

## Autos | Road trip essentials

# Take these for the ride

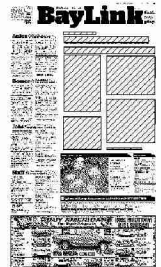
The long Memorial Day weekend is right around the corner, and many families will be hitting the road for a get-away. But hours in the car can be dreary for both the driver and passengers. Here are some products that might help make the trip more manageable. *Lyra Solochek, BayLink editor*



### Wagan Smart AC 120 USB Power Inverter With FM Transmitter

bestbuy.com, \$29.39

A power inverter, which converts DC energy to AC, is a must for long drives to juice up those electronic devices we're so dependent on: phones, video games, DVD players, camera batteries. Use a regular AC plug or a USB interface. For those of us who don't have a radio auxiliary or USB port built into our older cars, this device comes with an FM transmitter that will let you listen to your iPod tunes on the radio.





## Kurgo Auto Tray Table

[cableorganizer.com](http://cableorganizer.com) (search for "Kurgo"), \$23.58

This lightweight collapsible plastic table fits behind the front seat for use by rear passengers. Hook the table onto the headrest posts and set up the tray for snacks, toys, writing or video watching. When it's not in use, slide the tray upright against the seat back. Our tester didn't come with instructions, but the setup was fairly intuitive and, once up, very useful.

## Ruff Rider Roadie Dog Safety Harness

[ruffrider.com](http://ruffrider.com), \$29.95 and up, depending on size



If you're traveling with pets, it's important to keep them secure in the car, so they don't get tossed around when you drive, make turns or brake. This harness attaches to the car's seatbelt system, and has a short lead so your pooch can still move around. A new adjustable version is due out this summer.



## WaveBox Portable Microwave

thewavebox.com, amazon.com and other outlets,  
\$249.99 retail price

How would you like to have warm meals while on the road? The Wavebox is a compact portable microwave that comes with a cooler that can be stored inside the appliance. It weighs 14 pounds and comes with three power options: AC, DC or a direct hookup to the car's battery. It's also great for tailgating or camping.

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