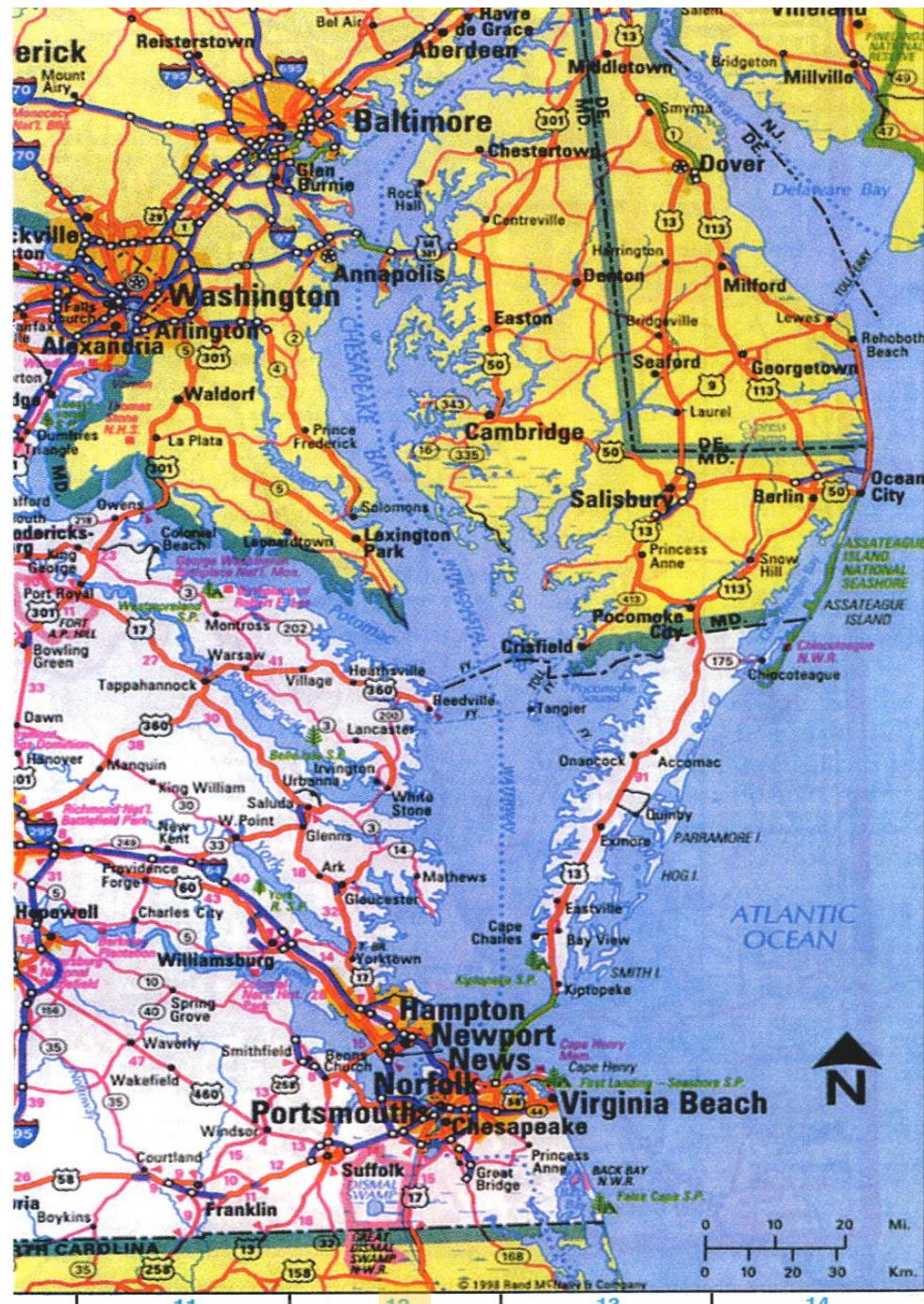
Cities, Towns and Recognized Places;  
County Seats; Neighborhoods (Size of type indicates relative population)

# Virginia

Population: 6,216,568 (1990 Census)  
 Land Area: 39,598 sq. mi.  
 Capital: Richmond

