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ARRIVE AT YOUR BEST LIFE

HOW YOUR RV OPENS THE WORLD
YOU ALWAYS IMAGINED

+Go Inside

Keystone RV's
Half-Ton of Fun
& Dynamax's
Isata 5 Class C

p. 34



Summer 2022

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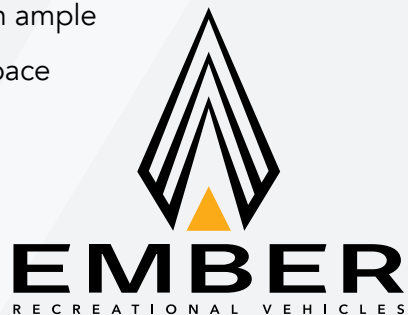
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Summer

FEATURES

VOLUME 2 / ISSUE 1 / SUMMER 2022



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What's Driving the RV Movement

Camper numbers are skyrocketing across the country. The big question is: What's driving them? See why buying an RV is more than a fun purchase. For thousands of lives, it's a vehicle of change.

by Marc Acton

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Vintage Trailers & Peak Romance

Time stands still at the Vintages Trailer Resort. Set in Oregon's Willamette Valley, on a vacation flowing with great food and wine, you have every opportunity to put romance in the front seat.

by Mark Settle

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Unearthing 4 Caves of Wonder

Caves are the gateway to the world beneath us—the stuff that kids love and parents remember forever. And with thousands of caves across the country, you just might cut into your gas bill.

by Stephanie Acton

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Two Signs of the RV-lution

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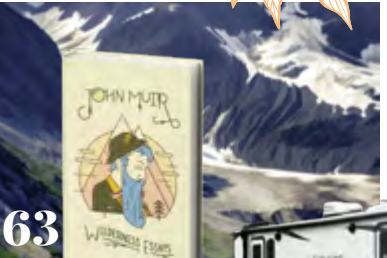
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Set the mood for a hot summer night with our playlist

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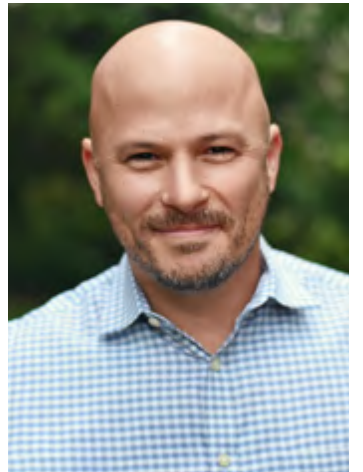
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Published by Alpha/Echo Agency out of Nashville, Tennessee in partnership with NEXT Ventures. I Heart RVing Magazine was founded in 2021 by a crazy bunch of dreamers, story makers, and idea tree shakers who just want to watch the world read.

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That special seat next to you.

I headed West in 2015 with my girlfriend and an Army buddy. As we hiked different legs of the Colorado Trail, we used a custom-converted, 15-passenger Chevy Express camper van as our home base. We'd camp each night, then get up early each morning to hike five or ten miles through the Rockies.

Along the trail, we shared stories. And the more miles we hiked, the more personal the stories became. Eventually, my Army buddy told us that he had survived a fiery helicopter crash in Iraq. The experience had never really left him. Most Army guys aren't big on sharing their emotions, but here he was describing the trauma of the crash and how it still affected his life over a decade later. All of a sudden, the three of us shared something deeper.

Most everyone who's been RVing has had a similar experience. The nearness of nature centers you. And the shared experience of being on the road—adventuring, sweating, exploring, witnessing beauty—inspires intimacy. Altogether, it can be life-changing.

This issue, we explore the idea of arriving at your best life. Which is about more than destination. The real power of RVing goes beyond where we park at; it's also who we arrive with. Often, you read about RVers chasing adventure, seeing the sights, escaping the hustle and bustle. But what keeps millions of us on the road is that this life is a vehicle, a way to see a bigger world with our chosen few.

"... the shared experience of being on the road—adventuring, sweating, exploring, witnessing beauty—inspires intimacy."

Back to my trip to the Rockies. Ultimately, I can't say that our 2015 trip was the reason that I married the pretty girl I hiked with. But on the Colorado trail, we got one step closer. And now, I'll spend the rest of my life adventuring with her.

So, whether you're a family looking to share the wonders of the world around you (like the caves on Page 65), a couple looking for a new way to connect, or even a solo adventurer trying to find a new version of yourself, an RV can help you get there. Just remember that it's who you fill the RV with, rather than what you fill it with, that means the most.

Love ya, mean it. (And hope you find whatever you're journeying towards.)

Marc.

Marc Acton
 Publisher



IN THE NEWS

Campers Adapt to Rising Gas Prices

ALTHOUGH TODAY'S ROADScape enjoys more RVs than ever, 2022's rising gas prices have taken a toll on travel plans around the country.

When war broke out in Ukraine last February, the national average per gallon at the pump rose from \$3.61 to \$4.32 in March, according

to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. In response, the U.S. Department of Energy awarded contracts for 30 million barrels of oil released from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, as an effort to help stabilize gas

prices across the country. Even so, the price tag for a summer RV trip remains much higher than in 2021. And RVers around the country are adapting.

According to an RV Industry Association (RVIA) spokesperson speaking with Fox 17 WSBT in Nashville, the rising prices aren't expected to keep RVs off the road. However, they do expect travelers to limit how far they may go. Which could increase intrastate travel and state parks visitation. Whether campers explore more local options, or damn the costs and head out cross-country, the camper community always finds a way to keep its passion in the fast lane.



Find some wonderful destinations to explore on Page 65.

BOOK YOUR HOOKUP FOR CAMPING SEASON

76%

OF CAMPSITES ARE BOOKED IN PEAK SEASON

1/2

OF PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS OFFER FULL HOOKUPS

► According to a new RVIA 2022 report, 51 percent of the 12,118 private campgrounds in North America offer full hookups—with nearly double the number of dump stations as public campgrounds. During peak camping season, 76 percent of all private and public campsites are booked. So reserve your spot early.

Rally Promotes Newbie 101

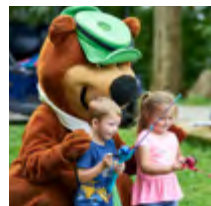
• This fall, the Alliance RV Owners Group is making it easier than ever for new RV owners to train up to take their RV on the road. Launching its first-ever owner empowerment rally, Alliance RV will offer an RV Fundamentals class for Alliance buyers at the National RV Training Academy in Athens, Texas.

"This course is designed to help RV owners address 80 percent of the issues they are likely to encounter with their RVs," explains Rob Boyer with Alliance RV. Upon completion of the 40-hour class, participants will have the skills to troubleshoot key RV systems, from electrical to propane to plumbing and beyond.

Register for training at (903) 386-0444.

Yogi Bear Goes Green—and Gives Back

• The Jellystone Parks—home to the famous cartoon personality Yogi Bear—are taking steps to secure environmentally-friendly adventures for their guests. All parks now implement paperless check-ins and recycling stations. And some parks are going further: A Jellystone Park



in New York recycled over 90,000 cans, which enabled it to raise \$6,500 for families in need.

Learn more at JellyStoneParks.com.

Winnebago Grants Big Wishes for Kids

• Winnebago Industries and RV Retailer are teaming up with Make-A-Wish to help children with critical illnesses. For families whose kids love outdoor travel but need access to power or special equipment, an RV is the perfect solution. Richard K. Davis, President and CEO of Make-A-Wish America, says, "Their support will enable us to continue to grant life-changing wishes that can be a

turning point for a child with a critical illness." The partnership could also expand to include additional RV dealers in the future.

Get involved with a Make-A-Wish at Wish.org.

Sewer Hoses Get Extreme Makeover

• Two Ohio inventors created a patent-pending covering for a flexible RV sewer hose. Aptly naming it the Better Look, the inventors say, "We wanted to create a clean and attractive covering for an RV sewer hose." The design would also help protect the hoses. The Better Look is producible in various styles and available for licensing and sale to manufacturers or marketers.

Fill up on sewer hose info on Page 45.

States Navigate Electric Vehicle Tax

• As electric vehicle ownership increases, some states, like Utah and Oregon, have turned to an alternative tax for electric vehicles: a vehicle miles traveled (VMT) tax. A VMT tax requires drivers of electric vehicles to report the number of miles traveled so the state can impose a tax proportional to the distance. While other states, like Washington, have balked at privacy implications in tracking individual vehicles, VMT taxes represent a desire for states to recover revenue lost from gas taxes.

Track the tax initiative at RVIA.org.

Set the Mood for Summer Love

PRESS PLAY ON THESE SUMMER SONGS AND INSTANTLY DIAL UP YOUR CABIN'S ROMANCE-O-METER.



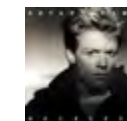
Frankie Valli, "Can't Take My Eyes Off of You"

Few know the sweet sensation of arrival like campers. But Frankie V knows. Packing the right amount of sticky sweetness and good old-fashioned swing, the best time for this song is when the RV gets put in park.



Sly & the Family Stone, "Hot Fun in the Summertime"

The driving piano rhythm instantly gets you where you need to be. And when the Family Stones' characteristically big chorus kicks in, you'll be smack dab in the middle of funk town, population two.



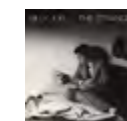
Bryan Adams, "Summer of 69"

This love letter to the young and restless days of old keeps the summer of '69 alive, even in these roaring 2020s. Just need the right person to share the RV with—someone who knows it's now or never.



Cyndi Lauper, "I Drove All Night"

Setting the mood is all about degrees. You can go slow. Or set the RV on fire. Beware: This track does the latter. If you're driving all night, this fever might burn you up inside.



Billy Joel, "Just the Way You Are"

Billy Joel just needs someone he can talk to. We get that. Road miles are too long to share in silence. But what we love best is when that lilting sax finishes the job.



