

GARAGE SALES

Planning a Garage Sale Trip

When going garage saling in our local area, we tend to pull out the newspaper, mark out a route of sales to check out, make a list, and get going.

Visiting one of these epic multiday sales is a bit more work. Here are some hints on how to make the most of visiting a world's most superlative garage sale.

PLAN AHEAD

As early as you can, get a route map and get to planning your stops. Make three categories: Must Stop, Want to Stop, Can Avoid. Don't just pay attention to the garage sales, either. In many of these towns, other businesses, restaurants, food trucks and more get in on the act, offering specials and deals you can take advantage of. And while garage sales are obviously awesome, not everyone in your family may be down for three whole days of shopping. Throw in some extra activities between shopping excursions, such as pulling into a state park, taking a scenic byway or visiting a museum.



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MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ROOM

This is not the time to take the gas-sipping compact car. If several people are shopping or if you think you may bring home larger purchases, you

might consider renting a truck and maybe even an enclosed trailer to get everything home. Getting together a group of like-minded friends can make this less expensive and make it fun.

PLAN YOUR ACCOMMODATIONS

Multiday sales mean multiple days away from home. So you're going to need to plan for places to stay. If you're bringing a truck and trailer,

this might not be the time to try out quaint bed and breakfasts; make sure the hotels and places you're staying can accommodate your vehicles. Many hotels will also offer discounts associated with these giant garage sales; make sure you ask when you're booking your rooms if there are any deals you can take advantage of. Remember to book your rooms as far ahead as you can to make sure you get beds in the towns you want to stay in.

PLAN FOR ENTERTAINMENT

Many towns not only plan garage sales, but also festivals to take place around the sales. Make time in your schedule to take in some live music, plays, visit museums in the area or even explore local parks and art exhibits. Have a plan on how to store your purchases safely while you're taking in the sights.

PLAN FOR EATS

Restaurants, food trucks and cafes will roll out the red carpet during the sales. Ask local vendors where their favorite places to eat are. You can also explore online ahead of time; many restaurants will offer special menus and deals for sale visitors. Try out new cuisines or local dishes to complete your adventure.

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BUYER'S TIP

Bring Cash on Your Trip

Bring cash with you on your epic garage sale trip. Many vendors, even in this day and age, may not accept cards. If a vendor does advertise that they take cards, Venmo or other forms of payment, go for that option so that you can save your cash for when you have no other choice. Some small businesses may also offer a discount to cash-paying customers to avoid card service fees, so ask about that, too.

AD SPACE