## Cities and Towns

|                             |      |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Abingdon .....              | I-4  |
| Accomac .....               | G-13 |
| Alexandria .....            | D-11 |
| Altavista .....             | H-8  |
| Amherst .....               | G-8  |
| Appalachia .....            | H-2  |
| Appomattox .....            | G-8  |
| Arlington .....             | D-11 |
| Ashland .....               | G-10 |
| Bassett .....               | I-7  |
| Bedford .....               | H-7  |
| Berryville .....            | D-10 |
| Big Stone Gap .....         | H-2  |
| Blacksburg .....            | H-6  |
| Blackstone .....            | H-10 |
| Bluefield .....             | H-5  |
| Bowling Green .....         | F-11 |
| Boydton .....               | I-9  |
| Bristol .....               | I-3  |
| Broadway .....              | E-8  |
| Brookneal .....             | H-8  |
| Buchanan .....              | G-7  |
| Buckingham .....            | G-9  |
| Buena Vista .....           | G-8  |
| Cape Charles .....          | H-13 |
| Cedar Bluff .....           | H-4  |
| Centreville .....           | D-10 |
| Charlotte Court House ..... | H-9  |
| Charlottesville .....       | F-9  |
| Chase City .....            | I-9  |
| Chatham .....               | I-8  |
| Chesapeake .....            | H-12 |
| Chincoteague .....          | F-14 |
| Christiansburg .....        | H-6  |
| Clarksville .....           | I-9  |
| Clifton Forge .....         | G-7  |
| Clintwood .....             | H-3  |
| Coeburn .....               | H-3  |
| Colonial Beach .....        | F-11 |
| Colonial Heights .....      | H-11 |
| Covington .....             | G-7  |
| Crewe .....                 | H-9  |
| Culpeper .....              | E-10 |
| Cumberland .....            | G-9  |
| Danville .....              | H-6  |
| Dublin .....                | H-6  |
| Elkton .....                | E-9  |
| Emporia .....               | I-10 |
| Exmore .....                | G-13 |
| Fairfax .....               | D-11 |
| Falls Church .....          | D-11 |
| Falmouth .....              | E-10 |
| Farmville .....             | H-9  |
| Floyd .....                 | H-6  |
| Franklin .....              | I-11 |
| Fredericksburg .....        | F-10 |
| Front Royal .....           | D-9  |
| Galax .....                 | I-5  |
| Gate City .....             | I-3  |
| Gloucester .....            | G-12 |
| Goochland .....             | G-10 |
| Gordonsville .....          | F-9  |
| Gretna .....                | H-8  |
| Grottoes .....              | F-8  |
| Grundy .....                | H-3  |
| Halifax .....               | I-8  |
| Hampton .....               | H-12 |
| Harrisonburg .....          | E-8  |
| Hillsville .....            | I-6  |
| Hopewell .....              | H-11 |
| Independence .....          | I-5  |
| Jarratt .....               | I-11 |
| Kenbridge .....             | H-9  |
| Lawrenceville .....         | I-10 |
| Lebanon .....               | H-3  |
| Leesburg .....              | D-10 |
| Lexington .....             | G-7  |
| Louisa .....                | F-10 |
| Lovingsston .....           | G-8  |



Gloucester is listed by it's coordinates in the list of cities and towns as being located at G-12.

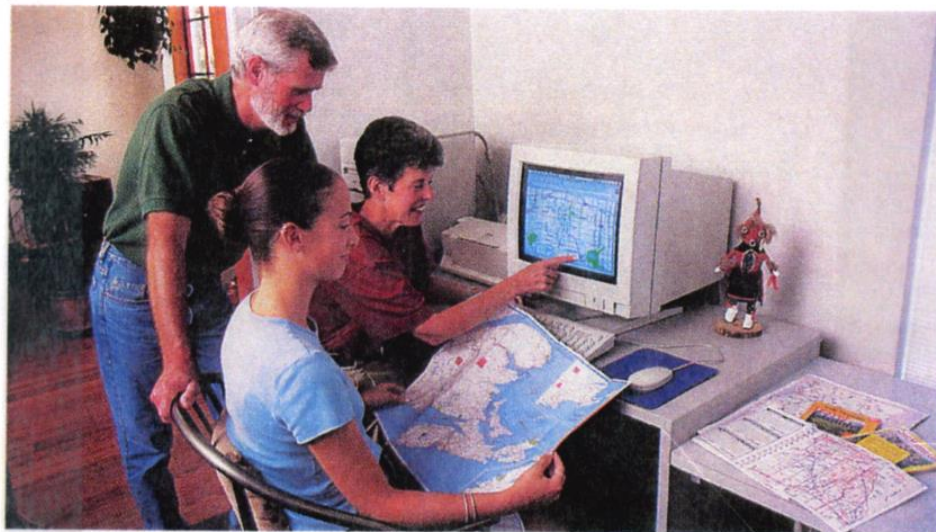
## Advance Preparation

There are many things you need to do before taking a long-distance trip. You can find many sources to help you prepare.

### Routes and Lodging

- How many miles do you want to travel each day? A good average for an 8-hour day is 400 miles.
- Do you want to take local roads or interstate routes? You can make better time on the interstate, but you might miss some sights worth seeing.
- Are there construction areas and rush hours to be avoided?
- What will the weather be like?
- Where do you want to stay overnight? Advanced reservations are recommended on heavily traveled routes, especially during peak seasons.