Eric Clapton, "Wonderful Tonight"

Clapton's lyrics here are as memorable as his guitar riffs. The person by your side will feel seen, treasured, and desired. How you capitalize on all that emotion is up to you.



Spread the News

Help keep us posted on what's coming down the pike. Share the news stories you're excited about with the entire I Heart community at editorial@IHeartRVing.com.



TURN UP THE HEAT ON SPOTIFY

Is it getting hot in here? (We sure hope so.) Follow us on Spotify and click the ♥ on our Hot Summer Nights playlist to set the mood wherever you are.



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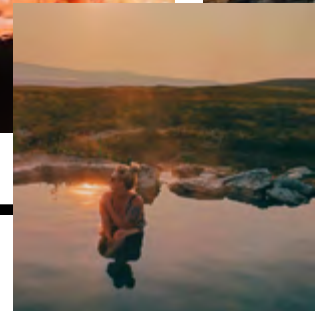
One Red-Hot Handle

TALKING WITH THE CAMPERS WE LOVE AND FOLLOW ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Building your best life starts with a vision. For Amber and Jaylyn that means living smaller, leaner, and—when possible—on a beach. Following Jaylyn's recent retirement from the Marine Corps, the couple decided to go full-time in a Heartland Torque 371M toy hauler. And now they're on the move, crossing state lines, and starting a whole new mobile life with ... wait for it ... their infant daughter.

Join the fun and follow @amber.in.wanderland on Instagram as Amber chronicles their ambitious adventure across America.



What you wish you'd known

@amber.in.wanderland That RV living is not much different than living in a small apartment and not scary at all. Before we started RV living, we had no knowledge of RVs at all and only knew what we were learning from YouTube, so we were essentially going into this blind. Of course there is general maintenance with an RV that a home wouldn't have, like dumping your grey and black tanks (which terrified me the most), but it turns out it isn't scary at all and actually pretty simple. You literally just pull a lever. LOL

Picking your next location

@amber.in.wanderland I use an app [Allstays Military FamCamp Campgrounds] that lists military bases that have RV parks and plan our destinations according to that, since RV parks on bases tend to be cheaper. I try to not have us travel more than four hours on travel days, so we also boondock a lot between destinations. I use the Campendium app to find free spots. I essentially planned our route over the next year to drive through states we've never been to.

No. 1 baby item for travel

@amber.in.wanderland Sound machine! Living in such close quarters the sound machine has been a lifesaver with keeping the baby asleep during naps and at night. I've also low-key fallen in love with the thunderstorm sound and use one now too.

Making your RV your own

@amber.in.wanderland Oh man, where do I get started? I've completely gutted the main bedroom, ripping out the king bed, carpet, and closet to convert it into my daughter's nursery. I leveled the floor in our toy hauler room and laid flooring, ripped out the drop-down couch that typically comes in a toy hauler, and put in a custom queen bed. I also added doors to the back of the toy hauler room to allow us to have the back patio dropped while stationary. I've also painted, added tile and wallpaper to make the RV feel homier. ❤️

Photos courtesy of @amber.in.wanderland



▲ @WVVALLEYWINE

WHY WE HEART IT: A beautiful vineyard. A delicious wine. Why wouldn't we love it? Check out our wine country tour on Page 42 to find the best route to Walla Walla.



Scrolling the Virtual Campground



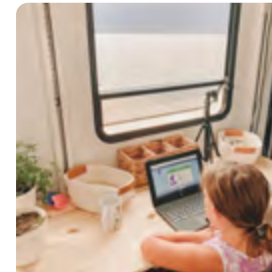
▼ @NATIONALPARKGEEK

WHY WE HEART IT: National Parks are our love language. And @nationalparkgeek shares some of the best pics around—this Crater Lake shot by Jake Guzman.



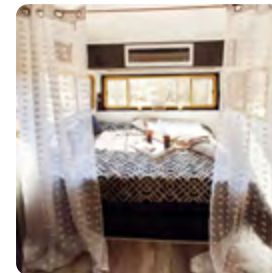
▲ @ADAVEPARFITT

WHY WE HEART IT: Because everyone needs travel advice from dad. And @adaveparfitt is the RV dad of Instagram. For all of us.



▲ @ROLLINWITHTHEHANDLEYS_

WHY WE HEART IT: We love the way they make life on the road work for them—from homework to holidays.



▲ @JUSTUS2RV RENOVATION

WHY WE HEART IT: Not everyone can pull off black cabinets in an RV reno. But yow! These look sharp.

KEEP UP THE CHATTER

Volume 1 of I Heart RVing is now in the books! 📖📧📧

Jeff S.

I just pledged on Kickstarter for a lifetime subscription in the hopes you guys keep publishing great material.

JS

Thanks for your support, Jeff! Till death do we part. (P.S. We call shotgun for life 😊)

Sue M.

Keep up the great work—I am loving the articles.💖

SM

Jamie G.

The magazine is real fun to read.

JG

Music to our ears, Jamie!

Larry F.

Really enjoy the info and humor in the magazine.

LF

The campground has trained us well.

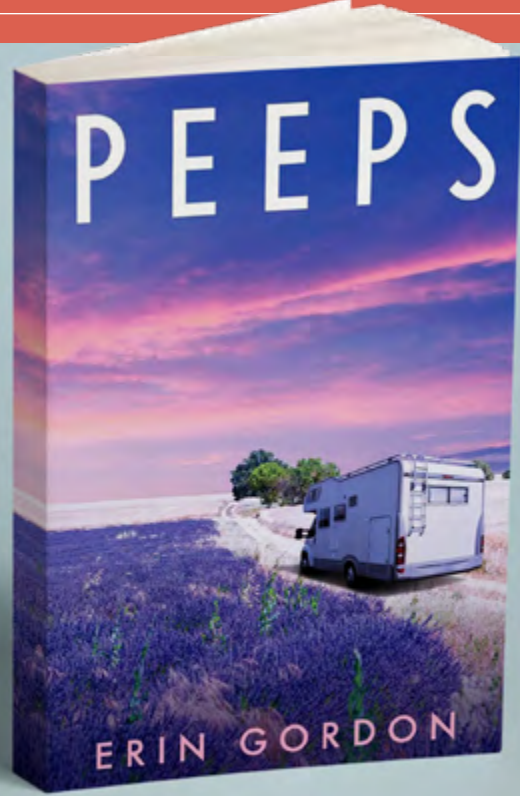
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Share More with Us

Follow us on social as we share everything RV—from the functional to the funny to the furry. Join the virtual campground at @IHeartRVing on Facebook and @IHeartRVing over on Instagram.





Chasing the Big Life

A COMING-OF-MIDDLE-AGE NOVEL THAT TAKES TO THE ROAD.



Start Reading Peeps by Erin Gordon.

→ QUITE FRANKLY, at age 51, Meg's life is not what she expected. Living in the aftermath of an unforeseen divorce, her life is buffeted by fear, family history, and her therapist's advice. That is, till she decides to do something rash and buy an RV. Leaving the comforts of Santa Monica behind, she takes her fledgling podcast, Peeps, on the road. Meg doesn't have too much trouble whittling down her belongings. She does, however, carry the weight of her past. Her

mother's cruelty. Her recent divorce. Her suspicions about genetic determinism. Taking a route that zigzags like an EKG, Meg drives her RV across the continent toward fresh waterfronts, new interviews, and distant relations—a journey that she hopes will help reconcile her past and possibly redirect her future.

So *Peeps* begins. And, as every good novel is about ideas, so Erin Gordon's fourth and latest work of fiction explores the concept of the Big Life. What is it? And how do you live it? Those questions propel Meg forward and park at the center of her podcasts.

The novel itself alternates between travel narrative and transcripts of Meg's interviews—where she asks every guest seven illuminating questions. That artful balance gives *Peeps* the defining characteristics of life on the road: movement and conversation. Like the podcast itself, the novel progresses quickly and naturally, covering a range of emotions—mirroring the strange fluidity with which life moves from the comic to the tragic and back. But, like Meg says about her podcast, “that’s the premise of Peeps: that everyone’s life—even the smallest, most insular life—is a story worth hearing.”

Now, truth be told, we don't love every stop on Meg's journey. There are a few places where the narrative stumbles into stereotype. The most noteworthy example is during Meg's first stop at a dump station near Lake Tahoe. There, Meg is approached by two flannel-wearing hunter types in a rusty van. They reek of beer and tobacco, wear massive knives in their belts, and leer at

her expectantly. Asking if she wants to “hang,” one of them claws his hand inside her window, before she manages to escape to Wal-Mart nearly traumatized. In fact, for the rest of the novel, Meg successfully keeps her fellow campers at arm's length—an inescapable contrast with the genuine human curiosity she shows to strangers during her podcast interviews.

But *Peeps* is a journey of growth. At the beginning of the novel, Meg is a newbie. By the end, she is not the same. She can handle herself and opens up to the campground crowd. Because, true to life, the revolving string of victories and defeats change us. Newbies toughen up. Get wiser. And move ever closer to the Big Life. And that, ultimately, is what makes *Peeps* worth reading. ♥

Editor's Note: *Peeps* contains language, sexual, and situational content that is unsuitable for young readers.

Editor's Note: Peeps contains language, sexual, and situational content that is unsuitable for young readers.

Prove Your National Park Smarts!

Try a little trivia and see how much knowledge you're conserving from all those travels.

No. 1

Yellowstone was the nation's first national park. In what year was it established?

- A. 1848, after the Mexican-American War.
- B. 1872, after the Hayden Geological Survey.
- C. 1901, after the election of Teddy Roosevelt.
- D. 1933, after FDR signed the First New Deal.

Answer: B. Don't be fooled by his two terms as president and national parks began well before nature-loving Teddy. The history of conservationist in chief.

