

# TripMaker Tutorial

So, you're itching to hit the road and you love music. Why not combine the two? Using Rand McNally's TripMaker, we're going to plan a trip between Denver and St. Louis: two cities with great music scenes and plenty of interesting stops between.

## Create an account

Creating an account allows the site to remember your preferences and past trips, so if you ever need to make another trip, it'll be that much faster. So, this is a good first step.

1. Go to [tripmaker.randmcnally.com](http://tripmaker.randmcnally.com).
2. Select **Create Account** in the bottom-left corner of the screen.
3. Enter all the necessary information.
4. Indicate if you'll be traveling in an RV or a big rig.
5. Select **Sign Up** when you're finished.

## Create a trip

Now, on to the fun stuff. Creating a trip will allow you to enter all the cool music-related stops you'd like to visit on your journey.

1. Select **Create Trip** toward the top of the left side of the screen.
2. Enter **Denver, CO** in the first field and **St. Louis, MO** in the second field.
3. Name your trip **My Musical Road Trip**.
4. Indicate if you'd prefer to avoid highways or tolls.
5. Select **Create Trip**.

## Add a stop by city

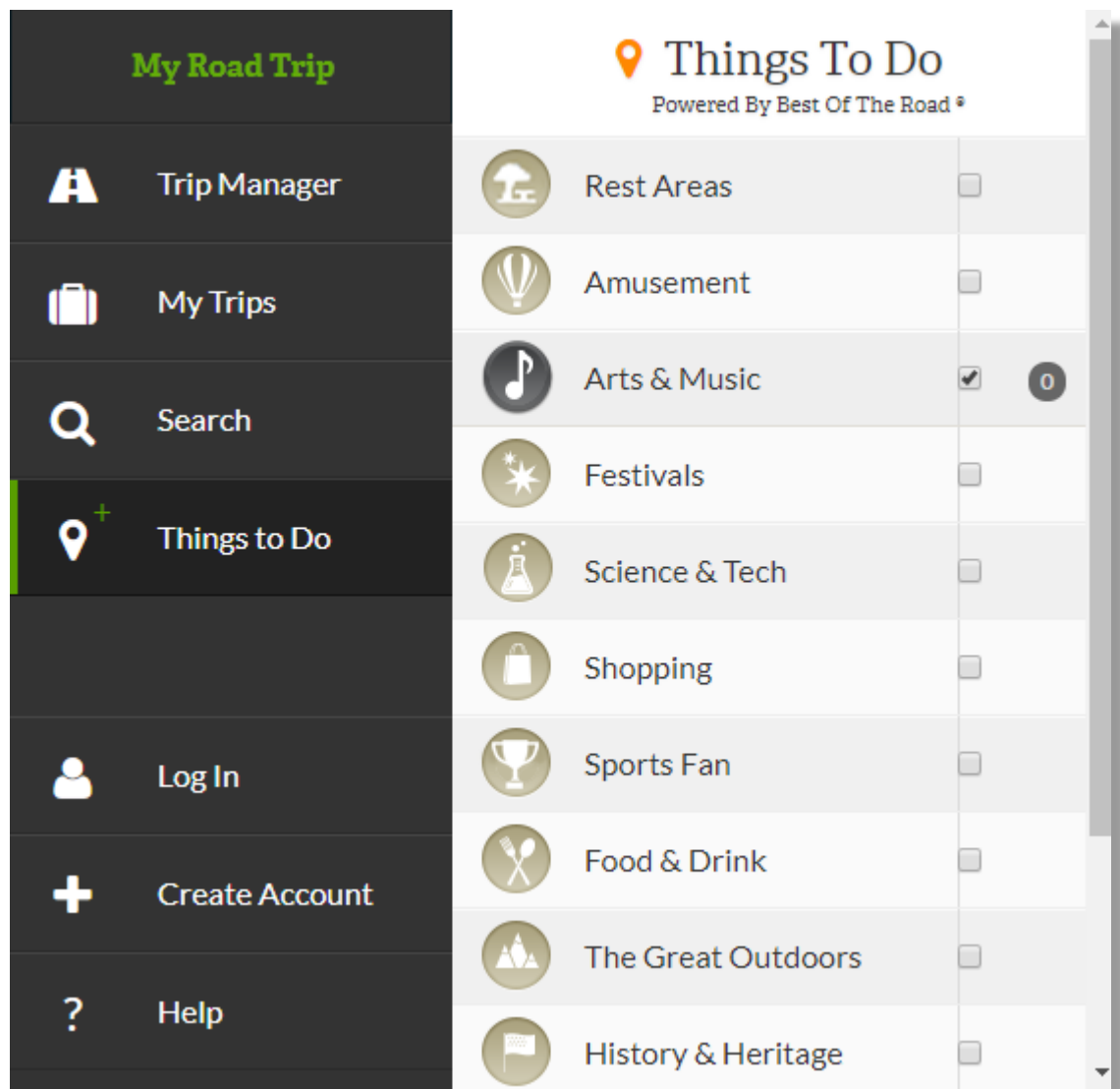
At this point, your custom trip will have opened up in a new panel on the left side of the screen. Here, we can see some options to spice up the trip. We'll start by adding a stop by specifying a city.

