



Hello,

BACK TO THE START

Flopped on a bed in a charmingly threadbare motel in Savannah, Georgia tuckered but energized from our latest sally down the coast exploring mucky Civil War battlefields and unpeeling the layers of under-celebrated American architectural experiments — we couldn't help but grumble: why were all our geeky digital tools optimizing all the fun out of our road trip, when what we wanted was adventure?

Why couldn't we — a bumbling Brit and an All-American nerd — find more of the little diners and small businesses and strange haunts that represented the people and stories of the 50 little countries that we found smashed together as the United States? Why were we getting routed to corporate chains and tourist traps that were caricatures of the America we loved? Why couldn't we use technology to dig up the weirder, funnier, fascinating stories that were the reason we were on the road in the first place?

The ultimate road trip companion tool didn't exist. Why couldn't we make it?

Roadtrippers was launched in 2012, which happened to be the first year where domestic road travel rates finally began to rebound. It was pretty basic. But it was fun. And people loved it.

Seven years later, we boast 2.5 million monthly users. We've helped roadtrippers log over 7.6 billion miles — that's enough to reach Mars and back 112 times. Our users log an average of 4 minutes on our site, while other brands fight to survive six seconds of pre-roll. And we still thankfully feel like ourselves — a little off. Definitely still bumbling and nerdy. And always in search of another story to share.

THE CURSE OF FIRST

Over the years, our scrappy team has built tools, a deep and surprising database of interesting places worth a detour, and an approachable brand that people love.

Years ago built our consumer proposition on "exploration" and "discovery," concepts which have become table stakes in the modern travel industry.

Today there are over 280 travel apps in the iOS app store alone, hundreds of travel media publications, and thousands of individual travel "influencers." The leisure travel industry is a booming \$683 billion dollar business rife with sterile mega-corps buying their way across the entire travel funnel. Yet no other brand exists to do what, we do: to celebrate life's detours. To say optimization is for robots, and the best use of GPS is to get lost.

FROM INDIE TOWARDS ICON

For the past seven years, we've been a small team, proudly punching above our weight. We haven't always stayed on a straight path, but those detours have made us sharp.

In the next seven years, we aim to shift from a scrappy independent to a household brand.

It will take hard work, fresh thinking and (even more) mistakes to get to where we want to be. Most importantly, it's going to take your flourishing talents and your belief in the transmogrifying magic of the road trip to get us there.

This brand book includes answers to important questions and some new ways of thinking about ourselves and how we present ourselves to the world.

We will have to change to grow — but always stay scrappy and a little bit off. I'm not sure we could change that if we tried. Love, James & Tatiana

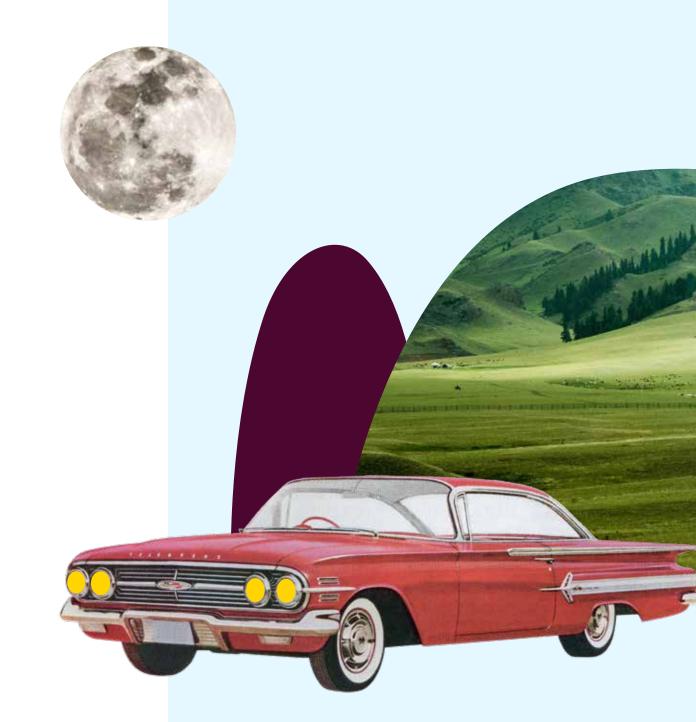
The ultimate road trip companion tool didn't exist. Why couldn't we make it?



