

# CVMC Drive Planning Guide

*Last updated: 2/21/2024*

This is a guide to help you plan a CVMC drive.

## Rule #1: Have FUN!!!

Of course it will be work and will take some time, but ultimately, planning a drive should be fun. It will most likely introduce you to places and people you would not otherwise meet. It should be an adventure and discovery that you want to share with your fellow Miata lovers. Ideally, it should provide a driving experience that's off the beaten path and lets you "feel" your Miata "zoom, zoom, zoom." Sometimes planning starts by identifying a desired ending location and then figuring out a good starting point to incorporate the interesting roads you've discovered. Other times, you might work from a good starting location and move forward toward a target location. Often, it is two steps forward and one step backward, but ultimately, you will come up with a plan.

## Overview

**Details for your drive must be completed and submitted to the CVMC secretary at least 2 weeks (14 days) prior to the event** so information can be posted on our website and an invitation can be mailed to our members. (*Word, PDF or Excel file is preferred*)

Generally, drives start about 9 a.m. and arrive at a destination for lunch at Noon – 12:30 p.m. and have one or two rest stops. Anything longer requires more specific planning and perhaps becomes an overnight tour that requires extensive planning, reservations and coordination not covered in this guide.

Drives should be planned and led by both a driver and a navigator. The driver's job is to drive safely and keep all of the cars together. The navigator must read the route plan, assist the driver in anticipating upcoming turns, help lookout for road issues, look at maps and perform radio communication to the "tail car" at each turn and or important communication moment.

## Plan Your Drive

### 1. Select the Starting Point

- a. The starting point should be at a location that enables participants to get gasoline, has enough parking space for at least 20 Miatas (considering other customers at that facility), has easy access to good restrooms, has coffee and snacks, etc.
- b. Consider finding a location near major highway(s)
- c. Consider access to the starting point by members from all directions.

### 2. Plan your Route

Planning a drive can be as easy as using or modifying an existing route or as time consuming as scouting out interesting roads to wind up at a good location for lunch. Whatever you do, you should:

- a. Drive the route in advance. Keep in mind... **No stone roads** with exception of short driveways taken at slow speeds. *Some Miata owners will not subject their car to stones.* This is a good reason for driving the route after using a map to plan. In some cases roads you choose on a map are actually stone and in other cases they do not really exist.
- b. Assure that roads are in good condition.
- c. Document each turn and indicate time/distance between turns and make a handout for navigators during the drive. (*This may require multiple advance drives.*) The documentation should guide participants so they can expect what's coming and if necessary, get to the location by following your directions.

- d. Drives can incorporate interesting stops along the way such as wineries, historical sites, etc., but this requires planning for time to be on site and still get to the destination for lunch. NOTE: Some venues require an entrance fee. Consult with the CVMC President before incorporating these sites.
  - e. **Provide a REST STOP 1 HOUR from the starting point.** This is where planning can get interesting. We need a rest stop approximately one hour from the starting point. This is often difficult to find in back road locations. You may need to plan a short diversion off your main route to get to facilities. Try to find a stop with good restroom facilities and much like the starting point if possible.
  - f. Depending on the number of miles in your drive, you may need to provide a SECOND REST STOP within an hour or a little more from the first stop. These are sometimes combined with some interesting sites. Again, you need to consider time needed at this stop and how that impacts the overall trip.
  - g. Plan to arrive at the final destination about Noon – 12:30 p.m. for lunch.
3. **Select your Destination**
- a. Scout out restaurants and select one that has good food and a space that will accommodate at least 25 people. We never know how many cars/people will come on a drive, but if we have 20 cars, we will usually have 25-30 people.
  - b. Make a tentative reservation for 20-25 people and make arrangements to call the restaurant just after we begin our drive to tell them exactly how many people will be arriving. This helps the restaurant staff be prepared.
  - c. Other stops along the way (such as wineries, etc.) might also require advance coordination with their management.
4. **Post-Drive Planning**
- a. Most drives end at a lunchtime destination and people then come home on their own timetable and route.
  - b. Some drives loop around and return to the Richmond area
  - c. Consider how folks might find a “quick” way home. Often, we take all morning to get to a location and then we can return by a major highway in a much shorter time. Help folks make choices.

### **Prepare Route Handout & Drive Details for CVMC Communications**

1. Document each turn and indicate time/distance between turns and make a handout for navigators to use during the drive. Print about 20 copies for distribution at the drive.
2. Include the time drive participants should arrive at the starting point and the time you will leave the starting point.
3. At least two weeks before the date of the drive, send the route document (Word, PDF or Excel file) along with the drive details to the CVMC secretary ([rounddoor@gmail.com](mailto:rounddoor@gmail.com)) for posting on the CVMC web site. (See [Sample Route Announcement](#) and [Sample Route](#))

### **Day of the Drive**

1. **Before the Drive – Drivers Meeting:** About 15 minutes before leaving, gather members together for a Driver’s Meeting where you will:
  - a. Ensure all CVMC member drivers and participants have signed the appropriate waiver.\*
  - b. Ask everyone to see Bud ASAP if they do not have a radio.
  - c. Count the number of people who will be gathering for lunch at the drive destination.
  - d. Handout the route document, discuss the route and any special things to be aware of during the drive.
  - e. Identify where drivers should zero out their odometer to match the route mileage.

- f. Identify the middle car and the last car that will provide radio contact with the you (and others)
- g. Tell drivers to turn their headlights OFF (Only the last car will have their headlights ON.)
- h. Review these Driving Safety Tips:
  - i. Honor the speed limits
  - ii. Keep adequate distance between you and the car in front of you dependent on speed.  
(3 second rule)
  - iii. Keep the car behind you in site.
  - iv. Be mindful of road hazards such as bicyclists, pedestrians, animals, etc.
  - v. Keep radio chatter down. (Radios are the primary communication between the lead, middle and end cars.)
  - vi. Use the radio to contact everyone if you have to stop or leave the drive.

## **2. During the Drive**

- a. Before leaving the starting point, once everyone is in their cars, do a quick radio check with the middle and last cars.
- b. Ask your navigator to contact the restaurant with the final number to expect for lunch.

## **3. After the Drive**

- a. Bud will collect the radios as people leave their cars before they go for lunch.
- b. After lunch, help folks make choices on the best routes they can use to get home quickly.

### **\*Who can participate in CVMC Drives and Events:**

- a. Only CVMC Members can participate in a drive or tour. All CVMC member drivers and participants must sign the *CVMC Release and Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk & Indemnity Agreement* for the specific drive or tour.
- b. Non-members (guests) wishing to participate in a drive or tour must join the club by filling out a *Membership Form* as a "Member-for-the-Month" and paying \$2.00 each.
- c. *Minors wishing to participate in a drive or tour must join the club by filling out a Membership Form as a "Member-for-the-Month", paying \$2.00 each, and completing a Minor's Assumption of Risk and Release and Waiver of Liability Form, which includes a signature from their parent or guardian.*