

Pocket guide tips for an American road trip

Bags packed? Check. Excitement levels at fever pitch? Check. Ready to hit the open road? You sure? There are some important things to know about driving in the USA, but don't worry, because this handy little wallet (or glovebox) friendly fold-away guide should help you remember the rules of the road.



Emergency number – 911 is the USA's version of 999. Only to be used in times of severe distress.



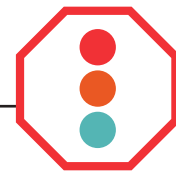
Know your limit

Speed limits can vary from state to state. Generally the limit is 70mph on motorways, known as freeways, 65mph outside built-up areas and 30mph in built-up areas. Look out for lower limits around schools or roadworks.



Topping up the tank

In the USA you pay for your petrol before you fill up your car, not after like in the UK. Ahead of a long journey, make sure there are places to fill up along the way. There can be long distances between petrol stations.



Traffic light rights

Even when traffic lights are red, you are still allowed to turn right at most junctions, if there is no oncoming traffic or pedestrians in the road. Come to a complete stop first and only drive on when the coast is clear.



Changing state

Planning to drive to another state in a hire car? Make sure you tell the firm you've rented the car from first. They can follow your movements using GPS and could charge you a fee if you don't.



Police! Stop!

Stopped by the police? Keep your hands on the steering wheel so they remain visible. Don't cause suspicion with any sudden movements, or by reaching for the glovebox or under your seat.



Driving checklist

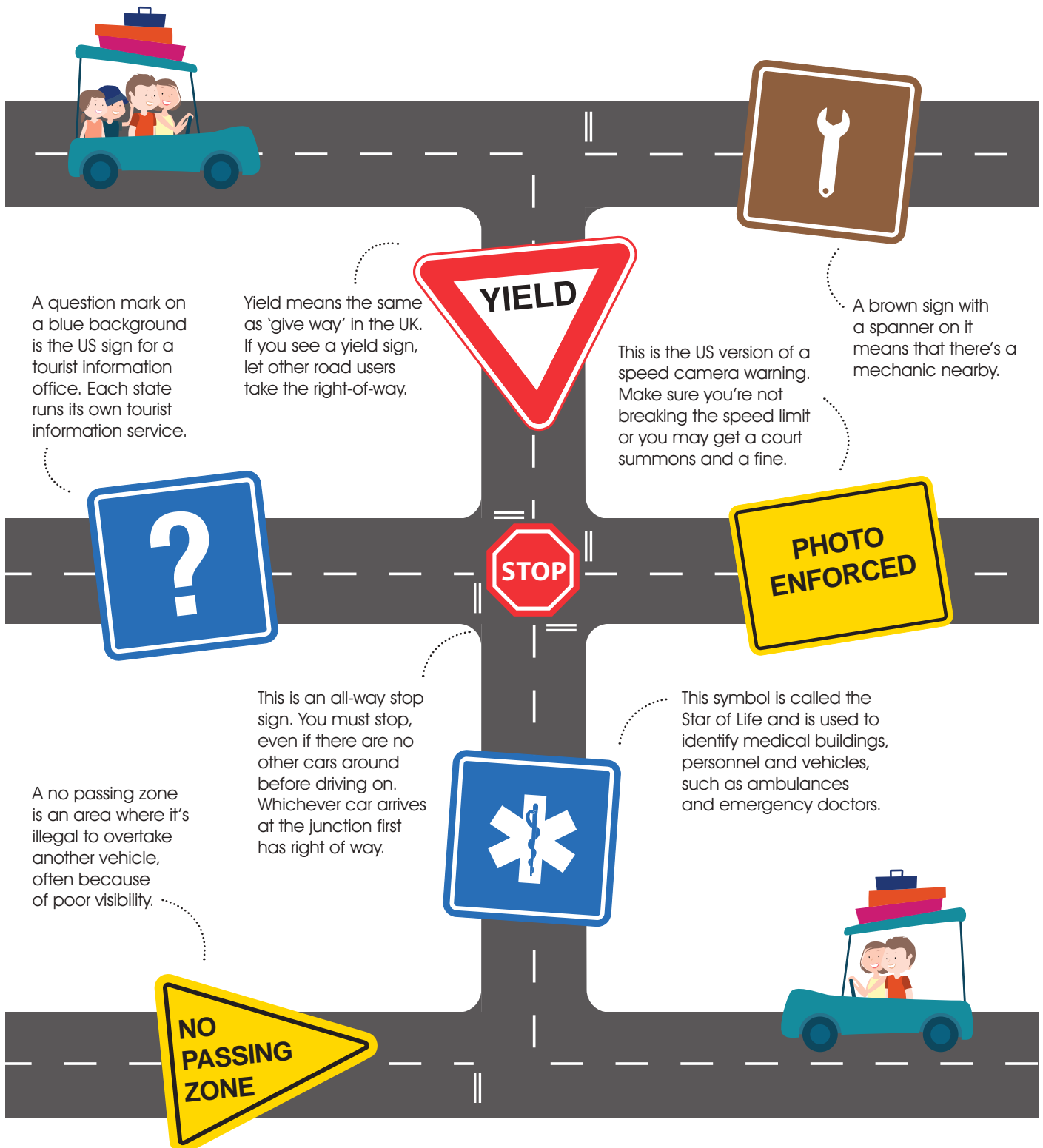
When driving in the US you should always have with you: a full and valid driver's licence, proof of insurance, car rental agreement, passport/national ID and warning triangles in case of an accident or breakdown. It's also advisable to carry an International Driving Permit.



Don't forget to take me with you

Understanding US road signs

If you haven't driven in the US before it's a good idea to try to get used to some of the road signs you're likely to come across that you won't find in the UK. To help you out here's some of the signs you may see and what they mean.



For more about the rules and regs of driving in USA visit

www.swinton.co.uk/car-insurance/guides/driving-abroad/usa

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