What's Inside

This brand book is one way to tell the story of who we've been and who we're becoming, for all employees — present and future — as well as the friends and family of Roadtrippers we rely on to get our jobs done.

While we all know (and love) the awesome power of road-tripping, not every driver does. The goal of this playbook is give our team shared and simple language that playfully reminds the world: **if you've got**. **a license, you're a Roadtripper.**





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Our measurable statement of intent for the future of our brand.

08 BRAND PROMISE

Our inspiring 'North Star' that stands the test of time.

15 PRODUCT TRUTH

Our product superlative — the thing we do better than anyone else.

20 MISSION

The 'why' we do what we do — why we're a force for good in people's lives.

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The defining characteristic that unites our core and growth audiences.

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The short and snappy way to describe our brand in one sentence.

40 BRAND BELIEFS & VALUES

The attitudes and actions that separate a Roadtrippers from a traveler.

Big Goal

Become the iconic road trip brand — the #1 destination for road trip stories, planning, and booking.



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The point of a road trip is not to find the more efficient route, but to make interesting stops.

NIA, ROADTRIPPERS SUPER FAN

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Brand Promise

Life, Detoured

Detours. A little deviation from the norm. A bit further. A bit longer. A bit "off."

Detours are where surprise happens. And surprise is good.

On the road,

Detours keep unique places open for business. They keep insiders open to outsiders.

Detours make your trip yours. The detours we choose define our lives. They give our stories twists, sharp edges, and hard turns.

They free us from the feeling of just living life from point A to point B.

And no one knows detours quite like Roadtrippers. Travelers go to Mt. Rushmore. Roadtrippers know its secret room.

Travelers go camping. Roadtrippers know a place where you can dig for diamonds.

Travelers look for five-star restaurants. Roadtrippers look for five-hour stories. When there's too much relentless forward motion in life, Take a road trip. Take a detour. Take Roadtrippers. Opt out of the grind for a while.

A deviation from the obvious. An escape from the expected. A celebration of life on your terms and your time.

It's your Life, Detoured





No one knows detours quite like Roadtrippers.

BRAND PROMISE

Leave optimization to the robots...



Product Truth

Roadtrippers is anti-GPS; the only travel planning tool designed to make your trip longer.

CULTURAL TENSION

Why does Life, Detoured matter?

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Cultural Tension

People outsource their curiosity to algorithms.

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Everything appears knowable. All of the world's information (and your ex's shenanigans) are only a quick Internet search away.

Where's the fun in that?

Everyone appears like they've got it all together. Put your best (filtered) face forward.

Where's the truth in that?

Every decision is first cracked, then tracked by code. The "all-knowing algorithms" dictate our tastes in movies, music, household supplies, and even our love lives.

Where's the serendipity in that?

We are most human when we are candid, cranky, spontaneous, amazed, introspective, surprised, or even shitout-of luck. Who you are when the wheels fall off (literally or figuratively)?

Roadtrippers is the antidote to an overly optimized modern life. It invites the unexpected and the unknown back into our lives. It's 50cc of chance right into serendipity's veins.

The more digitized and optimized life becomes, the more people will need Roadtrippers to help them escape the expected and make their own *Life, Detoured.*

Mission

In a world of kismet-deficiency, Roadtrippers exists to help any driver, anywhere...



Escape the expected.

OUR AUDIENCE

Who do we reach today?

Our Audience

Road Trip Essentialists, about 30 million drivers a year, to be precise.



Fw: A Message of Appreciation

Mon, Dec 16 at 6:28 PM

Thank you guys for your amazing work on your site! It's what I've been looking for for years. I discovered it from this article: http://www.dailydot.com/lifestyle/kia-soul-road-trip-checklist/

My dad and I share a love of driving and traveling. Sadly, we've drifted apart in part years; our interests split and I grew up and left home for college. Due to some serious recent soul-searching, I plan to surprise him with some quality bonding time soon.

Your site has inspired me to try to reconnect with my father.