1. Select **Add a Stop** in the new panel.
2. Enter **Kansas City, MO**.
3. Select **Add to Trip**.
4. Repeat steps 1 and 2 with **Wichita, KA**.
5. Select **Add to Trip**.

## Add a stop by looking for things to do

Adding a stop in a city doesn't help much if there's nothing to do in that city, right? So, this time we'll look specifically for cool things to do between our origin and destination.

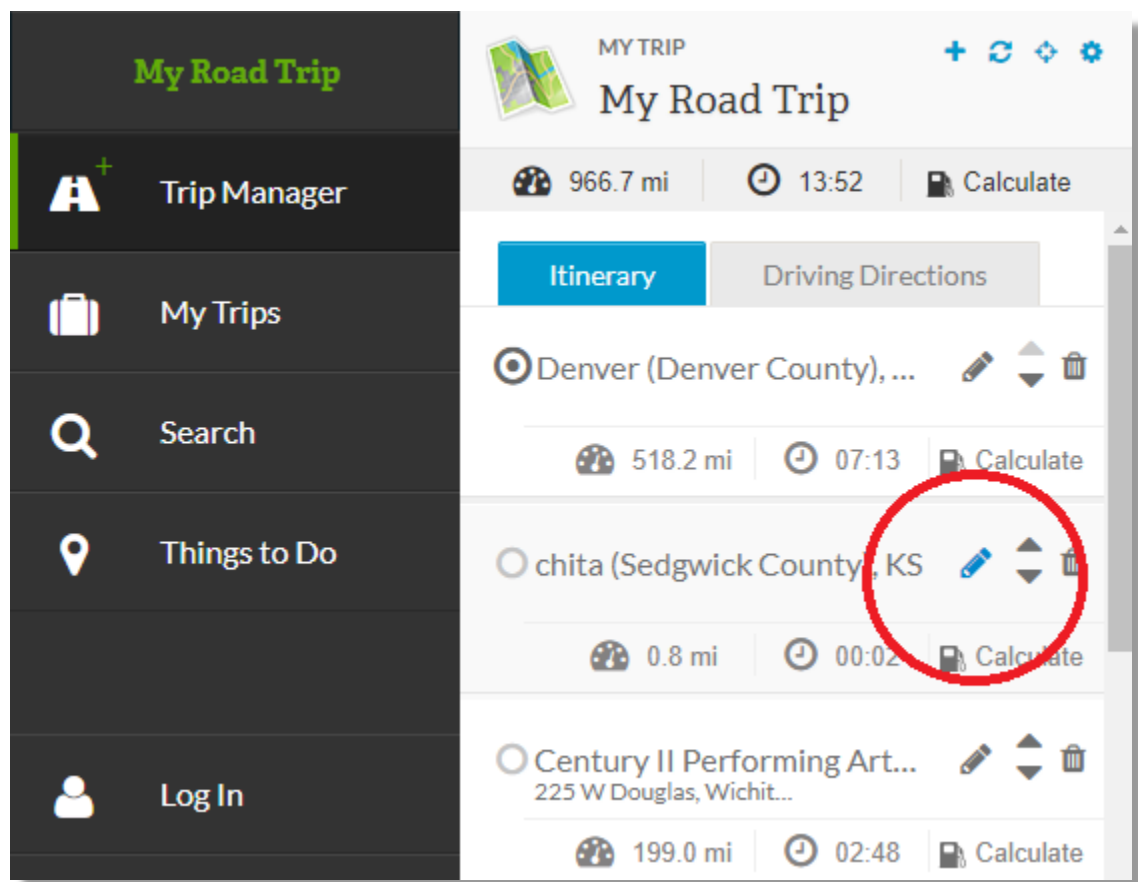
1. Select **Things to Do** in the far-left panel.
2. Select **Arts & Music** from the list.
3. Zoom in on Kansas City and select the Phoenix Piano Bar & Grill.
4. Select **Add to Trip**.
5. Zoom in on Wichita and select the Century II Performing Arts & Convention Center.
6. Select **Add to Trip**.



## Add a hotel

Nobody really wants to drive fourteen hours on no sleep. Add a hotel to one of your stops to get some much-needed rest.