No. 2

John Muir, the father of national parks, famously wrote: "The mountains are calling and I must go." Which national park's mountains were calling?

- A. Mount Rainier.
- B. Grand Teton.
- C. Rocky Mountain.
- D. Yosemite.

Answer: D. Follow the footsteps of John Muir into Yosemite's mountains—and other national parks—on Page 63. That is, unless other mountains are calling you.

No. 3

Crater Lake National Park has the nation's deepest lake. How deep does it go?

- A. 788 feet.
- B. 1,943 feet.
- C. 5,387 feet.
- D. 20,000 leagues.

Answer: B. Take it easy, Captain Nemo: Crater Lake only goes 1,943 feet deep. Which we still think is pretty far down for a lake with a volcano in it. Get a better look at the depth of its beauty on Page 15.

No. 4

Sure, Alaska has the four largest national parks. (How very Alaska of Alaska.) But what's the largest national park in the Lower 48?

- A. Death Valley.
- B. Yellowstone.
- C. Everglades.
- D. Badlands.

Answer: A. Death Valley be like, the Mojave, and stars blaze at night. Just pick a season that isn't the Mojave, and stars blaze at night. Just pick a season that isn't the Mojave, and stars blaze at night. Just pick a season that isn't the Mojave, and stars blaze at night.

No. 5

Mammoth Cave National Park got its name because ...

- A. It's like ... really big.
- B. Woolly mammoth fossils were found there.
- C. It's the world's largest cave.
- D. The parking lot is YUGE.

Answer: A. Don't overthink this one. Mammoth cave is massive (ranking just behind the Son Doong Cave in Vietnam), and it's a thrill for kids and adults alike. Find our four favorite caves and parking for your next spelunking expedition on Page 65.

No. 6

The world's largest living tree is found in Redwood National Park.

- A. True.
- B. False.

Answer: B. If we said, "tallest living tree," this statement would be true. Redwoods' Hyperion is 380 feet tall, but Sequoia National Park's General Sherman is the largest tree on earth at 52,000 cubic feet and 57 feet across.

No. 7

Which national park receives the most visits each year?

- A. Yosemite.
- B. Grand Canyon.
- C. Great Smoky Mountains.
- D. Zion.

Answer: C. Year after year, the Great Smoky Mountains top the list for attendance. Maybe it's a gift of geography. Maybe it's those jaw-dropping autumn views. Either way, check out Page 56 if you're looking forward to fall.

Ask the 7 Podcast Questions

Host your own interview on the road and go a little deeper with your favorite peeps.

I Seven billion people live on this earth. What's it like to be you right now?

II Tell me something about your background.

III If you could take one physical object with you after you die, what would it be?

IV What's one thing you do every day?

V What was your pivot moment?

VI Who is someone you never saw again?

VII What is your life motto?

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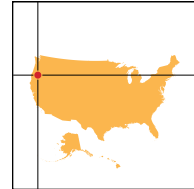
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VANTAGE POINTS OF AMERICAN BEAUTY



▶ CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK ▶ SOUTHWEST OREGON
▶ 42°53'49"N, 122°08'03"W ▶ NPS.GOV/CRLA



ON THE RIM OF A VOLCANIC LAKE The violent energy that created Crater Lake is dormant, but it still has the ability to awe any visitor. With a wondrous waterscapes, weird rock formations, and an explosion of wildlife, Crater Lake is a sight to behold. Formed by the collapse of the Mount Mazama after its eruption thousands of years ago—then filled with centuries of snow—the lake is considered one of the cleanest in world. Roads circling this Gem of the Cascades open in the summer months, which gives RVers a warm entry to the doorstep of a geologic marvel.

Photo by Bill45/Shutterstock.com



**Merriam
Point's Blue
Mirror**

Crater Lake hosts over 30 overlooks around the rim of its volcanic caldera. From Rim Trail at Merriam Point, you can look east and see the mythic splendor of the deep blue surface. Legend says that mountain bluebirds were once gray, until they dipped their wings in the waters.

**Nearest
Parking Lot
Coordinates:**

42° 57' 55" N
122° 09' 05" W



A Brisk Walk to Vidae Falls

Most waterfalls require a trek, but Vidae Falls is far less shy. Park roadside along East Rim Drive, and you can see the falls beautifully cascade down a 115-foot bluff.

Nearest Parking Lot Coordinates:
42° 53' 02" N
122° 05' 59" W



**Strange Sights
in the Canyon**

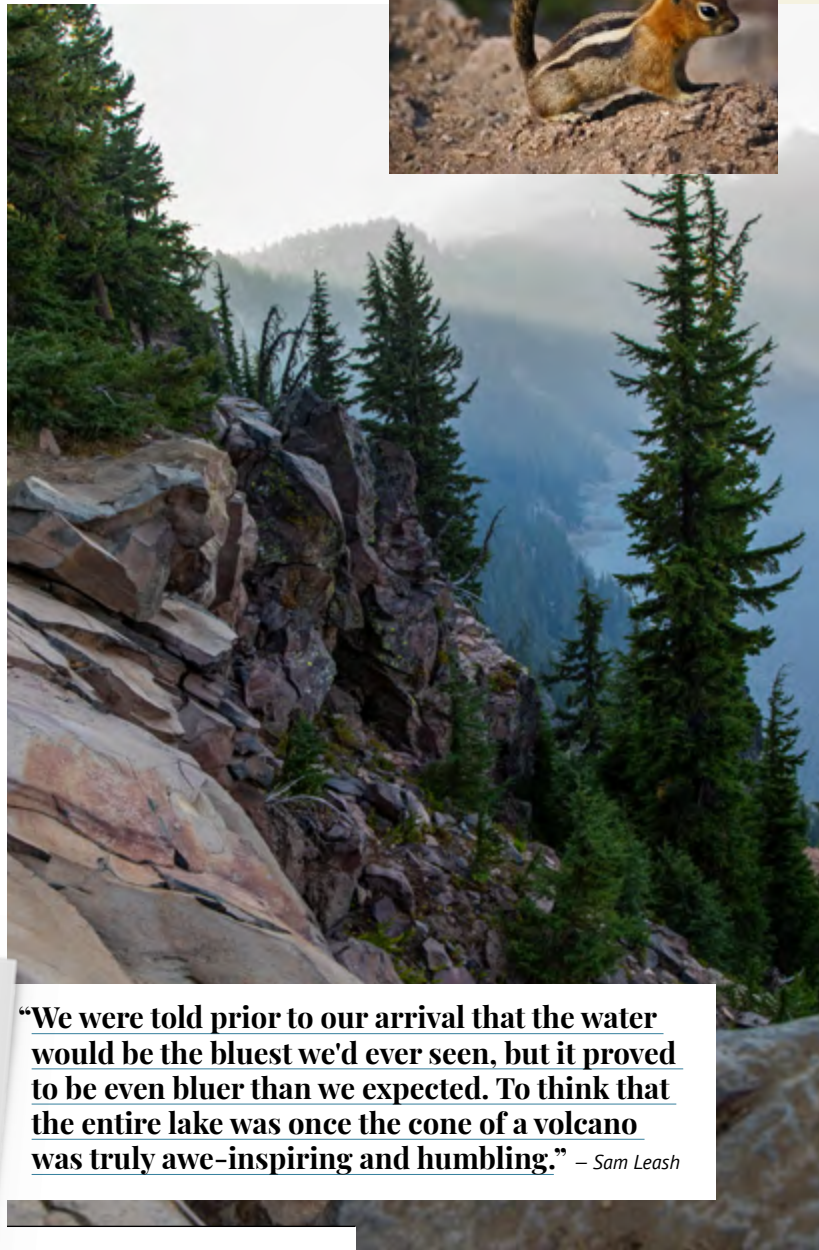
Drive south down Pinnacles Road to Wheeler Creek Canyon. There, a short, family-friendly hike will bring you to a steep edge, where strange towers will rise to meet you—the Pinnacles. These unique spires were formed from lava ash and later shaped by erosion.

**Nearest
Parking Lot
Coordinates:**
42° 51' 00" N
122° 00' 27" W



Wander through a weird and wild spectacle of volcanic wonder.

There are not a lot of places like this—where you can cruise around the rim of a collapsed mountain. Or swim in the cooled mouth of a dormant, fire-breathing giant. Crater Lake is just different. Taking Rim Drive, you can circle the entire park in about an hour and gain access to over 90 miles of hiking trails. The forest teems with blooming meadows and majestic wild animals. Bald eagles soar from treetops; chipmunks chamber down them; and bears, bobcats, elk, and deer roam beneath. So while the volcano is dormant, your camera shouldn't be.

