

Chapter 2:

EV Road Trip Planning Tips and Apps



EV Route Planning Apps	
Google Maps	Google Maps has an option to add chargers to your route.
PlugShare	Ideal for checking if a charger is working and finding chargers along your route. Check in to chargers while traveling to help other EV owners know how well a charger is working.
A Better Routeplanner (ABRP)	Enter your exact vehicle, extra weight or towing weight, battery degradation, and current conditions to provide an accurate route and charging plan.
@RateYourCharge	A Twitter-based community focused on identifying and rating chargers in real time.
EVmatch	Find privately owned chargers that people allow others to use. This is convenient for finding chargers in areas where there aren't many public chargers.
Chargeway	Uses color coding to specify charging levels for easy identification.
Charging network apps	Identify the charger brands (EVgo, Electrify America, ChargePoint, etc.) you'll use on your trip and download the apps in advance with your payment information already added.
Roadtrippers	You can search for EV chargers and add them to your route using the Roadtrippers trip planner.

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- **Plan your route using your phone or your EV's navigation system**
Plug in your destination to your preferred map service or your car's navigation system to get an overview of your trip. Once you have a general overview, you can pinpoint the best chargers.
- **Use A Better Routeplanner**
Double check your route on A Better Routeplanner with your specific vehicle and travel conditions to ensure your route is accurate and the most efficient for an EV.
- **Check your chargers**
 - **Compatibility:** Do the chargers you plan to stop at work with your vehicle? If not, do you have the correct adapters?
 - **Speed:** Are the chargers fast enough? Remember, 50 kW or higher is best for road trips. The higher the number, the faster you'll get a charge based on your vehicle's charging capabilities.
 - **Is it working?** Use PlugShare to check recent check-ins to ensure the charger you want to use is currently working.
- **Have a back-up plan**
Find additional chargers along your route in case you need them. Also look for another charger near your planned stops, just in case one is down. Even if it's not as fast, it's reassuring to know there's a place you can get a charge.
- **Use your time wisely**
Plan charging stops around meals or errands (such as grocery shopping). Also consider charging overnight at a campground or hotel when possible.
- **Make charge stops fun**
If you can't be productive during a charge stop, make it fun! Take a walk, find somewhere to explore, or chat with other EV owners. Charging time doesn't have to mean sitting around in your car while you wait.