

# Kbb.com's 10 Best Road Trip Cars Of 2012: Editors Recommend Best New Convertibles For Hitting The Open Road

**Kicking Off Summer Driving Season and Popular Road-Trip Weekend, Ragtop Renaissance Inspires Top-Down Theme for Annual Kbb.com List**

IRVINE, Calif., May 23, 2012 [/PRNewswire/](#) -- Just in time for Memorial Day, one of the most popular road-trip weekends of the year, the expert editors from Kelley Blue Book's [www.kbb.com](http://www.kbb.com), the leading provider of [new car](#) and [used car](#) information, today announce the [10 Best Road Trip Convertibles](http://www.kbb.com/car-reviews-and-news/top-10/10-best-road-trip-convertibles-2012/) (<http://www.kbb.com/car-reviews-and-news/top-10/10-best-road-trip-convertibles-2012/>). According to AAA, about 30.7 million people will drive to destinations 50 miles or more away from home between May 24 and 28, the start of the peak driving season in the United States, which is nearly a half million more people than last year. With so many Americans kicking off summer driving season with Memorial Day road trips, the kbb.com editors decided to compile a list of their favorite new convertibles for hitting the open road.

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Three decades ago, many industry experts predicted the end of the [convertible](#). Citing safety and security concerns, insiders conspired to persuade car manufacturers to abandon this previously popular body style. However, history proved the naysayers wrong and these days we are in the midst of a ragtop renaissance. With that in mind, when it came time to choose Kelley Blue Book's ninth annual 10 Best Road Trip Cars list in spring 2012, the expert editors of kbb.com decided there was no better way than to rank the 10 best [new convertibles](#).

"Say the words 'road trip' and for many people, one of the first images that pops into mind is top-down driving in the sun with wind blowing through your hair," said Jack R. Nerad, executive editorial director and executive market analyst for Kelley Blue Book's kbb.com. "This year there seem to be more great new convertible options than ever before, which is perfect for the start of the summer driving season. Our convertible-themed 10 Best Road Trip Cars of 2012 list will inspire readers to drop the top, put the car in gear and have some summer fun."

## **Sample Selections from Kbb.com's 10 Best Road Trip Convertibles**

### **2013 Porsche Boxster**

King of our road-trip convertible contingent, the all-new 2013 Porsche Boxster and its more-intense Boxster S sibling expand on a legacy of dynamic brilliance while boasting even more power – 265 horsepower in the Boxster and 315 in the Boxster S – plus improved fuel economy. With bodywork inspired by the Carrera GT, the entry-level Porsche remains a sun-chaser's dream machine.

### **2012 Audi A5**

Few convertibles meld style, refinement and performance into one package as beautifully as the A5 Cabriolet. Defying a trend, the A5 Cabriolet shuns a retractable hardtop in favor of an acoustically-designed soft top capable of exposing its sun-loving occupants to the elements that is deployable at sub-30-mph speeds.

### **2012 BMW Z4**

Of course it's a blast to drive, but it's the roof that solidifies the Z4's spot on this list of top road trip rides. Compared to a traditional cloth top, BMW's first-ever retractable hardtop delivers a quieter highway ride, greater outward visibility, and a top-up profile that rivals the classic beauty of the Z4 roadster's top-down shape.

### **[2012 Chevrolet Camaro](#)**

What has 580 horsepower under the hood and a cloth top for a roof? No, it's not an exotic; it's the Chevrolet Camaro ZL1 Convertible. And while listening to the sweet sound of supercharged V8 during a weekend getaway would be music to our ears, buyers can opt for a tamer Camaro Convertible with a V6 and listen to the Boston Acoustics sound system instead.

### **[2012 Mazda MX-5 Miata](#)**

Whether tracing sinuous back roads or circling simple freeway on-ramps, few cars can better transform those arcs into pure joy than the Mazda MX-5 Miata. The MX-5 is definitely diminutive, but it's the small size that helps eliminate distractions, helping it do the one thing all road trip cars should: magnify the joy of travel.

For the remaining five vehicles, including full editorial commentary for each of the editors' picks and the rank order, please visit <http://www.kbb.com/car-reviews-and-news/top-10/10-best-road-trip-convertibles-2012/>.

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