He had a massive heart attack a few years ago, and nothing but luck prevented him from passing away. We aren't very close, and have drifted apart with the passage of time. When I was little, all I wanted was for him to do things with me, but he was always tired due to his blue-collar job. Now that we're both older, he has more time but I don't. It's like Harry Chapin's song, Cat's in the Cradle, With the help of your site, I won't let myself become what my father was forced to do. I crave that loving father-son relationship now more than ever.

It's a good song. If you haven't heard it, give it a listen. And remember, it's never too late.

Thank you again. Seriously.

C Luzader Flatwoods, WV



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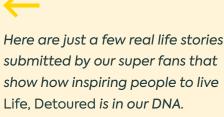
@Roadtrippers I often tell people that it was this website that inspired me to break free from the 9-51 have always loved this site!



E Morrow

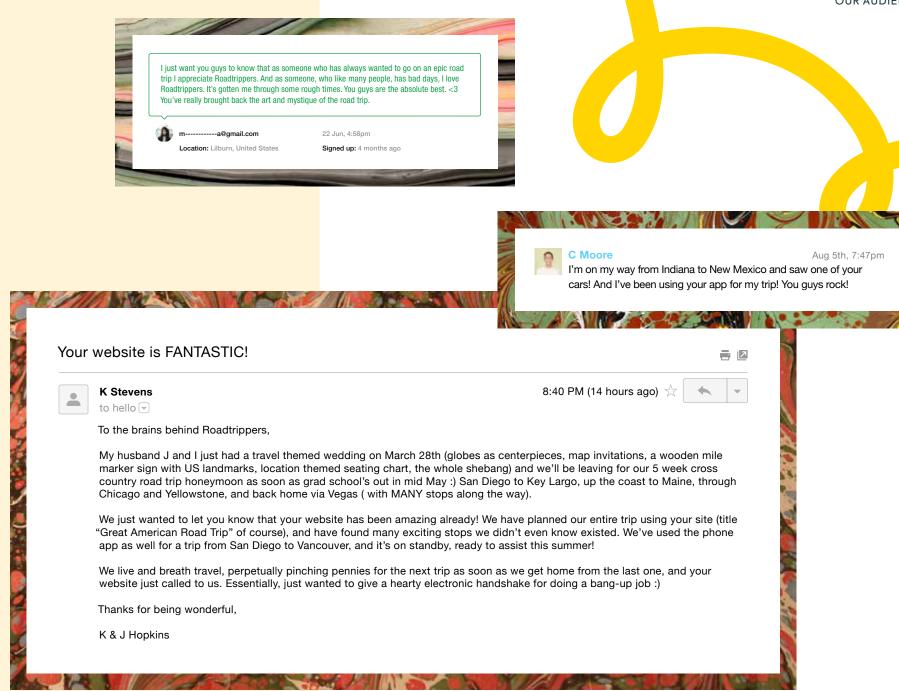
Can't tell you enough how helpful/awesome/enlightening this page/you guy(s) have been. Just recently went on a 5,400 mile trip myself and I used your app for most of it.

Like · Comment · 21 hours ago



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OUR AUDIENCE





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Road trips are the only mode of travel where people reclaim 100% of their freedom. Go wherever you want! Go fast or not. Whereas on a flight or cruise, you are literally on someone else's agenda.

ROADTRIPPERS EMPLOYEE INTERVIEWS



OUR AUDIENCE

Who do we pursue next?

	ROAD TRIP ESSENTIALISTS			L.	
	CORE AUDIENCE	ROAD TRIP ENTHUSIASTS 1-3 YRS		F	
		3 GROWTH AUDIENCES			WEEKEND WILDLI
,	ΤΟΔΑΥ	NEAR FUTURE			

Road Trip Essentialists TRIP LENGTH: 7 - 14 + DAYS

Today we reach **Road Trip Essentialists**; **people for whom road trips are the thing** — those already inclined to take a road trip for a road trip's sake.

These folks include: hardcore Roadtrippers, Airstreamers, #VanLifers, professional recreationalists (aka retirees), inbound tourists from abroad, National Lampooners, Route 66ers, Harley Davidson riders, etc.