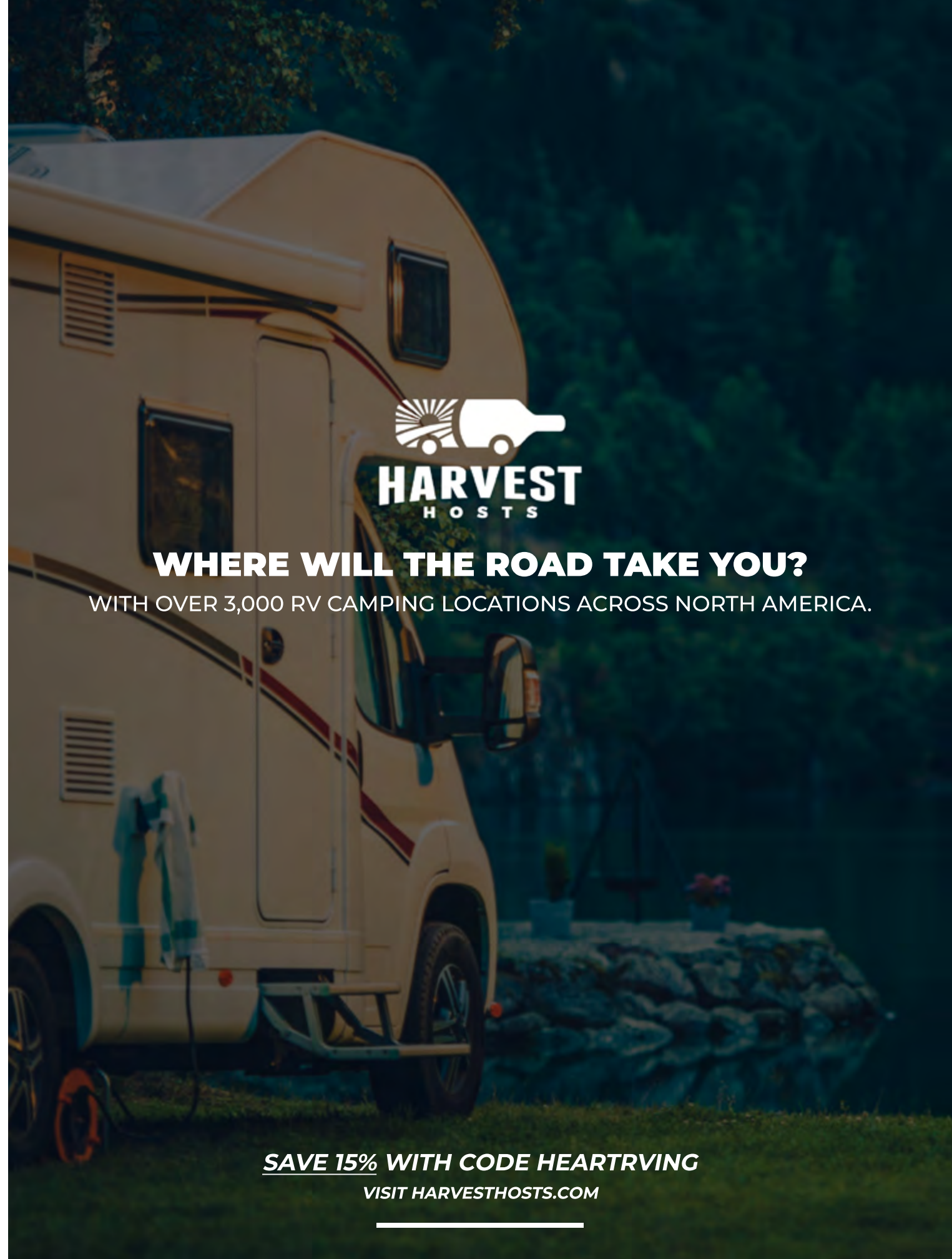


“We were told prior to our arrival that the water would be the bluest we'd ever seen, but it proved to be even bluer than we expected. To think that the entire lake was once the cone of a volcano was truly awe-inspiring and humbling.” — Sam Leash

ONE HUMBLE OPINION

Sam Leash, a seasoned RVer who has visited national parks from coast to coast, visited Crater Lake in the summer of 2017. Hiking down from the rim and even swimming in its waters, she was awestruck by the scene.

Photos (top to bottom): Dan Hawk/fjlm/Paul Racener/Shutterstock.com; Page 16: photo by Kane Reichl/Shutterstock.com; Page 18: photo by Alexey Ullashchik/Shutterstock.com; Previous spread: photo by Dominic Gentilcare PhD/Shutterstock.com



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Road Abode

IMPROVING LIFE ON THE GO



INSIDE: 3 cocktails
to punch up your
summer. Page 31



Photo by Lucky Business/Shutterstock.com

WHAT'S DRIVING THE RV MOVEMENT is the big question behind the big surge in camper numbers across the continent. As trailers and motorhomes flood the campgrounds, experts are looking closer at the driving motivation behind the lifestyle. But what we've found is simpler. More powerful. It crosses the generational divide. And it's much closer than you think. Discover what truly drives us on Page 34.

Work Remote Like a Boss

6 professional tools to help promote success—and prevent disaster—as you work from your RV.



IN JUST THREE YEARS, the national work landscape has experienced seismic change. Once bound by the office and moth-ridden 9 to 5 workday, the workplace has since been liberated. Tech is wireless. Meetings are on video conferencing apps. And remote work is a national norm, instead of an exception. But anyone who has worked on the road can tell you one thing for sure: It has its advantages, but it is still work. And in an RV especially, it takes work to make it work. After all, you're dealing with factors that most office goers and remote workers at home don't have.

You want everything to be as reliable as possible. Especially the gear that supports you. Fortunately, these six products will help you work like a boss, wherever you park the office.



Winegard® Connect™ 2.0 Wi-Fi & 4G LTE

► Make no mistake: Wi-Fi is the life blood of your remote office. We simply can't emphasize this enough. When you're reliant on Wi-Fi, hoping that the campground has a strong signal is an invitation for disappointment. You need certainty. You need a safeguard. You need Winegard. A two-in-one hotspot and internet booster, Winegard Connect also maximizes your speed and extends your range.

Buy at CampingWorld.com, \$400



weBoost Drive Reach Cell Phone Booster

► Sorry to break it to you if you didn't already know this, but the signal frequencies for Wi-Fi and cell phones are radically different. Which means you need a booster for both. The weBoost Drive Reach enables you to maintain a quality signal, so you can make important work calls from anywhere, without worrying about geography. Reliably make your call when and where you need to, moving or parked.

Buy at BTX.com, \$500



Hughes Autoformers 50 Amp Bluetooth Surge Protector

► A smart surge protector can flat-out save your butt. Hooking up to shore power, while convenient, comes with a risk. If there's

a heavy jolt, you could lose any-and-all of your electronics. (This happens more than we like to think about.) But this smart surge protector detects power abnormalities and preemptively shuts your power down before any damage can be done. So, if you're wondering whether a surge protector is worth the splurge, consider this: The Hughes Autoformers 50-Amp Bluetooth model has five stars on Amazon ... and over 2,000 ratings.

Buy at Amazon.com, \$230



Bose QuietComfort® 45 Headphones

► Campgrounds can be noisy places. And the people in your RV can be too—especially if they're tiny, little rascals that never worked a day in their whole life. Keep the background noise in the background for your conference calls with these Bose QuietComfort 45 headphones. They're wireless, smart, professional, supremely comfortable, and give you premium sound control. (After the meeting, you might just leave them on and not tell the kids that the meeting's over.)

Buy at Bose.com, \$280



Roost V3 Laptop Stand

► Sometimes you want a solution that works with what you already have. Sure, we all love pictures of custom remote working renos, but you may not have the energy to do them. Or the space. The Roost V3 laptop stand is perfect for you. Order it. Get it. Set it on a flat surface. The small but sturdy stand secures your laptop and puts your eye to eye with your screen, which greatly improves your posture.

Buy at Amazon.com, \$90

Flash Furniture Reception Chair with Flip-Up Arms

► Let's keep this simple: When you work from home, you want a chair on wheels; when your home is on wheels, you don't. What you really need while working in your RV is a firm, comfortable, stable chair that doesn't take up too much space. Our choice is the Reception Chair by Flash Furniture. Flip-up arms add optional comfort and can save space. The sled base is stable but responsive when pushed. But what we might love most is that the ergonomic cantilever design gives good lumbar support and allows you to rock.

Buy at Amazon.com, \$120



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Summer Reading's Secret Bonus

Turn a new page to enjoy quieter drives and more meaningful conversations with the kids. *by Torrey Swan*

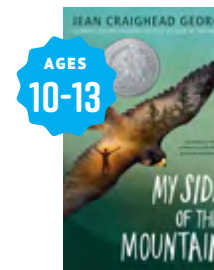
SUMMER'S LIST OF PLEASURES IS SUNNY AND LONG. And summer reading is certainly one of them. But for parents, there is also a secret bonus: When your kiddos are immersed in a good book, your drive takes on a touch of serenity. So, you need those books to be good—like can't-put-this-down good.

Lucky for you, we've compiled a list of books for travelers of every age—full of RVs, adventure, and off-the-grid grit. Not only will they captivate your kids, they're also great conversation starters for the road. (As long as there is no test at the end.)



Goodnight, Campsite
Loretta Sponsler
29 Pages, Fiction

Finally a camping book for kids that's not all about tents! The illustrations include every kind of RV, so your kids will easily be able to find one like theirs. They'll also get to know the campground regulars. At 29 pages, it's long enough to captivate them during the drive, with a squirrel hidden on almost every page, but still short enough to read at bedtime, with easy-to-read rhymes like, "The air is filled with campfire song / The wind is cool, the shadows long."



My Side of the Mountain
Jean Craighead George
208 Pages, Fiction

A chapter book without the illustrations, this novel sparks young imaginations to consider what it would take to live off the land. Set in the Catskill Mountains, Sam Gribbley makes his way there after deciding that New York City is not for him. (We feel ya, Sam.) With almost nothing to his name, he learns how to live off the land in a year that changes him forever. Like Gary Paulsen's *Hatchet*, *My Side of the Mountain* is the perfect primer for your aspiring adventurer.



50 Adventures in the 50 States
Kate Siber and Lydia Hill
112 Pages, Nonfiction

If you're making a summer of it and marking up the map, this book will keep your kids engaged as they go from state to state. Inside its beautifully illustrated pages, they'll be walking on glaciers and surfing the Venice beaches, even before you arrive at your destination. With 50 different adventures and fun facts about each place, your young travelers may look forward to your next stop more than you do. (And be sure to quiz them about their favorite pages: It just might give you the perfect idea for a family trip.)



Into the Wild
John Krakauer
240 Pages, Nonfiction

This true story of a missing person case should be reserved for teenagers. But at the core of Christopher McCandless' ultimately tragic journey are themes parents can—and should—explore with their teenagers. How does heading into the wild help return us to "the raw throbs of existence?" Do you think Christopher McCandless was bravely idealistic or dangerously naive? There's plenty to explore here, and talking about it with your teenager is a well-paved route to a deeper conversation.

