



One Pager Guide to Planning and Running a National Driving Tour



The purpose of this guide is to provide the basic tips and tricks for running a small but meaningful National Driving Tour. Driving Tours held in the Spring and Fall tend to be small affairs with 20-30 cars and 40-50 people. If you are planning a summer tour, which may typically attract as many as 60-70 cars and over 100 people, this guide is not appropriate. Please refer to the [Handbook for National and Regional Driving Tours](#) if you are planning a summer tour.

A National Driving Tour is open to all CLC members and their families and guests. The event must be a minimum of three days and two nights (Tours at GNs and Fall Festivals excluded). Participants do not have to attend all the scheduled days or events.

A National Driving Tour must be approved by the Board of Directors at a regular Board of Directors meeting. National Driving Tours benefit from exposure on the CLC website, at other national events, and with proper notification, *The Self-Starter* magazine.

Participating in a Cadillac or LaSalle built vehicle is not required.

All National Driving Tours are eligible to be included in the National Driving Tour Grille Badge Program. Make sure your paperwork for the National Driving Tour Grille Badge Program is submitted to the program administrator (Available on the CLC website under the About/Touring Program tabs).

The Club allows for two National Driving Tours per calendar year if they are reasonably separated by time and distance.

The CLC does not provide any financial backing for National Driving Tours so good budgeting is important.

Have Fun and Enjoy the Ride!

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National Driving Tour in 10 easy steps

1. Pick a date. Two years in advance is optimal. This will give you ample time to plan and promote your event. Get the event approved by the CLC Board of Directors.
2. Accumulate ideas for things to see and do. Survey your area and find at least one primary and one secondary site to visit each day. Museums in the transportation category are popular, as are private car collections, mansion tours, and nearby tourist attractions (like Niagara Falls or The Hoover Dam). Make sure parking is secure and plentiful, and walking long distances is not required. Driving between 75 to 100 miles a day is average for Driving Tours. To simplify your registration tasks, do not collect admission in advance for your sites. Allow tourers to pay as they go. However, if an attraction tends to sell out, or the group rate is very attractive, or as event sponsor you must pay admission in advance, then do collect admission as part of your registration.
3. Based on what there is to see and do, determine if this is going to be a spoke and hub tour (one hotel with attractions and various routes around it) or a point-to-point tour (multiple hotels covering a larger geographic area). A hybrid could work as well (two hotels for example).
4. Select hotel(s) that offers Room Blocks instead of contracts. Room blocks of 20 are typical, and oftentimes can be increased when the initial room block sells out. A back-up hotel may be necessary. Hotels with a free breakfast are desirable. Brand name hotels are usually the safest choice but do your research. Hotels must be clean, safe, and reasonably priced. Tourers do not expect private security for their cars, but the hotel parking should be well lit and away from sketchy areas.
5. Plan on having at least one group meal each day and collect money for that in advance on your registration form. The other meals can be “on your own” but make sure choices exist. The quality of the food you provide is one of the most important aspects of a driving tour.
6. Instead of providing turn-by-turn directions for every stop, you can provide GPS friendly addresses for your sites where GPS shows the best way to go (Provide street address for all stops regardless). Share expected arrival and departure times as well. Make sure it is stated on your registration form that a GPS or GPS smart phone app is required. Stay away from large, congested areas and highways (unless unavoidable for a short distance). Provide everyone with an emergency cell phone number. Practice your routes to make sure sites can be easily found by GPS.
7. Plan a few Easter Eggs. These are unadvertised stops along the route that are fun and unexpected. A charming country store, antique mall or a small quirky landmark would fit the bill.
8. Plan a drivers meeting around 8:30 AM each morning so everyone knows what the day will bring. Be on the road by 9:30 AM, end the day around 3-4 PM. (It is advisable to create a group text on your phone in case something unexpected occurs during the day and needs to be shared).
9. Your first group meal is your welcome reception, ask everyone to introduce themselves.
10. Your last group meal is your closing ceremonies. Have some fun awards or trophies to distribute. Make the room nice by bringing your own centerpieces. A private room is preferable.