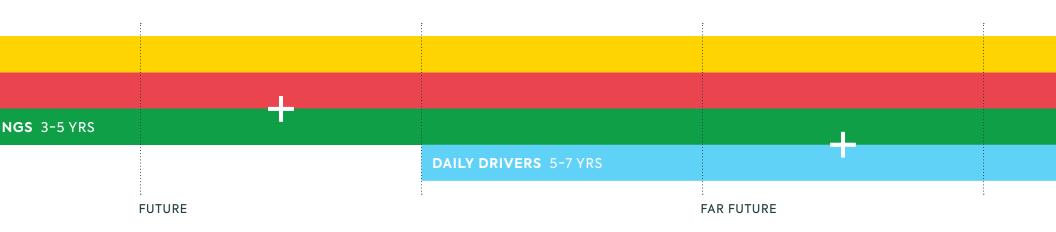
We will always and forever serve our Essentialists — currently we reach

about 30 million Essentialists a year but they are a relatively fixed population, which means we will need to expand our core reach by winning over the following groups:

Road Trip Enthusiasts TRIP LENGTH: 4 - 5 DAYS

In the next 1-3 years we want to win the Road Trip Enthusiasts; people for who road trips are a thing that gets them to a thing. Those who might hit the road to pursue their passions.

These folks include people willing to go the distance for their interests and hobbies such as: live music festivals, attending a Con (fandom conventions), competing in a sports event, attending a march or parade, tailgating, or celebrating the start of a seasonal thing like fly fishing season, cherry blossoms, or apple picking.



Weekend Wildlings TRIP LENGTH: 24 - 72 HRS

Later we'll want to pursue the Weekend Wildlings; people who travel intra-county on the weekends and want to appreciate their surrounding area better. Those who might be willing to venture further on the regular and holiday weekends.

These folks include: people who rent or own vacation homes, families looking to entertain and inspire their kids, couples trying to "get away the grind," friend groups taking mini-trips, individuals wanting to get inspired, etc.

Daily Detourists TRIP LENGTH: 30 MIN - 2 HRS

Eventually we'll want to inspire Daily Detourists; people who aren't quite ready to head home for the day and want to discover a "hidden gem" in their neighborhood.

These folks include anyone who would welcome a bit of spontaneity in their day: commuters heading home, university students with flexible schedules, stayat-home parents, bike commuters, and work-from-home freelancers. If we can one day inspire even the 9-5ers to break up the routine with an unexpected detour, we'll know we've truly succeeded in **our mission to help people Escape the Expected** — without leaving our existing audiences behind.

What does that win us?



Our Audience

269 million licensed drivers in core markets: United States, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada.

TODAY

30 million

Road Trip Essentialists

(Average annual reach across Roadtrippers' products) TOMORROW

269 million

Road Trip Enthusiasts, Weekend Wildlings, and Daily Detourists

Our Audience

Up-For-Its are obsessed with seeing the world for themselves.

OUR AUDIENCE

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They've got to see, touch, taste, smell, understand, and experience something out in the world for themselves.

"



To reach all **269 million potential** roadtrippers in our core markets,

we must be willing to think big, but also be sincere in our effort to provide them with a meaningful detour from their day-to-day.

We must free every person, every day, from the pressure to live life like a *Daily Driver*. No one wants to live their life from point A to point B. And yet, between life's daily grind and our competitors' constant push towards total optimization, people default to that easy A to B. Work to home. Home to work. By doing what we do best — inspiring and encouraging people to opt out of the grind and go for a detour — both on the road and in life, we will keep the promise of kismet alive not just for vacations or other special occasions, but in their daily drives.

Users of our platform will be encouraged to pursue not just short detours (the out-of-the-way restaurant on the way home from work) but also special events that are only available for short times, like movies, concerts, or festivals, that are worth going off the beaten path.

