



Plan an EV road trip abroad

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If you usually rent a car for road trips when you travel overseas, switching it up with an electric vehicle (EV) could be a fun option.

It means less carbon footprint as you explore new places, and in many countries, charging an EV can be cheaper than refuelling a typical internal combustion engine vehicle. It is also a great opportunity to try EV models that are not available in Malaysia yet.

That said, an EV road trip does require more planning than a conventional petrol car trip. Here's a simple guide:

1. Choose the right EV

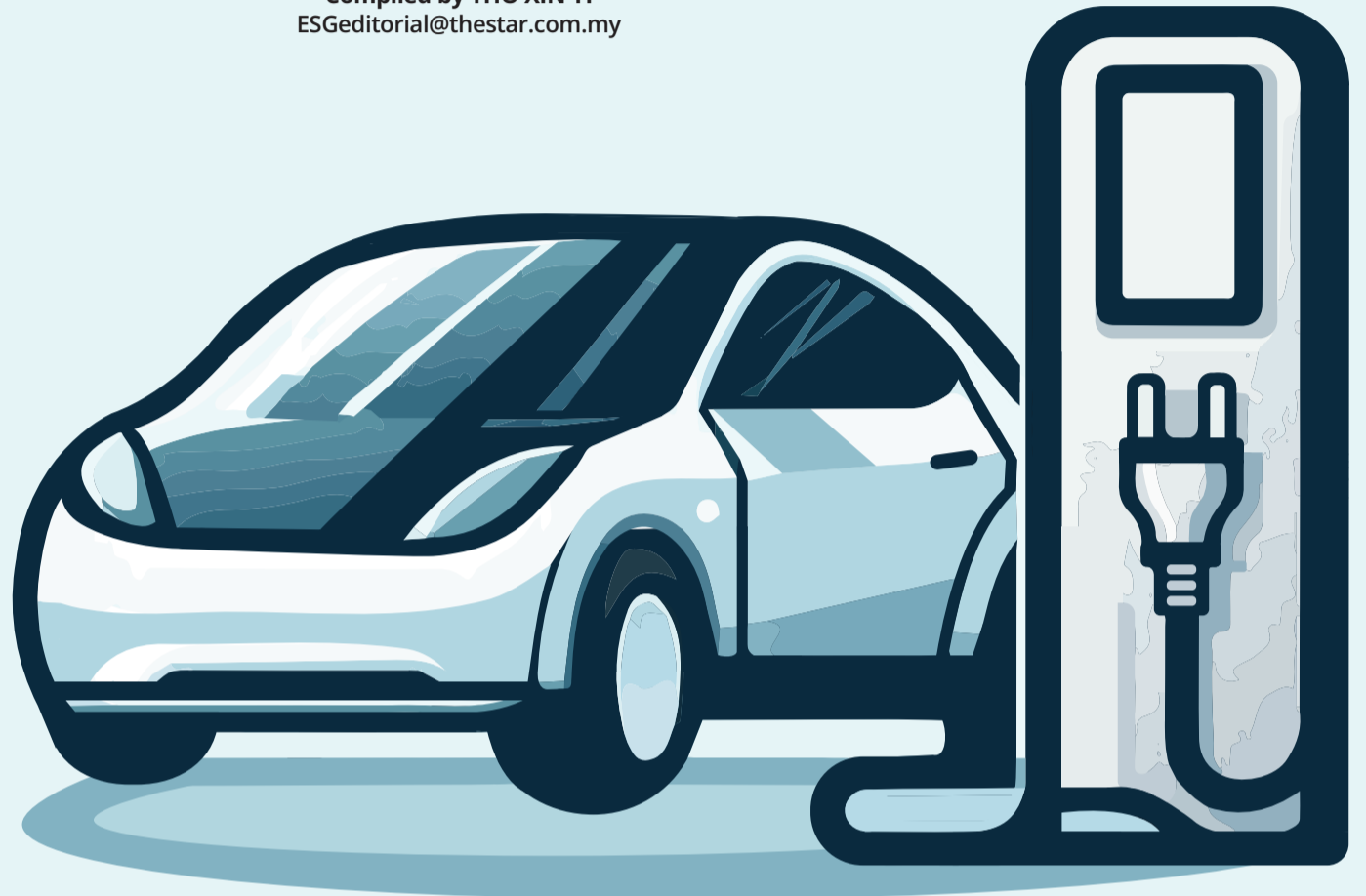
Pay attention to the real-world driving range and match it to your trip itinerary. Longer range EVs means fewer charging stops.

A vehicle with at least 300km to 400km real-world range is good for intercity travel.

2. Plan your route around charging stations

Use apps such as *PlugShare* (global), *Plugsurfing* (widely used in Europe) and *Saifah* (Thailand) to locate charging points. Apps like *A Better Routeplanner*, which is global by design, is helpful to navigate and plan your trip.

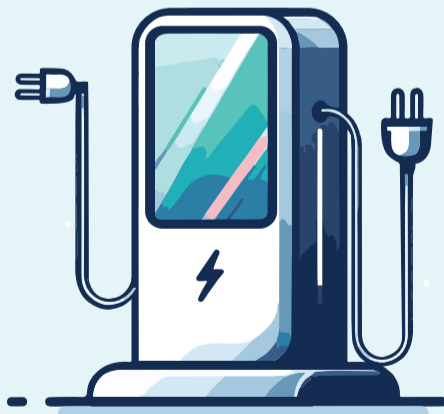
Be sure to factor in a buffer in case of detours, queues or a faulty charger.



3. Understand charging types

AC charging (Level 2) is slower, while DC fast charging (Level 3) is, as its name suggests, much faster.

Also check plug type compatibility and whether your rental EV includes the necessary charging cables or adapters.



4. Accommodation considerations

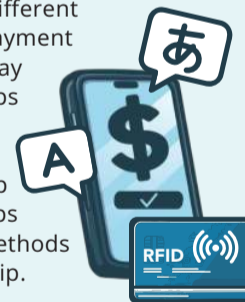
Whenever possible, book accommodations with on-site EV charging facilities. This way, you can charge the EV overnight and be ready to hit the road the next day.

Check the charging costs in advance and find out whether you need to reserve a charging spot.

5. Prepare for local differences

EV charging experiences vary by country. Be ready for station interfaces in a different language and payment methods that may require local apps or RFID cards.

Be sure to set up the charging apps and payment methods ahead of your trip.



6. Keep your battery well charged during winter

Cold weather can reduce EV range and increase energy use for heating.

Make sure your EV is well charged before driving so you have enough buffer for these conditions.



7. Be flexible and always have a backup plan

Good habits include identifying at least one backup charging station per leg, in case the one you pick is out of service. Keep emergency hotline for roadside assistance on hand, just in case.

Also keep offline maps in case mobile coverage is weak.