**Checking Your Vehicle** Make sure your vehicle is serviced at least a week before you take a long trip. Let the service technician know you will be driving a long distance. By doing so, you can reduce the risk of service problems while traveling.



Using the Internet to help plan a trip can save you time and money.

You can start your on-line search for planning your trip by going to established search engines on the Internet. Search for a national park, state, city, or attraction you wish to visit. You can even find the best route and weather conditions on-line.

## Special Equipment

Long-distance travel requires that you pack special equipment for use in emergencies or severe weather. This is equipment you may not normally carry.

### Emergency Equipment

For emergency situations, you should consider packing the following items:

- cellular phone or CB radio to call for help (if available)
- containers of the right oil for your vehicle, antifreeze, and windshield-washer fluid
- A-B-C type fire extinguisher
- first-aid kit
- flashlight
- jumper cables
- spare fuses
- basic tools like an adjustable wrench, screwdriver, and pliers
- flares or reflectors

### Winter Gear

If traveling in remote or mountain areas in winter weather, you will want to pack these additional items:

- blankets and additional warm clothing including gloves
- sleeping bags
- tire chains and/or snow tires
- high-energy food such as granola bars, nuts, and dried fruit
- window scraper and snow brush
- shovel
- tow line
- sand for extra traction

## Personal Preparation

To complete your planning for the trip, make sure you have packed the following items:

- a variety of coins for tolls
- all maps and travel guides
- a spare set of vehicle keys
- all necessary medications
- telephone numbers for motor club, road emergencies, and anticipated stops
- traveler's checks, credit cards, and phone calling cards

Finally, set lights in your home on timers and stop regular deliveries. It is also a good idea to let a neighbor know when you are leaving, where you plan to be, and when you will return.

Buy a magnetic key box and have a set of keys cut. Hide them on the outside of your vehicle. A \$3 or \$4 investment may save you lots of money and inconvenience.



Tire chains can make the difference in bad weather.



### Trailers

Pulling a trailer will put an additional strain on your car. When pulling a trailer, you can count on

- doubling the time and space you need to accelerate, slow, and turn
- cutting your fuel economy almost in half

**Making Sure You're Set** Make these checks before pulling a trailer:

- Check your vehicle owner's manual to see how much weight you can tow.
- Check all fluids. Check your coolant level daily.
- Make sure all filters are clean.
- Inflate your rear tires to their maximum recommended level.
- Double-check all vehicle and trailer lights.
- Check your owner's manual to see if any special equipment is recommended.

**Special Equipment** To pull a trailer safely, you will need the appropriate size and strength trailer hitch, safety

chains, and extended mirrors on both sides of your vehicle. **Safety chains**, as shown in the picture on page 387, provide a backup link to your vehicle in case the hitch fails.



Make sure safety chains are in place before moving.

A towing package usually includes a wiring harness, increased engine cooling, full size spare tire, heavy duty suspension, etc.

Some vehicles are not designed to pull a trailer.

Vehicles designed to pull a trailer can be equipped with an optional towing package.

Towing is done by class based on weight of the trailer.

Class 1 is the lowest, for up to 2,500 pounds; class 2 for up to 3,500 pounds; class 3 for up to 5,000 pounds, etc.

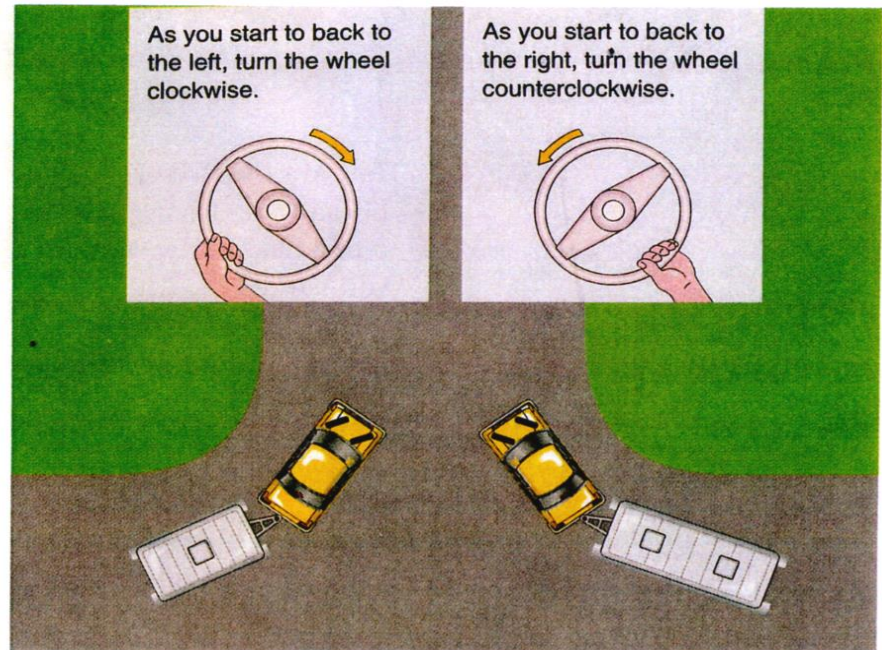
**Load** Check these points when loading your trailer:

- Place heavy items low over the trailer's axle.
- If your load is more than 1,000 pounds, you should get a trailer equipped with special brakes.
- Make sure that about 10 percent of the trailer's loaded weight is on the trailer's hitch.
- Secure the load with ropes.

### Towing Techniques

When towing a trailer, remember, it will take you about twice as long to pass, stop, accelerate, and turn. Follow these rules when towing a trailer:

- Use a following distance of four or more seconds.
- **Travel at the posted speed limit.**
- Make turns slow and wide.
- If your trailer starts to sway or "fishtail," steer straight down the center of your lane. Once the trailer stops swaying, use all brakes carefully.
- Allow twice as much distance to pass or stop.
- Shift to a lower gear before going up or down a steep hill.
- Be ready to slow or correct steering for crosswinds created by other vehicles.
- **Never carry passengers in a trailer.**
- If your vehicle overheats, turn off your air conditioner and turn on your heater.



Take it slow and easy while backing a trailer.

**Backing** Look at the picture above to get an idea of what it's like to back a trailer. To back left, move the wheel to the left with your left hand. Move your hand to the right to start your trailer backing right. Back slowly and make small steering corrections. If you cannot see out the back window, use your right and left mirrors. **Always have a person outside your vehicle to help guide you.**

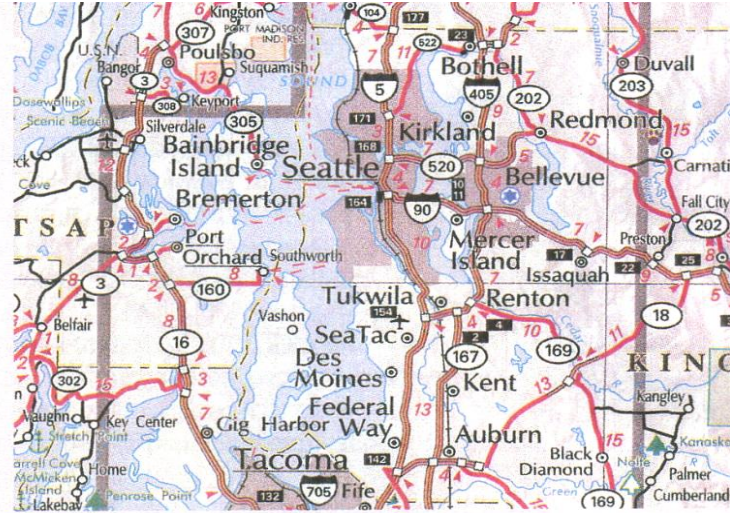
Longer trailers are easier to back up than shorter ones.

In some places vehicles pulling trailers have a lower posted speed limit than other vehicles

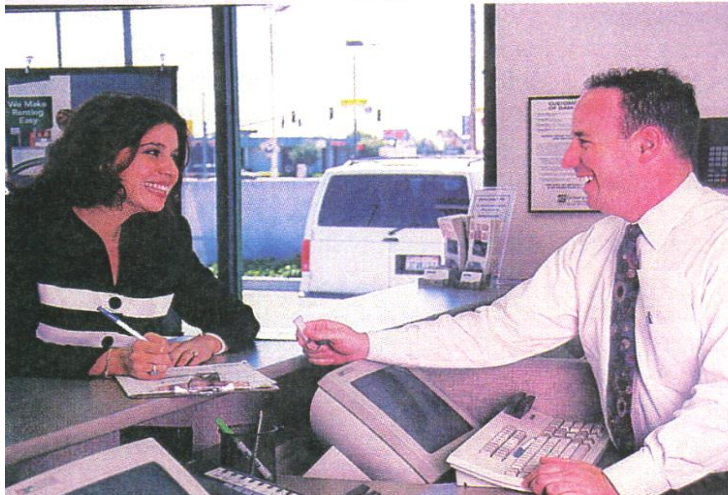
# Decision Making



1. What can you do to find out weather and traffic conditions before you begin a trip?



2. What main route would you take to go from Seattle to Redmond? What other routes are available?



3. What should you know about your rental car before driving it?



4. If you were pulling a trailer on this road and the trailer began to fishtail, what actions would you take?