



Hagerty Touring Series

Tips for Tour Success

A few months ago, I was enjoying a post-event dinner with some of my closest car-friends, all of whom I had met on various car events over the years. Over dinner, the conversation moved to some of the things we didn't realize on our early tours as participants, things we now take for granted as experienced rallyists. Following that dinner, I prepared some notes and as a group we whittled down what we thought were our top tips to help rally and touring enthusiasts enjoy their tour. Some of these tips might be old-hat for some of you, while others might just give you an 'ah-ha' moment. My hope is that they help make your upcoming tour more enjoyable. Looking forward to hosting you!

-Dave Hord, 2020 tour routemaster

What type of car can I enter?

For the Touring Series events we encourage classic cars, but we're open to collector cars of almost any era. Please note that these events are not well-suited for late model exotic cars.

Our use of smaller backroads and highways means the roads aren't likely to be fresh tarmac. Modern exotics presume you're driving on billiard-table-smooth roads that we simply can't promise to deliver. If your car is enjoyable to drive, you're passionate about it, and you could drive it over a speed bump if required, then it should be well-suited for the event!

The majority of our entrants bring classic cars from the '50s, '60s and '70s. We get some enthusiast cars from the '80s (Porsches, for instance), and guests like to bring modern collector cars such as Miatas and special-edition classics like the new Dodge Charger. Your routemaster presumes your car is able to travel the posted speed limit when it is 55MPH or slower. On the occasion where roads use a higher than 55MPH posted limit, we adjust the timing of the day to factor in a slower travel speed.

What is the mileage per day?

For our three day events, we aim for between 600 and 700 miles over the three days. Day one typically has about 200 miles of driving, day two 300 miles of driving, and day three 150 miles of driving. The total mileage for each event is adjusted for road types, travel time and traffic. Where possible, we note loops you can shorten to arrive at the hotel earlier, and each route book has the full hotel address for use with your GPS to shorten the day.

Where are we going? Why is the route secret?

Except for the start and finish locations, the Hagerty Touring Series route is kept secret until entrants arrive for registration, and receive their route book. While other tours may publish detailed itineraries, we've found the 'secret route' adds to the fun and sense of adventure for the weekend. It pays homage to the European rallies of the '50s and '60s, and encourages entrants to travel and enjoy the weekend together.

Do we travel in a caravan or individually?

Our events are designed for you to travel the route at your own pace, and we won't be providing a lead and follow car. We do, however, encourage entrants to travel together in smaller groups, as a weekend of motoring is always more enjoyable with friends (new and old)! We find that groups of 3-5 cars provide the best experience over the weekend.

Pre- and post-event hotels

For guests who are traveling from out of town, we typically make arrangements for a pre-event hotel, so that we can stay together at a location which is convenient to the start. Booking arrangements are released to participants as soon as the route is finalized and pre-checked. We typically do not make arrangements for a post-event hotel. Our promise to entrants is that we'll finish the final announcements in time for a 3pm dismissal. This allows local entrants to be home by dinner, and those from out of town a chance to get some miles under their belt on the drive home. As guests are likely scattering in multiple directions, a post-event hotel arrangement often doesn't make sense. Please note the optional pre-event hotel is not included in the event registration fee, and guests are responsible for handling their own booking and payment.

Event hotels

Hagerty Touring Series events use 3 and 4 star hotels. Examples include Holiday Inn Express, Hampton Inn, Courtyard by Marriott, Hilton Double Tree, and similar. Occasionally we use independent resort hotels, at or above the same level. Rooms are provided either with two double beds, or a single queen bed. Single king beds and double queen beds will be provided automatically, whenever possible. Additional rooms and special requests will be accommodated when possible, with all additional charges being the responsibility of the entrant. Separate rooms for driver and co-driver, for instance, average about \$160 per night.

Dietary restrictions

During registration you'll be asked about any dietary restrictions or allergies. The event will ensure we accommodate any dietary issues with the meals included in your registration, through safe group menus or special chef plates if required.



