

Winter driving puts your skills to the test

Winter-driving season is most challenging to our nerves, vehicles and skills. The scenario is too familiar. Temperatures drop, snow falls and ice forms. It's a losing trifecta.

Slippery roads cause many of us to shudder behind the wheel. Our familiar commutes just became a treacherous nightmare.

Snow and ice, meanwhile, aren't the only culprits. Fewer hours of daylight obscure our vision and the sun's glare reflecting off the snow can have a blinding effect.

Rapidly changing weather conditions make it essential drivers remain alert and vigilant. Here are 10 winter-driving tips to help make the experience safer and less stressful:

- Monitor weather and travel conditions. Know the difference between a Winter Storm Watch and Winter Weather Advisory, and how they could impact your plans.
- Think cautiously if you must drive in wintry conditions. Make sure your fuel tank is full. Clear all snow from the hood, roof, windows and lights of your vehicle. Clear windows of fog before driving. Make sure the windshield-wiper fluid is full and wipers are in good condition.
- Not all vehicles respond similarly to icy, slippery roads. Familiarize yourself with the vehicle's braking

system, tire tractions and all-wheel-drive systems. Avoid using cruise control in wintry conditions.

- Don't panic if your vehicle becomes trapped in a storm or snowbank. Avoid overexertion and exposure and stay in the vehicle. Run the motor sparingly and keep fresh air in the vehicle. Stay moving and don't fall asleep. Stay alert for traffic and first-responders.
- Try to avoid secondary roads and drive with caution. Measure your speed to road and weather conditions. Avoid passing other vehicles when road conditions are at their worst. Bridges, ramps and overpasses freeze first.
- Plan your route and make sure someone knows which way you will be traveling, your destination and expected arrival time, especially when driving long distances. Report a safe arrival.
- Leave room for maintenance vehicles and plows. Remain at least 200 feet behind them.
- Carry a winter-survival kit in the trunk or storage area of your vehicle. Fully charge your cell phone; and always keep a road map, flashlight, first-aid kit, blanket and shovel in your vehicle.
- And most importantly, drive slowly. Take your time. The posted speed limits are meant for dry pavement.

Carnival to expand its popular 'Family Feud Live'

"OK, let's play the Feud."

Timeless words by former "Family Feud" host Richard Dawson. The famous game show has

been running for nearly five decades.

on Carnival *Family Feud Live* will expand to *Liberty* on May 26, with *Luminosa* introducing show June 20. The final stop to feature *Family Feud Live* is *Carnival Spirit* on July 18 and *Carnival Magic* on Aug. 18 and *Carnival Dream* on Oct. 5.

Family Feud Live became the first game show to debut *Family Feud Live* at sea when *Mardi Gras* entered service in 2021.

Through an exclusive partnership with Fremantle, *Family Feud Live* features the same format as the iconic TV show. Two five-person teams battle it out in three rounds of game play and then the Fast Money round by naming the most popular answers to survey questions for a chance to win prizes.

To learn more about booking a Carnival cruise, visit your local AAA branch office to meet with a travel advisor or visit AAA.com/Travel.

November 19. *Carnival Miracle* and *Carnival Jubilee* guests will on December 14 and December 23 – the latter's inaugural sailing from Galveston, Texas.

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Tiny Arizona highway meets big expectations

Rock formations, other scenery define Red Rock Scenic Byway

Don't let size fool you. Sometimes, the best things in life come in small packages.

Red Rock Scenic Byway is one of those treats. The Arizona highway is 7.5 miles in length and takes advantage of every inch. What it lacks in length, it more than compensates for in sights, beauty and adventures.

Located off Interstate 17 and 40 miles south of Flagstaff, the highway is considered an entrance to the worldly renowned Red Rock Country of Sedona. Rock formations light up the surroundings. Their unique shapes and sizes blend perfectly with the environment and can't be ignored, leading many visitors to spend hours absorbing all it has to offer.

Red Rock Scenic Byway became Arizona's first All-American Road in 2005, which means it's a national "destination unto itself." Once you rent a vehicle, you'll quickly learn that driving is merely a means of transportation. You can stop, stroll, hike, bike, golf, shop, dine, stay ... Do just about anything.