Photo by Africa Studio/Shutterstock.com



Need to save space in your camper? Try this e-reader so you don't have to sacrifice valuable shelf space.



TRAIL RUNNER



It's Time to Hit the Trails

Trail Runner's range of models under 5,000lbs. has something for everyone. A roomy chef's kitchen with stainless steel appliances makes meal time a snap, while generous storage holds all your important cargo. An outdoor griddle keeps cooking heat outside in warm weather, and pet-friendly touches are perfect for your furry friends. And at the end of the day, soft, muted decor makes it easy to relax and enjoy your downtime. Is it time to plan your next adventure yet?



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Punch Up Your Summer

Prepping these big batch beverages for your weekend will pay off bigly. *by Marc Acton*

THE GALLEY MIGHT BE FOOD CENTRAL, but if you're doing the weekend properly, it's also drink HQ. Now, it can be all too easy to fall into the trap of just throwing a sixer in the cooler. But this summer, make a little bit of room for a little bit of wow. Offer some beverage enlightenment to fellow citizens on the campground. Liberate your libations. Drop some extra delight into your drinks. Because the heat is on, my friend. And it's time to punch up or shut up. Here are three principles to start with:

MINIMIZE PREP TIME BY GOING BIG

The easiest way to save time and energy in the kitchen (mobile or not) is to make extra of everything and then maximize the leftovers.

In the case of drinks, both boozy and otherwise, keep the same ratio of ingredients, and you can produce whatever amount you need.

Pro Tip Multiply your favorite margarita recipe by 5 or 6, and put it in a jug. Now you have a pitcher of your favorite marg. And probably lots of new friends.

MAKE EVERYTHING YOURS

The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little bit extra. Use recipes as starting points, adding your own extra spin as you go.

A splash of ginger beer (which is typically alcohol-free) or your favorite citrus juice can give old drinks a new kick. The bitters route is also worth a taste. Two of the most common are: Angostura, which adds a fragrant, fruity, and spicy bouquet to most old-fashioned; or Peychaud's, which has a sporty licorice and candy taste that screams New Orleans. Find one that feels like you and then experiment.

Pro Tip Nervous about experimenting? Try switching your base ingredient for a flavored version. Think Vanilla Coke instead of regular in a Jack and Coke, orange-mango juice in your mimosas, or if you're really feeling squirrely, a smoky mezcal in your margs. Switching your base with a preflavored one means you don't have to guess at how much of your bonus ingredient to add, even when making large portions.

TEMPT YOUR INNER TEETOTALER

Your drinks don't need booze to be interesting any more than you do.

A gallon of punch can make an entire summer weekend tasty. And if you have young kids, mixing up a jug of something is a great way to get them engaged in the galley.

Pro Tip Nonalcoholic drinks can be as simple or as complex as you want them to be. If you have the extra time, freshly squeezed, cut, snipped, or juiced ingredients add tremendous value. And don't be afraid to explore those bitters and bonus ingredients here, too.

Photo by Caterina Trimarchi/Shutterstock.com



Classic Horchata

► A smooth, creamy, very Mexican drink that's part Cinnamon Toast Crunch cereal milk and part melted vanilla ice cream. Perfect for the kids. Perfect for summer. Perfect just about every way there is. You'll have to make this one before you hit the road, since you'll need your blender and to soak the rice for at least three hours.



1 cup long-grain rice, uncooked

1 cinnamon stick

1 dash of nutmeg

1 cup whole milk (nondairy works too)

1 tablespoon Madagascar vanilla

2/3 cup sugar

6 cups water



Blend the water, rice, cinnamon stick, and nutmeg until the rice is about the consistency of polenta. Let that mixture sit in the fridge between 3 to 8 hours. Strain (using cheesecloth to remove even more rice particles for a smoother consistency, though this isn't necessary). Stir in the rest of the ingredients, chill, and serve. Makes about six cups.

WAYS TO MAKE IT YOURS

- + Add 1 oz. of rum or Kahlua to each serving (for adults), or
- + Add coffee or espresso for dirty horchata, or
- + Add a sprinkle of chipotle chili powder for a kick, or
- + Add a dollop of crème de coconut



Whiskey Ginger

► After years as a silent movie star, Greta Garbo's first line in her first talkie was, "Gimme a whiskey, ginger ale on the side." Then, in full Swedish Sphinx mode, "And don't be stingy, baby." The whiskey ginger was popular even before Garbo—really exploding during Prohibition when the ginger helped cover a multitude of quality-related sins. Today, it's a crisp alternative to Jack and Coke. If you wanna church it up, you can call it an Irish buck. Whatever you call it, it's simple and refreshing. Easy to make and easy to drink.



1 part whiskey

5 parts (give or take, depending on preference) ginger ale

1 part squeeze of lime (use about a half lime for a pitcher full)



Mix, stir, chill.

WAYS TO MAKE IT YOURS

- + Use a smokey Scotch whiskey, like Laphroaig's 10-year single malt, or
- + Swap the ginger ale with ginger beer to make a Tennessee mule, or
- + Use Sprite or 7-Up for a whiskey variation of the classic 7 and 7, or
- + Add your favorite bitters to cut through the sweetness of the ginger ale

I HEART

Limeberry Punch

► This simple recipe is perfect for those kid helpers, since it takes almost zero assembly, and it's impossible to mess up.



4 cups water

1 12-oz. can of frozen limeade (or your favorite juice) concentrate

2 ½ cups Ocean Spray cran-raspberry juice

1 2-liter bottle of lemon-lime soda



Mix and chill everything but the soda, which you should add just prior to serving. Makes about a gallon of finished product. For maximum wow-factor, add a scoop of sherbet to each serving a few minutes before serving. And it's almost better if the sherbet's not all the way frozen—it'll add a nice frothy texture as glorious sherbet joins with delectable punch.



1. TIME YOUR FIZZ

You can mix batches of drinks with carbonation, but they're not going to stay fizzy forever.

2. STEEP TO STAY FRESH

Fresh ingredients like mint infuse great flavor but wilt within a day or so. Steeping for several hours means you can keep the freshness even after you remove the ingredient.

3. MAKE IT TRAVEL-SIZED

Divide larger recipes for experimentation ahead of time and avoid carrying around a giant gallon all weekend.

4. GIVE POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Prep for a larger group with big batches of base drinks and options to make it custom. A mimosa bar might have mango juice, various berries, and grenadine (for that sweet sunrise effect).

Photos (left to right) by Oksana Mizina/Kat. Keisuke/Shutterstock.com

Photo by Joshua Resnick/Shutterstock.com; Illustration by 50s Vintage Dame/Shutterstock.com



WAYS TO MAKE IT YOURS

- + Switch out your favorite fruit juices (infinite options), or
- + Add fresh-cut fruit just prior to serving, or
- + Add your favorite spirit to taste, typically between 2-4 cups per gallon (adults only)

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get you from
here to there.
Just don't expect
to return the
same.

by Marc Acton

V

E

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It's

a big, big number. According to the RV Industry Association (RVIA), eleven million Americans now own a recreational vehicle—and an astonishing number of people are joining their ranks. More

than eleven industry experts project that around 600,000 new RVs will hit the road this year alone. Truth be told, the RVIA could provide you stats by the thousands on the growth of camper culture all across this fruited plain. A movement centered upon movement itself, the RV lifestyle is sweeping up younger and more senior generations alike. Empty nesters and Millennials are pulling in side-by-side to campgrounds everywhere. Which begs the question: What is driving them to RV life?

Instinct tells us that every RVer has their reason. Adventure. Education. Romance, even. RVIA research and insights, backed by surveys, support that hunch. And, as part of those surveys, they've identified six distinct categories of ownership out of that eleven million. But whatever differences drive them, they share one thing: Each one of them will complete their journey different than when they started.

The RVIA has identified six types of camper. Where do you fit?

Note: Not all survey opinions represented here, only the dominant types identified by RVIA. (We see you counting to 100.)



Happy Campers (3%)

Mostly snowbirds and empty nesters

Average Use: 180 days/yr



Casual Campers (39%)

Occasional weekend warriors

Average Use: ≤30 days/yr



Adventure Seekers (1%)

Adrenaline junkies exploring the great outdoors

Average Use: 200 days/yr



Avid RVers (6%)

Committed road warriors in love with the RV life

Average Use: 61-150 days/yr



Escapists (16%)

RV regulars shaking off the everyday grind

Average Use: 31-90 days/yr



Full-Timers (1.5%)

Rovers, wanderers, nomads—even vagabonds

Average Use: 365 days/yr

"It gives us the best of both worlds."

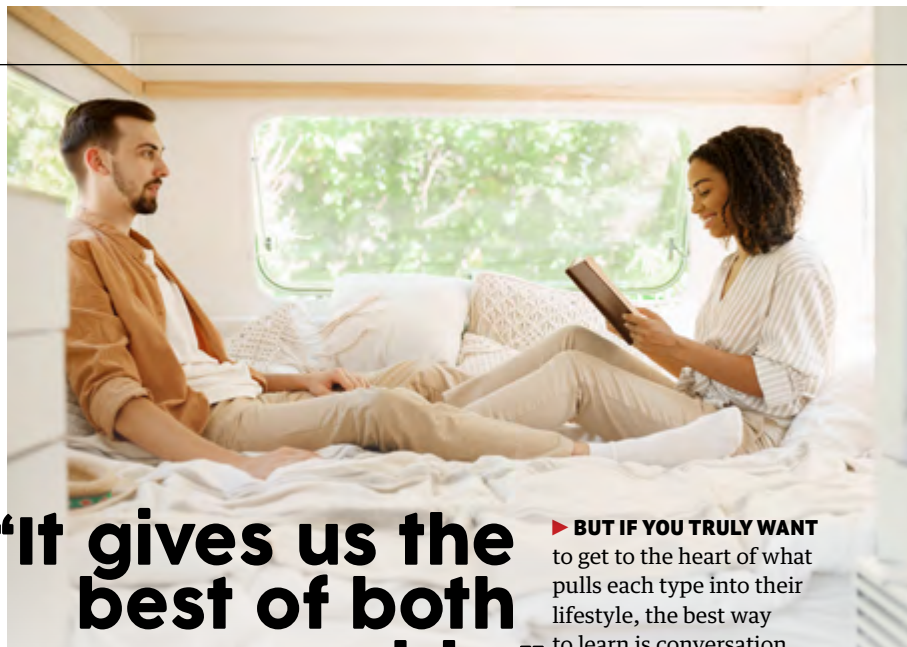
▶ BUT IF YOU TRULY WANT to get to the heart of what pulls each type into their lifestyle, the best way to learn is conversation. Want to know about *escapists*—the group looking to get away from

the hustle and bustle? Talk with Heather Mooney. She's one of them.