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Roadside assistance

Hagerty roadside assistance is provided for all entrants of the tour. In addition to the usual roadside services (fuel, lock-out, etc.) we provide up to 150 miles of towing, intended on getting your vehicle to a safe location and/or where repairs may be possible.

Trailer storage

The event organizers currently don't make arrangements for trailer storage. Whenever possible, we select start hotels which have above-ground parking, and you can often make arrangements to park your trailer. We encourage entrants with trailers to explore RV storage options near the start or finish locations as a backup plan. You can often make arrangements to park a truck and trailer for a nominal fee over the weekend.

Driver's meetings

Each morning we start with a driver's meeting, which is our opportunity to tell you about items that have changed since our route book was printed. We use the driver's meeting to hand out alternative routes (if needed), to help you avoid road delays and bad weather. It's called a driver's meeting, but really it means all participants meeting. Both the driver and co-driver (or passenger) are required to attend. Please bring your route book and pen, as sometimes it's simply writing down a phone number.

Arrive to driver's meetings ready to go

Our driver's meetings are typically held at 8:45am. We run under the assumption that your car is packed, you've had breakfast and the fuel tank is full. If your car requires a warm up procedure or morning checks, please do so before the driver's meeting.

Event decals

We'll be supplying "Hagerty Touring Series" decals for you to affix to your car, identifying members of the tour. The decals provided use a temporary adhesive, but we have a simple trick to avoid paint damage: Lightly apply the decal to the back of your co-drivers t-shirt first! It will pick up just enough lint to lower the adhesion, while still leaving enough stick to stay on the car. Ask Dave where he learned this top tip!

Bring a highlighter

Our route book is designed to be detailed enough that you don't require an odometer or any rally equipment. It's also full of history and information to keep non-car-folks entertained along the drive. It can seem daunting when you're first handed it, however, and we have a simple tip: a highlighter — used to mark upcoming turns — can help you keep track without getting lost. We also like to tick items off as we pass them, so we don't lose our spot in the book.

GPS odometer

While designed to be completed without an odometer, having one can't hurt! If you still own a windshield mounted GPS such as a Garmin, Magellan or TomTom, we can show you at the driver's meeting how to find the odometer feature. Since that's what we use to create the route book, yours will match our routebook mileage almost exactly!

Checking your car over

When you arrive at the hotel each night, do a simple check over on your car. Open the engine bay, look for any leaks or things out of place. Tighten the air filter housing, check that the plug wires are tight and check the oil level. Pretend you dropped your keys and bend down to look under your car as well. Nothing is hanging or leaking? Take note of the parking space and try to remember if there are any wet spots. In the morning, check the pavement again and confirm you have no new wet spots. If you do, investigate! Wait until the morning to check your coolant levels. Many a weekend has been saved by finding the problem the night before. As a bonus, everyone loves to help out in a parking lot repair situation!

Designated drivers

For the most part, we plan on parking our cars at the hotel each evening, and then heading to dinner. In the case where dinner is off-site, we'll provide transportation by walking less than a half mile, taking a shuttle, or sharing Uber or taxi rides to and from dinner. Should you enjoy a beverage during lunch, or any portion of the driving day, we ask that you follow all laws for being legal on the road.

Dress code for meals

We typically host our dinners in a local restaurant, a car museum or hotel banquet halls. Our chosen venues don't have a dress code, though many guests do choose to go with a casual change of clothes for dinner. In the case where a chosen venue does have a dress code, we'll be sure to let you know well in advance so you can pack accordingly.

Luggage service

Unlike the \$1000-a-day rallies, where you can pack multiple steamer trunks as though you're taking a cruise in the 1920s, we don't offer a luggage service. If you do anticipate a problem with the amount of space you have to fit luggage, let us know before the tour begins. We may be able to plan some space in the Hagerty vehicle, or at least introduce you to one of our participants with a larger luggage capacity!