

# Spring Road Trip

## Is Your Coach Ready?

The long winter is finally over and you're eager to take your Marathon coach out for a road trip. Before embarking on your adventure, however, peruse this handy checklist to make sure you are fully prepared.

### Chassis System

- Check fluid levels (oil, power steering, engine coolant, windshield washer, etc.).
- Check engine, transmission (check transmission fluid level once transmission is up to temperature), power steering, and water levels.
- Check engine belts and investigate anything suspicious.
- Remove chassis engine starting battery cover and check for clean connections and the condition of the charge.
- Turn on engine battery disconnects, if equipped.
- Check operation of all lights and flashers and the coach's horn.
- Test the foot and parking brakes.
- Check the tire pressure and set.
- Start engine and verify gauges and lights are normal.

### Generator

- Check when coach was last serviced.
- Start and check generator for proper power output to coach.

### Inside the Coach

- Check air conditioning air filter and clean it, if required.
- Close windows and vents.
- Secure shower door, pocket doors, refrigerator doors, cabinets, and drawers.
- Check that no heavy items are stored in overhead cabinets.
- Stow any loose items on countertops, range top, tabletops, or shelves.
- Locate fire extinguisher(s) and ensure that they are fully charged.
- Check that smoke and carbon-monoxide detectors are installed and working properly.

### Towing a Car with a Tow Bar

- Move coach to flat, solid ground and shut off engine before attaching tow car.
- Never stand in front of a moving tow car!
- Attach tow car (follow specific instructions regarding tow bar, safety chains, lights, and transmission gear selection).
- Check that safety chains are crossed under the coupling and hooked.
- Make sure you have a spare set of keys for the tow vehicle and lock the tow vehicle.
- Do not attempt to back up when hooked up. Remember, you are driving a vehicle that is now 20 feet longer.
- Verify that the lights on the bus and tow car are working properly.
- Adjust mirrors, steering column, and seating position.

### Before You Leave

- Disconnect and stow shore cord, sewer and water hoses, cable, and phone lines.
- Turn off air conditioners and shut off the shore breaker.
- Check again that items inside compartments are secure and the compartments are properly secured/locked.
- Lower TV antenna and verify that the awnings are stowed and locked.
- Retract slide-outs, if equipped (open window or door to equalize air pressure when retracting slide-outs).
- Adjust rearview mirrors and position of driver's seat.
- Make sure backup cameras are working properly.
- Walk around coach to check for hindrances.
- Buckle up.

### When You Arrive

- Stop bus on flat, solid ground and engage parking brake.
- Disconnect tow car and stow tow bar and accessories (follow specific recommendations regarding transmission/parking brake position, safety chain, and light cable disconnect).

- ❑ Move coach to parking area.
- ❑ Verify parking brake is set, transmission is in neutral, and that level control is set to drive height.
- ❑ Open window or door (to equalize air pressure when retracting slide-outs).
- ❑ Extend slide-out(s), if equipped.
- ❑ Level coach.
- ❑ Shut off engine.
- ❑ Plug in shore cord to 50-amp service, verify green lights on shore disconnect box, and turn on breaker (**Caution: If no green lights or a red light is on, do not turn "Shore Disconnect Breaker" on; call Marathon technical support**).
- ❑ Connect water, sewer, cable, and telephone, as desired.
- ❑ Shut off engine battery disconnect, if equipped.

- ❑ Verify "AC1 IN GOOD" light on both invertors is lit. Note: battery "bulk" or float charge light will be lit.
- ❑ Verify "Aux" light on panel near inverter panels is not lit (light should go out after approximately 1½-3 minutes).

#### **Miscellaneous Checklist Items**

- ❑ Spare chassis parts, set of engine-drive and accessory belts, fuel filters, oil, highway flares, light bulbs, fuses, and a 12-V trouble light with a cord.
- ❑ Tire-pressure gauge.
- ❑ Spare parts for generator (oil, air filter).
- ❑ Emergency items: first-aid kit, heating pad, ice bag.
- ❑ Pet supplies.
- ❑ Extra toilet chemicals and toilet paper.
- ❑ Road maps. •