"Buying our RV forced us to slow down. To unplug. To sit around a campfire and talk. To make homemade meals, allow the kids to run around, ride ATVs, take walks." Heather shares. "But then, at the end of the day, we still go inside and sleep in the air conditioning." Like many families, the Mooneys were introduced to camping by a set of grandparents. Heather's in-laws bought a 2016 Grand Design Momentum six years ago. Overnight, the Mooneys were an RV family. But while they might have been attracted to the escapism, they stayed with it for so much more.

"Even if we drive hours away from home, we get in it. And it's still as relaxing as being home," says Heather, describing her family's approach to the RV life. "With a fifth wheel, we unhitch when we arrive and still have a vehicle to [explore the area]. It gives us the best of both worlds—adventure and the comforts of home."

You've likely heard people refer to RV ownership as a lifestyle. That's because no matter how you use your RV, there's something more to it than recreation or where you go on the weekends. For many, it becomes a part of who you are.



Our 3 Favorite Reasons to Join the RV Movement:

People who camp are good people.

Linda Ashbaugh from our Facebook page says, "It's a special group of people who camp. I've never met a camper who wasn't nice. [And it's] great fun to see the kids running around in a safe place, outside with no gaming or TV." Buying an RV gives you immediate common ground with millions of people just like you who value living life on the road less traveled.

Your RV is more flexible than a hotel.

For many, like Mercedes Genei, it's also a more flexible way

to travel. "We bought our RV when our autistic son could no longer stay in hotels or with family members—his behaviors made it impossible. Today, our son loves the RV and helps out with maintenance and care through the year." RVs let you decide where, when, and how you'll stay.

It's the best way to see the land that you love.

Jamie Goncharoff from Pennsylvania had a goal for his kids: to see the 48 contiguous states before leaving high school. "Every Fourth of July we'd celebrate freedom in another part of the country. Finally, we let them off on top of the Hoover Dam, which blocks the Colorado River between Arizona and Nevada, and they raced each other across the top, running from their 47th into their 48th state ... All in an effort to have them love and appreciate the beauties and freedom of America."

"You will have issues. But you can deal with them."

▶ MIKE BOYINK AND HIS WIFE had been talking about hitting the road in their RV full-time for so long that they'd started calling it their pipe dream, even creating a folder on their computer to hold their unrealized plans. He recalls sitting one day on his futon with his wife and realizing that with a crashed housing market they'd never be able to sell their house. He says, "I remember telling her, 'We're going to die here.'"

Instead, they decided on a one-year test drive. In 2010, they bought a used 30-foot Rockwood bunkhouse fifth wheel. They bought a truck to haul it. They arranged for a friend of the family to house-sit their house. And they hit the road.

"We actually recorded that moment," Mike says. "All the preparation, all the buying. I remember recording this message, just saying, 'It's finally happening,' on video. Then, 20 minutes down the road, our truck check engine light comes on."

TrailerSaver

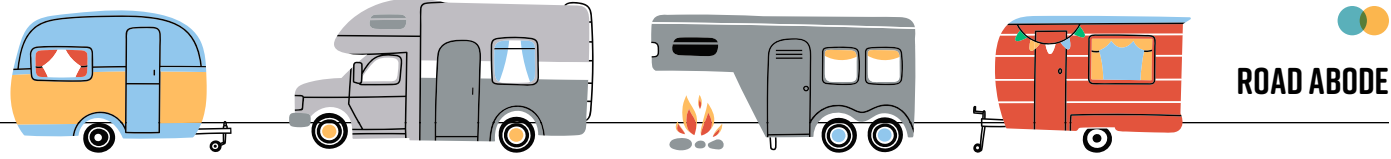
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Stuff happens is a theme you'll hear when talking to an RVer. The Boyinks were learning that lesson just 20 minutes into their drive. And soon they'd discover it was just an innocent check engine warning. "It turned out that it was no big deal," says Boyink. "We stayed that night with my in-laws and found a mechanic who told us it was nothing to worry about."

They didn't stop driving for another eight years.

In that time, Mike says they had amazing luck. Or, as they would say, someone upstairs was looking out for them. Over those eight years they put 120,000 miles on their truck. They went through three RVs, finishing up in a Class A diesel pusher. They homeschooled on the road, and Mike says he walked away from those eight years with something priceless: gratitude.

"We didn't make it through without skid marks," he confesses. When he tells his story, Mike makes a point to be a realist, recognizing that no life spent in close quarters with two teenage children is going to be perfect. "You will have issues. But you can deal with them. You can be flexible."

That flexibility is one of the undeniably beautiful things about the RV life. Unlike a hotel stay (where cancellations mean fees) or family visits (where early departures can lead to hurt feelings), the RV life gives you supreme versatility. It gives you the option to pick up and leave whenever inspiration strikes. And it gives you the choice to put life in park in critical moments. A few years into their odyssey, that's exactly what happened with the Boyink family.

Mike admits, "When we started out, one of my fears was somebody being concerned about the welfare of our children." This was before the days of RV influencers. Today, the idea of full-time RV living is more accepted, if not embraced. But in

2010, people still looked funny at anyone who wanted to choose a different path. "People already thought it was weird that we were homeschoolers. This was likely to be even worse."

About five years into their travels, the worst-case scenario struck. "We had teenagers, and we had some family growing pains, and all that bubbled up. So we bought a season of camping at one campground, and we worked through the issues."



"It's been 35 years of bliss."

► **JEAN AND BOB GAGNON** have been RVing since before it was cool—practically before it was even a thing. Go on a trip down memory lane with them and you will gather a lifetime of delightful travel tidbits. "We were in Maine at this campground [called Narrows Too]," says Jean, "And there was a seafood place—a little drive-in joint—that had the best haddock you've ever had in your life, and I couldn't get enough of it." There's the story about the time Jean found herself hiking in Acadia, where she thought she wasn't going to make it back from a particularly physical hike. "I did [make it back eventually,] and it was with a lot of support from Bob. He supported me even when he knew it was above my level."

They didn't spend all 35 years chasing adventure. They spent it chasing new ways to enjoy each other. "Sometimes we would just think, 'We've never been here. Let's go see what it has to offer.'"

Photo by halpoint/Envato, Illustrations by Bibadash/Shutterstock.com

Sharing Some Road Wisdom

Mike's Boyink's best advice from eight years on the road.

On trusting your fellow man:

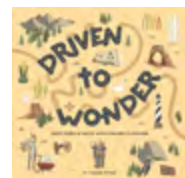
"People are good, and friendly, and RVers know that RVs break down."

On entering a wider world:

"Once you make the leap to RVing, the RV world suddenly emerges."

On making the leap:

"I wouldn't change a thing. My only regret is that we didn't do it sooner."



More Stories from the Road

Find Mike Boyink's book *Driven to Wonder: Eight Years in an RV* on Amazon.

Talk to Bob and Jean long enough, and you can't miss it: All of their stories point to who they shared life with.

"We did the Rockies and Mount Rushmore," says Bob, "And we were on the road for 12 weeks. After it was over, we had a little cabin in North Carolina, and I said to Jean, 'You know after all the places we've been, after all the parks we've been to, this is still the best campground, right here at home.'"

Together, they put tens of thousands of miles over three decades. They started out in a used motorhome, a 25-footer that Bob had bought from his brother-in-law. They bought a 32-foot Georgia Boy in 1999, which they hauled for 12 years. Then they traded up to a 38-foot Class A diesel pusher in 2007. They put 66,000 miles on it over 12 years. Just don't ask Bob to choose his favorite rig. "Well, what's your favorite child?"

The Vehicle of Change

► **FOR SOME, LIKE THE MOONEYS**, the RV is a great way to spend a weekend. It's a hauler, of toys, and loved ones, and whatever other little bit of home you want with you on a weekend trip. Their love for it was even contagious. After watching Heather's family have all the fun for years, her sister and brother-in-law bought a Palomino Puma 30-foot travel trailer in 2020.

The Boyinks decided to stay on the road for eight years. For their family, the RV was a life-changing vehicle. To see new sights? Sure. But more importantly, to use those sights to gain a broader view of the world. It was a tool for teaching, about mountains and nature and farming and God and family and ditching the world's ideas of what your life should look like. And how sometimes in life you need to pause and invest in your people. It was never a home away from home. It was home itself. Wherever they took it, their whole heart was there.

Bob and Jean's story is perhaps the best model of where we're all heading—if we're lucky. It's a picture of enlightenment, where we realize that using an RV to transport you to your best life is less about where we drive it, and more about who we pack it with. ♥

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- 4 If you are using your RV toilet for only urine, you can add extra water to reduce odor.
- 5 Continuous strong odors may indicate a faulty toilet seal. We recommend using Thetford® Toilet Seal Lubricant & Conditioner to keep the seal in good working order.