Up-For-Its include: Phish Phans, Burners, Sprr Socialites, Comic Con & Cosplayers, Hikers, Ba Yogi Ashram Gurus, Pride Paraders, Season Tic Travelers Club, Motorcyclists, Writers on Retrea Dark Sky Amateur Astronomists, Slalom Joy Dr **Relay Athletes, Tough Mudder Competitors, Ser** Musicians, The Beyhive, Film Location Scouts, A **Ravers and Bassheads, Curious Gourmands, Bil** WrestleManiacs, Long Haul Truckers, Politicians College Co-Eds, Friend-with-a-Cabin Crashers, I **Through-The-Woodsers, Intercity Travelers, Caf** Partiers, Weekend Homers, Trendy Brunchers, S **Afterschool Program Pickup-ers, New-in-Towne**

Rush-Hourers, Not-Quite-Ready-to-Netflixers, et

ring Breaaaaakers, Coachella and Glastonbury ckcountry Hunters, Mountain Bikers, Anglers, ket Holders, Scenic Drivers, National Park nt, Seasonal Mushroom Hunters, Birders, vivers, Changing Foliage Family Trips, Ragnar ni-Pro Athletes, Oktober Festers, Touring Architecture Enthusiasts, Traveling Salespeople, kie Tourers, Tradeshow and Convention Goers, s Stumping, City Limits Explorers, Broke Long Holiday Weekenders, Over-The-River-And é Racers, Obsessive Foodies, Penny-Pinching Super Commuters, Break-the-Daily Grinders, rs, Super Commuters, Wanting-to-Wait-OuttC.

Our Audience

Pursuing all 269 million Up-For-Its in our core global markets gets us closer to hitting our goal of becoming the iconic road trip brand.



ELEVATOR PITCH



Elevator Pitch

For the Up-For-Its, **Roadtrippers is anti-GPS;** the only trip planning tool designed to make your trip *longer* by celebrating only the best people and places worth a detour.



Brand Beliefs & Values

- Curiosity is a Contact Sport
 Open Roads, Open Minds
 The Unknown is Only a Speed Bump, Not a Barricade
- 4. Roadtrippers See Problems as Plot Devices
- **5. Assume Good Intent**
- 6. Shoot Straight
- 7. Go Like Hell



1. Curiosity is a Contact Sport

WONDER + INITIATIVE

We believe curiosity is at its best when it inspires you to act on it.

There's a million places for passive or idle curiosity, but Roadtrippers is home of active curiosity. It's how Roadtrippers came to be — and it's the business model that keeps us alive. Every single thing we build aims to pull people off their couch or cubicle to see, taste, experience, and better understand our world.

2. Open Roads, Open Minds

INSPIRATION + COMPASSION

We believe road trips are more than a fun escape — they are a moral good.

To road trip is to leave echo chambers and comfort zones behind and begin to see the world as others do. Out on the road is where we're more likely to encounter people who don't look, believe, or think like us — and how we choose to respond determines the health of humanity. We are like 'Leave No Trace' but for roads, taking care to leave the people and places we find better than when we found them. Our work is a reminder that the simple act of road tripping helps keep hearts and minds open and places attended and alive.

3. The Unknown is Only a Speed Bump, Not a Barricade

COURAGE + RESOURCEFULNESS

We believe in driving right towards the unknown.

Travelers go to places they already know they'll like — Roadtrippers venture off to find places where anything might happen. That's where the fun is found. We admire those who choose things not because they are easy and expected, but because they are willing to-make new tracks for others to follow. Roadtrippers is a place where we encourage and reward folks for facing the unknown, because odds are that's where true innovation and stories worth sharing are found.



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Crazy challenges set the stage for us to overcome the impossible.

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4. Roadtrippers See Problems as Plot Devices

OPTIMISM + HUMOR

We believe that the best stories are usually found in the biggest challenges.

A great road trip isn't the one where everything goes to $plan_{\bar{i}}$ it's the one where things go off the rails but you survive and return to tell the tale. What's true on the road is true in our business; whether it's a busted tire or broken code, an unexpected road delay or looming deadline — crazy challenges set the stage for us to overcome the impossible together, and that makes life memorable, meaningful, and worth bragging about at the bar.

5. Assume Good Intent

SELFLESSNESS + COLLABORATION

We believe when you look for the good in each other, you'll probably find it.

We're all here to do work we're proud of and do it with people we like, respect, and would happily burn highway miles with. Some tech companies are willing to keep 'brilliant jerks' around, but that's never been the Roadtrippers way.

