

Roadtrip Nation 2009 Series Synopsis and Episode Summaries

Series Synopsis

Roadtrip Nation's sixth season finds two teams of young people heading halfway across the world to help discover their own roads in life. Ray, Fawna, and Allison, three Americans, journey to New Zealand, where they spend four weeks traveling in a camper van, interviewing New Zealanders from all walks of life. Meanwhile, three Australians – Camilla, Mariana, and Su-Yin – travel to the United States and meet up with inspirational Americans on a six-week RV journey.

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Three young Americans fly to New Zealand to embark on a four-week roadtrip on the other side of the world. Meeting up in Los Angeles, Ray, Fawna, and Allison fly to Auckland. Upon arrival, they paint their RV home and experience the challenge of driving on the other side of the road. Soon, they head out for their first interview with adventurer and mountain climber Peter Hillary. They then meet up with fashion designer Trelise Cooper and hip-hop and graffiti artist DLT.

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The team visits a Maori museum and chef Kate Fay before interviewing dub and hip-hop musician Tiki Taane. Driving on to Coromandel, the team interviews Barry Brickell, potter and railway engineer, and horse trainer Tina Fagan. Finally, they head to Gisborne, where they spend time with Geoff and Nicola Wright, organic winemakers.

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After a Zorbing adventure the team are at the halfway point of their roadtrip. In Rotorua, they meet with Doug Tamaki, local personality John "Bertie" Cocking, and political blogger David Farrar. After a ferry ride to the South Island, the team meets with mountaineer Mark Ingalls. They head to Christchurch where they talk with Robin Judkins, an artist, author, and creator of adventure racing events.

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Beginning the final week of their roadtrip, the team interviews Vicki

Buck, former mayor of Christchurch and founder of a sustainable energy company. Heading to Queenstown, the team interviews Louisa “Choppy” Patterson, helicopter pilot. The team's final interview has them speaking with bungy legend Henry Van Asch after which the team decides to take a huge risk and take their own jumps. Heading back to Auckland to fly back to the United States, the team leaves New Zealand with a new perspective and a new outlook on their futures.

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Three young Australian women head to the United States and roadtrip across the country. After arriving in Los Angeles, Mariana, Camilla, and Su-Yin learn to drive an RV and acclimate to life on the road. The team heads to San Diego for their first interview with members of the band Switchfoot. The team then drives to Orange County where they meet activists and philanthropists Augie and Lynn Nieto.

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The RV breaks down as the team heads from Los Angeles to San Francisco before they interview Thomas Nazario, law professor and children's rights activist. They then go to Golden Gate Park to talk with David Miles, Jr., the "godfather of skating." Driving east into Utah, they visit the Great Salt Lake and talk with David and Sandy Jensen, theater owners. The team pushes on to New Mexico and meets up with Christina Heyniger, an adventure tourism consultant.

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In Santa Fe, the team interviews Celine Cousteau, filmmaker and granddaughter of famed explorer Jacques Cousteau. They then drive into West Texas and visit with Doug Baum, owner of Texas Camel Corps. Driving east to Austin, they interview Terry Lickona, producer of the television program *Austin City Limits* and finish up their tour of Texas in Houston where they talk with blogger and author Gwendolyn Zepeda.

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The team heads north to Chicago and interview chef Homaru Cantu and go to a White Sox baseball game – a first for this team of Australians. They then drive to Cleveland and interview Terry

Stewart, President of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. The team then drives east to New York City to visit with tattoo artist Eli Quinters and pianist and tae kwon do champion Elaine Kwon.

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Still in New York City, the team interviews Roger Thomas, a capella musical director and musician. Arriving in Boston, the team visits inventor and futurist Ray Kurzweil before driving on to Portland, Maine, their last stop. In Maine, they interview sailor Bruce Schwab, who is the first American to complete the round-the-world Vendée Globe Race. Wrapping up their roadtrip, the team reflects on six weeks of eye-opening and life-changing experiences and prepare to head back to Australia to define their own roads in life.