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EDGE OF THE MAP

FROM THE HIGHWAY TO THE CAMPGROUND



INSIDE: The dirty, little secret to help you find the right sewer hose. Page 45

FINE WINES AND VINTAGE ROMANCE

Time stands still at the Vintages Trailer Resort. With over 36 restored vintage trailers, it's a place like no other. One part time travel. Two parts luxury. And set in Oregon's Willamette Valley, a trip to the Vintages flows with great food and wine. On Page 48, read about a more mature vacation that gives you every opportunity to put romance in the front seat.

	▶ THE VINTAGES TRAILER RESORT	▶ DAYTON, OR
	▶ 45°13'38"N 123°04'28"W	▶ THE-VINTAGES.COM

Photo courtesy of The Vintages Trailer Resort

MAP KEY



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A Local Flavorite

It's never a bad idea to ask the locals at a winery where they eat. But for Willamette Valley, we'll save you the time: It's Red Hills Market. Although their dining-in is awesome, they can also help you create the world's finest picnic—whether you're looking to pair a wine with a margherita pizza, or a half-chicken brined and smoked by the fire.

Red Hills Market

155 SW 7th St
Dundee, Oregon
(971) 832-8414

The Earth's Secret Cellar

The discovery of Ape Cave may have been an accident. But your trip there shouldn't be. Take a day with the kids or your loved one to make your own excursion into the underground lava tube. The kids' imaginations will go wild, and your partner will hold you a little bit closer. (See more on Page 65.)

Willamette Valley

Flying J, I-5 Exit 278

12334 Ehlen Rd
Aurora, OR 97002

Walla Walla Valley

Uncork on Crater Lake

When buying a bottle of wine, you imagine the perfect place to open it. Well, this is it. Crater Lake may be a detour that takes you off I-5 for a spell, but it's hard to imagine a more memorable place to pour your partner a glass. Over the ancient blue waters, the volcano may be extinct; but your romance won't be.

The RV Corral

1890 State Hwy 99 N
Eugene, OR 97402
(541) 689-9204
RVCorral.com

EUGENE

Crater Lake Resort and Store

50711 Hwy 62
Fort Klamath, OR 97626
CraterLakeResort.com

Pilot Travel Center

3817 N Hwy 97
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Pilot Travel Center, I-5 Exit 745

395 E Vista Dr
Weed, CA 96094

See Napa and Sonoma

Described as the perfect blend, these two valleys represent some of North America's finest wines. Cabernets from Napa are world-renowned, as are Sonoma's zinfandels. And those are just the reds. But whether you love red or white, purchase some favorites to savor at scenic spots down the road.

**Sonoma
Napa**

SAN FRANCISCO

Vacationing on the Vine

Embark on a wine country tour that matures mile by mile, from San Fran to Walla Walla.

WE'LL CONFESS OUTRIGHT: We're overdue a trip with some maturity. No offense to all those bright, busy, beachy vacays—we've done those, love 'em, and will do 'em again—but there's something about slowing down. Putting it in park. Pausing as you taste the fruit of the land. Parents can suddenly feel like adults again. Empty nesters can savor their second youth.

Most often, folks think small when they consider a wine country tour. Like Napa or Paso Robles. But wine country is far bigger than any single valley in any single state. (We hear you, Virginia.) And in your RV, you can cover more ground, taste more varietals, and make more memories than the average traveler. Our ambitious route pours through four wine valleys, so you can hit the high notes across three states—whether you're discovering a new vintage in Napa Valley or cracking open a bottle over Crater Lake's mirror-blue waters.

A Full-Bodied Wine Tour

Starting in San Francisco, head north across the Golden Gate bridge along CA-121, the road which connects Sonoma and Napa Valley. The two valleys are about 30 minutes apart, and this trip is all about not rushing. When you've had your fill, we recommend heading north to Oregon on I-5, but you do have other choices. Taking the coastal route on US-101 North, gives you the option of going all John Muir in the woods (Page 63). Either way, it's about 600 miles of road between you and Willamette Valley, where The Vintage Trailer Resort awaits amid a sea of pinot noir (Page 48).

Your final leg starts north on I-5 toward Portland before steering east on I-84. With the Colombia River and the Washington border on your driver's side, you'll travel 200

miles before you actually cross into the Evergreen State at Exit 179. But only a half hour east along US-12 is the semi-arid, flavor-rich, alluringly alliterative Walla Walla Valley. And trust us, it delivers the perfect finish.

Arrive Ripe in Time

Whether you have two weeks or two months for a trip, use the August-September timeframe as the axis for your planning. August carefully nests you in the middle of Sonoma and Napa's peak seasons. For the latter, its harvest season, which means workers in the fields, winepresses in action, and gorgeous dinners. And if you turn north in September to Willamette Valley, you'll pull into your second harvest—so your vacation peaks at just the right time.

Ape Cave: Lauriedon11/Shutterstock.com; Red Hills Market: courtesy of Red Hills Market; Crater Lake: David MacFarlane/Shutterstock.com; Nappa Valley: Carlos Alexandre Camara/Shutterstock.com

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The Dirty Little Secret Behind Sewer Hose Selection

Let your camping style be your guide as you check these specs.

by Laura Wallace and Tera Grengs

Let's be honest here: Sewer hoses may not be the most fun topic. That is, unless they're the centerpiece of some tragicomic camping tale—and generally, you want to avoid that experience. But, truth be told, the stories are common because dirty work is necessary when you camp. And whether you're purchasing your first RV or your fifth RV (hi, mom and dad), you wanna get this crap right. Recent products have advanced to make things easier, so we'll get down and dirty on the secret to choosing the right hose for you. That way, someone else's sewer hose horror story can be the center of attention on the campground.

Everything Starts with You

There are lots of sewer hose options, and for the uninitiated, making a selection can feel daunting. But the choice really depends on what type of RVer you are. Are you living in your RV and parked in a long-term spot? Or do you prefer taking quick trips on the weekend? Maybe you're a full-time traveler. The point is, assessing your camping style is the starting point in determining the right hose for you. Also consider the type of terrain you will be parked on. You'll want to take your answers into account when you assess the different purchase criteria.

Photo courtesy of Valterra Products

Match Thickness to Your Use

This is a big one, because thickness of the hose material is the primary factor that sets one hose apart from the next. In fact, a hose's thickness and price are often directly related. Manufacturers measure sewer hoses in mils, which is a unit of measure that equals one-thousandth of an inch or 0.001 inches. A sewer hose's mil can range anywhere from 8 mil (alright for the weekend warrior) to 25 mil (for full-timers and cross-country travelers). The thicker the hose, the more durable they are.

Choose a Durable Option

Back in the RV Stone Age, all hoses were vinyl. And those hoses were very susceptible to punctures and scraps. But in this present Golden Age, materials are more durable. Higher-end hoses are typically made of PP/PO (polypropylene/polyolefin), which can be more rigid to hold its shape, like Valterra's Dominator or the Camco RhinoFLEX. Or they're made of TPE (thermal plastic elastomer), which is more pliable, like **THETFORD'S TITAN**. Here's the main difference: PP/PO hoses can be easier to store, but a TPE hose is easier to set up. Also check that your hose material is UV protected. This will prevent it from drying and cracking from sun exposure.

Consider Wire Compression

All hoses have a wire inside. In those aforementioned old days, this used to mean if you stepped on or drove over them, they were flattened and unusable. Not so today. Many newer hoses bounce back when compressed. Several top-of-the-line hoses have additional beading along the wire so you can drag your hose around without abrasions, like **VALTERRA'S SILVERBACK** and **CAMCO'S**



RHINOEXTREME. If you are a full-timer that doesn't change location, you need a thicker material, but no beading. But if you're camping in crowded areas or boondocking in rough terrain, you will want the most protection you can get with beading and crush-proof wire.

Find a Flexible Fitting

Believe it or not, sewer hoses used to come without fittings. You had to hose clamp them on yourself. Now, nearly all come with preattached fittings on the ends of the hose. Some even rotate. Having a hose with rotating fittings means that when you twist them onto connection points the entire hose will still lay

flat. No twisting, no binding, no problem. Some rotate on the interior of the fitting, and some rotate on the exterior. Ones with interior rotation have grooves on the inside that can trap gunk which will hold smells and make the fitting breakdown faster. Ones that rotate on the outside last longer and stay cleaner.

The dirty little secret behind everything is ensuring that your money is spent on features that truly benefit your camping style. Whatever you choose, check your hoses regularly to make sure there's no wear and tear. Also, having a backup hose is always a good safeguard in a pinch. Trust us, there are worse ways to waste your money. ♥

Your Power Over Odor

Pure Power Blue is a super-concentrated biological enzyme/bacterial waste and odor eliminator with BioBlast-Plus™ odor control technology. It's accepted at all campgrounds and also enhances septic tanks. Working in black and gray tanks, the formula is formaldehyde-free, eco-friendly, and nontoxic, keeping the tank clean and the smell fresh.



VALTERRA Silverback
\$45 for 20 ft, amazon.com

THETFORD Titan
\$42 for 20 ft, amazon.com

CAMCO RhinoEXTREME
\$90 for 20 ft, campingworld.com

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To learn more, visit Dometic.com.

Photos courtesy of their manufacturers

Vintage Romance

→ **LIFE IS LIKE A VINEYARD.** For long months, you plant with intention and cultivate with care. You sweat and labor, day after day, but always with the harvest in mind. Because you know the time will come when you finally taste the fruit of the valley. When the season of plenty will arrive. And on that day, your cup will overflow.

For countless campers, that day comes in summer and is known by a single word: vacation. And, contrary to the backseat clamor that claims it's-all-about-the-kids-all-of-the-time (we'll settle for *most of the time*), there is another variety of vacation. A timely escape where mom and dad get some mom-and-dad time. Or a seasonal getaway after those beloved kids have flown off to college, leaving behind an empty nest and an open road.