1. Go the Trip Manager panel on the left side of the screen.
2. Find the stop for Wichita, KA.
3. Select the pencil icon. This will open a new window called **Notes**.
4. In the text field, write **Staying in a hotel downtown**.
5. Select **Save**.



## Create a reverse trip with different stops

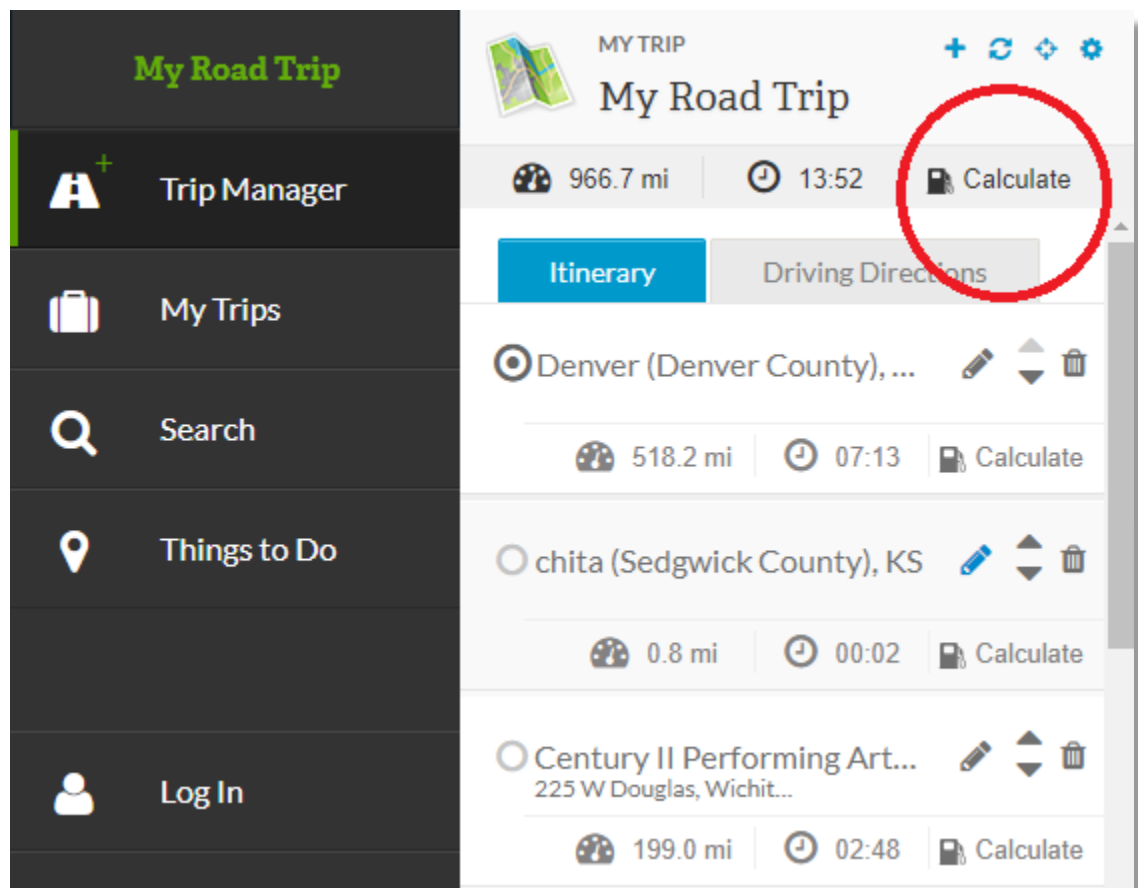
Make the best of the trip back home by hitting spots you may not have gotten to on your first pass through.

1. Go to the Trip Manager panel.
2. At the top, select **Create Reverse Trip** (the icon with the revolving arrows).
3. Select **Submit**.
4. Add another stop by selecting **Arts & Music** from **Things to Do** again.
5. Repeat as necessary.

## Estimate fuel costs for a stop

Ensure you'll actually be able to make it to your next stop by calculating how much gas you'll need between stops on your trip.

1. Go to the Trip Manager panel on the left side of the screen.
2. Under your trip's title, select the **Calculate** option next to the gas pump icon.
3. Enter your vehicle's MPG.
4. Indicate whether your vehicle runs on gas or diesel fuel.
5. Select **Update**.



## Print directions

You'll never know when you'll hit a service dead zone on your journey. Ensure you'll always know where you're going by printing the directions for all the stops you've chosen.

1. Go to the Trip Manager panel on the left side of the screen.
2. At the bottom, select **Print** next to the printer icon.
3. At the top of the new window, indicate whether you would like to print the map in addition to the directions.
4. Also at the top, select your preferred Print Size.
5. Select **Print Trip**.