It will pique your curiosities and spark your senses. Tranquility might be an option, but it's unlikely to be a priority. Upon first glance, this



ROCK AND ROLL – Massive sandstone buttes will steal your attention on Red Rock Scenic Byway in Sedona, Arizona. *Image: Austin. Adobe Stock.*

natural attraction will immediately grab your attention.

The byway winds through the charming Village of Oak Creek and is home to three of Sedona's finest golf courses and two of its most famous and magnificent vortexes – Bell Rock and Cathedral Rock. It twists through the evergreen pinion-covered Coconino National Forest, with several scenic pullouts.

It also winds through fascinating prehistoric Red Rocks. Nearby parking is available, as well as hiking and biking trails.

Don't forget your smartphone. There are many opportunities to take photos. The majestic landscape may burnish your memory, but the opportunity to photograph it will keep you in awe.

Astonishing hues of improbable

splendor coat the natural features of the high desert and ancient red rocks that tower from all directions, offering breathtaking moments you won't soon forget. You might need to remind yourself this isn't a dream; it's reality.

Little Horse Trail is a stunning, three-mile hike that offers the opportunity to explore not only the amazing rock formations but a diverse array of plant life. The path features shady spots under the dwarfed and crooked trees.

Bell Rock Pathway is nearly four miles and allows you to enjoy views of Bell Rock, Courthouse Butte and a number of other rock formations. It also is a popular spot for mountain bikers. Guests can rent bicycles and breeze through the territory.

Cathedral Rock is a sandstone butte on the Sedona skyline and it's one of the most photographed sights in Arizona. Located on O'Beyond Road, it rises nearly 5,000 feet and is best witnessed at sunset, when sunlight reflects off its naturally designed exterior.

Red Rock Scenic Byway sits in a class by itself, and it shouldn't be any other way. Few roads in the U.S. could possibly offer so much adventure in so little distance.

Nissan concept future of premium mobility

Autonomous Hyper Tourer takes driving to new level

Nissan understands the concept of preparing for the future of electric vehicles. The automaker recently unveiled the Hyper Tourer, the third in its series of EV concepts.

The all-electric minivan focuses on nurturing and reinforcing the bond between people as they journey together. The vehicle is geared toward individuals who appreciate the finer things in life and enjoy the company of friends and associates, whether on a road trip or business.

Hyper Tourer combines the essence of hospitality with various advanced technologies, including autonomous driving. The V2X (Vehicle-to-Everything) functionality and high-capacity battery also allow electricity to be supplied to homes, stores and offices while traveling on various business occasions.

The exterior conveys a sense of comfort and is composed of smooth body panels and sharp character lines that demonstrate traditional beauty. It's imposing appearance harmonizes with the surrounding landscape. The sides flow diagonally from front to rear fender for higher aerodynamic performance and the impression of the smooth drive resulting from a combination of EV and autonomous



NO HANDS – Nissan concept vehicle Hyper Tourer makes the future of autonomous driving seem like a flawless transition. *Image: NewsPress USA.*

driving.

The white waistline serves as a headlight and signature lamp, and the wheels and soft, straight body line create a premium feel beyond the concept's class.

Nissan EV technology Vision makes the vehicle's spacious interior possible and consolidates compact components and high-energy density all-solid-state batteries to create

innovative car packaging. The result is an ultra-low center of gravity, which when combined with the vehicle's advanced e-4ORCE all-wheel control system, produces smooth and flat acceleration.

The overhead console and lighting feature patterns that create a sense of luxury and the flat LED panel in the floor displays imagery of a riverbed and the sky, helping to create a

relaxing space where digital and nature are fused.

Fully autonomous driving enables those in the driver's seat to focus on interacting with their travel companions. The front seats swivel 360 degrees, allowing front- and rear-seat passengers to have face-to-face discussions. Rear-seat passengers can use a wearable display to view and operate the navigation and audio on the front-seat center display, creating a sense of unity among all occupants.

Also, an innovative AI system can monitor your biometric signs, including brainwaves, heart rate, breathing and perspiration. Passengers can automatically select complementary music and adjust the lighting to fit the mood.

Nissan's Hyper Tourer concept re-envisioned the group road trip by combining the comfort of a luxurious living room with the convenience of a passenger van – all contained in a stylish and futuristic package.

Driving never has seemed more relaxing. Sit back with your fellow passengers, begin conversing and let the vehicle do all the work. It doesn't get much better.

Autonomous driving seems far-fetched, but it might be closer to becoming reality than you think.