Life is too short and the road is too long to get caught up in the petty, political, power struggles or anything else that's bad and starts with a "p." Here we look for the best in each other, we look for good intentions — because travelers react, but Roadtrippers rise above.

BRAND BELIEFS & VALUES

6. Shoot Straight

HONESTY + RESPONSIBILITY

The only time we favor the most direct route is when it comes to honest and up-front communication.

There are times when things go sideways: out on the road, in the office, and in life. Happens to us all. When it does: own up to it, give it straight, keep it simple, and get on with it.

Let's be excellent communicators.

Let's present facts with tact. Let's have a bias-towards-resolution, rather than festering black hole of confusion. At Roadtrippers, speed isn't everything, but momentum matters.

7. Go Like Hell

ENTHUSIASM + IMPACT

We believe our working life deserves to be a joyful life.

This is travel. This is a business built on bringing iconic memories to the masses. This is a company where leaving the office is part of your job requirement. Live big. Live interesting. Live *Life, Detoured* and leave a trail of incredible and inspiring projects you're proud to be a part of. We want your time spent at Roadtrippers to feel like a special place where you are encouraged to drive at speed toward your dreams.



Summary

Big Goal

Become the iconic road trip brand the #1 destination for road trip stories, planning, and booking.

Brand Promise

Life, Detoured

Product Truth

Roadtrippers is anti-GPS; the *only* trip-planning tool designed to make your trip *longer*.

Mission

In a world of kismet_deficiency, Roadtrippers exists to help any driver anywhere **escape the expected**.

Our Audience

The global 269 million **Up-For-Its**, *obsessed* with seeing the world for themselves.

Elevator Pitch

For the Up-For-Its, **Roadtrippers is anti-GPS;** the *only* trip planning tool designed to make your trip *longer* by celebrating only the best people and places **worth a detour**.

Brand Beliefs & Values

- 1. Curiosity is a Contact Sport
- 2. Open Roads, Open Minds
- 3. The Unknown is Only a Speed Bump, Not a Barricade
- 4. Roadtrippers See Problems as Plot Devices
- 5. Assume Good Intent
- 6. Shoot Straight
- 7. Go Like Hell







Making *Life, Detoured* real with Team Objectives, Bios, and Swag.



TEAM OBJECTIVES



Team Objectives

LIFE, DETOURED

Our work makes it easy for anyone, anywhere, anytime to take a detour, from being inspired toward new destinations, discovering others' favorite places, or taking just enough hassle out of a journey to make it possible.

MAGAZINE	PLANNER & PRO	BOOKINGS
Only the best places and people worth a detour.	Everything we make turns dreamers into drivers, and drivers into detourers.	Accommodations and experiences are worth a detour.
Expand our coverage beyond places of interest to include persons of note.	Make it easy for anyone, anywhere, at anytime, to take a little detour.	Make everything bookable, including inventory that defies expectations.
Not just the where, but also the who, the why, and the how.		Think partnerships with Hipmunk, Land Apart, Outdoorsy, etc.

TEAM BIOS

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A company born of detours — all Roadtrippers employees will get team bios like these!

Tatiana

New England gal falls hard for the classics. Follows her love of books through bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees. Gal earns fellowship in Berlin. **Pergamon museum, too much currywurst, and Berghain nights.** Gal meets guy. Roadtrippers.com is born.

Life, Detoured

TEAM BIOS

James

Son of a seasoned hitchhiker gets roadschooled in Africa. Makes his way as an off-road expedition guide. **Jungle, tents, two-story potholes.** Guy trades the '953 for a stint in Europe. Guy meets girl. Roadtrippers.com is born.

Life, Detoured

Jule

TEAM SWAG

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The following pages are ideas of branded pieces we could create for Roadtrippers employees, business partners, and fans.







The best use of your GPS is to get lost.



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Our work is a reminder that the simple act of road tripping helps keep hearts and minds open and places attended and alive.

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TEAM SWAG



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Raddest Road Trips in America

THE OFFICIAL GUIDI







RoalBippero

Raddest Road Trips in America

THE OFFICIAL OUIDE