Yes, there is an adult vacation with flavors that are richer and more mature. It lies in the lush lap of Oregon's Willamette Valley, and late summer is the perfect time to make your move with your favorite person in the passenger seat.

Riding together toward the town of Dalton, you'll revive the warm blush of romance and taste the twin thrill of escape. It's a moment when you'll want time to stand still—and you'll be in luck. Because deep in the valley, there's a romantic resort with a special key to a long-gone era. It unlocks a vintage trailer. And all you have to do is arrive.

OREGON'S WILLAMETTE VALLEY IS FABLED FOR VINTAGE WINE AND VINTAGE TRAILERS. SEE THE RESORT THAT'S THE PERFECT BLEND FOR ROMANTICS IN NEED OF A GETAWAY.

by Mark Settle

Where Time Stands Still

► **THE VINTAGES TRAILER RESORT** is a unique place in a land where cool memory lives side-by-side with the warm present. Full-bodied wines. Vintage trailers. All nestled together in the bowl of the valley. Just a half-hour north from the city of Salem, where Oregon Route 221 bends right onto OR-223 North, the road presses through a neck of trees and immediately passes over the snake-like form of the Yamhill River. There, the horizon opens. Rolling hills surround the area, raked with vineyards in living green lines across the jory soil. This sunny little pocket is a true valley, where the pinot grape achieves its fullest expression.

Less than a quarter mile down the road, a cool blue sign with neon red trim appears to the right: The Vintages Trailer Resort. Pulling onto the 14-acre property, the Willamette Wine Country RV Park and the general store are just to the right. The Vintages, with its clubhouse, is on the left. The two resorts share the same property but are distinctly different lodgings. The Willamette Wine Country RV Park is for visitors looking to stay for 30 days or more. Not so, the Vintages.

When the owners first bought the RV park, they had the idea of also setting up some short-term lodging, like cabins. The valley was already a destination for wine tourists, but there were just a few places to stay. A city ordinance said that any additions to the RV park had to be on wheels. For some folks, that would be the end of a good idea. For the Vintages Trailer Resort, it was only the beginning.

Partnering with Flyte Camp in 2014, they renovated six retro trailers. Today, 36 vintage trailers with 23 unique styles are parked on Pinot Loop. Restored and refinished, they're in classic condition but updated with a few modern luxuries—heating, AC, fridges, microwaves, and

The 1954 Anderson (above) is the Vintages flagship trailer, whereas the 1956 Spartan Royal Mansion (below) is their newest addition.



electric kettles—to enhance creature comforts for the spellbound guests that arrive each day. Gazing down the alley on the left, a sage green 1948 Westwood appears. To the right, the smooth, silver surface of a Flyte Camp Neutron beams with the aura of a 1950s UFO. All trailers feature a lovely patio with a grill for

cooking outside and a working bathroom inside. Understandably, the trailers are all permanently parked, but you can still take a vintage joy ride across the property on one of the resort's **cruiser bikes**. (Try and ride them without smiling.)

At the front office, Therese greets the guests and helps them get settled in. She has been working at The Vintages since its inception. If you wander into the general store and wonder why it stands out (it does), the answer is Therese. The store is her creative outlet, fit with a

Photos courtesy of The Vintages Trailer Resort

savvy selection of local wines, snacks, toiletries, supplies, and beautiful coffee-table books on wine, vintage trailers, and more. In sum, everything you need to make yourself cozy. Therese is also the keeper of the keys—each with a keychain custom-made out of wood spelling out the trailer's name.

Turning the key to their cabin door, guests experience true time travel, thankfully without the hassle of sci-fi plotlines. Here, nostalgia suspends the senses. Behind the bright blue veneer of the 1954 Anderson, the cabin's wood-panel interiors place you in another time. As you enter, the touch of those countertops and the smell of refinished wood transports you back decades in an instant. Likewise, the rustic design of the 1977 Airstream Sovereign's familiar round frame exudes a firm sense of place. Breakfast nook over here. Queen-size bed over there. There's a star-covered ceiling in its 1957 predecessor, also

“One imagines Mad Men’s Don Draper sitting inside the 1965 Boles Aero, just settling in on its chic, modern couch.”

on the lot. Thirteen rows down, one imagines Mad Men’s Don Draper sitting inside the 1965 Boles Aero, just settling in on its chic, modern couch.

Each vintage trailer is a tailor-made scene for a romantic holiday. In this mystical place where time catches its breath, you can—at last—slow down. Open a bottle of wine. And make plans to taste and see all the valley has to offer.



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Among Vintages Old and New

► **WILLAMETTE VALLEY HAS BEEN** described as a sea of pinot noir. But there's more than one variety of wine in the valley—and more things to do than taste every vintage. Admittedly, however, a good tasting is the preferred place to start. Which is perfect, because some of Willamette's best wineries are within a three-mile radius of the Vintages.

Just north of the resort is the **STOLLER FAMILY ESTATE**. With 400 verdant acres that roll up and down in the Dundee Hills, the property is breathtaking and the largest contiguous vineyard in the area. To the east and west, mountains cradle the valley, helping create a cooler microclimate that's perfect for the complex, expressive potential of pinot noir. At Stoller, they give pinot the time and space it needs—about ten and half months in oak barrels before the

wine is ever blended. Tastings are between 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., but you will need a reservation so that they can be prepared to receive you with their famous hospitality and vintage selections.

Less than seven minutes away from Stoller lies **WHITE ROSE ESTATE**. Sitting atop an 870-foot hill, the view of Willamette Valley is unsurpassed. It's both a place and a moment to share. From this height, the land opens everything to you. The beauty of the earth. The taste of the vine. Cool winds swirl with complex aromas outside. This elevation also serves an additional purpose: It creates a unique terrior, where the soil, climate, and sunlight give the wine its distinctive character. White Rose prides itself in presenting the grapes with utmost elegance and clarity. Their tasting room is open



Tasting the Wine Valley Pour



2019 STOLLER ESTATE PINOT NOIR

Stoller Family Estate

Why Try: 92 points and Editor's Choice, Wine Enthusiast + good bang for your buck, \$40



2017 WHITE ROSE VINEYARD

White Rose Estate

Why Try: 93 points, Wine Enthusiast + a worthy splurge on an upscale vintage. \$125



2020 WHITE PINOT NOIR

Durant at the Red Ridge Farms

Why Try: Opportunity to try Durant's inaugural vintage of white pinot noir. \$45

for reservations from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., so you can savor the fruit of their labor.

Turning southeast from White Rose, just a mile down the road, is one of Therese's favorite recommendations: **DURANT AT RED RIDGE FARMS**. "We love sending people there," she says. Perhaps that's because at Durant the Old World perfectly blends into the New. Grape vines and olive trees share the land. Sheep graze in the spring. Wild lavender blossoms in the fields. But Durant's tasting room might stand out most of all. Small, outdoors, and intimate, overlooking an arresting view that takes the eye to the far side of the valley, it is a moment meant to be shared between two people over some of the country's finest wine.

Back at the Vintages, Therese is quick to remind every guest, "Where you're gonna find great wine, you're gonna find great food." The towns of McMinnville and Newberg, each about 10 minutes from the resort, prove this principle.



"Where you're gonna find great wine, you're gonna find great food."

Photo by Steven Madow/Shutterstock.com

Aviation Museum: Bob Pool/Shutterstock.com; Photos courtesy of Red Hills Market, The Vintages Trailer Resort

Both locations host an extraordinary food scene, with a personality that is all their own. In Newberg, **RECIPE NEIGHBORHOOD KITCHEN**'s chef makes friendly appearances to greet guests. In McMinnville, **BISTRO MAISON** pairs a *cuisine de grand-mere* style menu and wine—a culinary romance that's fluent in French. But among the locals, **RED HILLS MARKET** is all the buzz. While great to eat at on location, Red Hills is built for grab and go—getting you back into the countryside to enjoy a picturesque, flavorful picnic together.

McMinnville's greatest local wonder is the **EVERGREEN AVIATION & SPACE MUSEUM**—yet another place where the past stands visibly still before you. Here, vintage aircraft that once "slipped the surly bonds of earth" still glow with the bravado of their historic youth. At the museum, you can see Howard Hughes' "Spruce Goose," the largest wooden airplane ever built. You can



pass beneath the jet-black shadow of the SR-71 Blackbird, a Cold War era spy plane that tripled the speed of sound. There's the Titan II rocket capsule from NASA's Gemini space program and a F-86 Sabre that fought aerial battles with Russian MiGs in the Korean sky.

Everywhere you turn in the valley, from the space museum to the ripening vine, age is given its proper moment. Here, age is seen as rich, complex, and potentially still about to peak. And nothing ages better with time than love.



Choose Your Perfect Vintage
Book reservations at The-Vintages.com

THE Vintages
TRAILER RESORT

Romance at Its Peak

► **PASSION IS NOT A THING THAT GOES** gentle into the night, as the poet Dylan Thomas once reminded us. No, it pours out every drop on our journey, driving us through wild and frenetic years at the pell-mell pace of our children. That's one season of life. But, this season of life, this holiday from the race is but a new flame of the old passion.

Winding your way down the wine-dark road, you make your way back to the resort together. Today, you rode cruiser bikes, smiling like teenagers; you meandered down red dirt rows of grapevines; you talked and laughed in the bright glow of that first glass over lunch. And now, by night you've returned to the Vintages, turning the key of the 1956 Spartan Royal Mansion. The door opens. And there is so much more evening ahead—whether you fall into the king-size bed or soak in the open-air tub under the cool canopy of night. Together, you can close the door. And together, you can reenter the night to draw close by the Vintages fireside, taking in the texture of the life you've made and the beautiful aroma of the next chapter to come. At last, after many long miles, the season of plenty has arrived. Together, you have peaked at just the right time. ♥

Keep cool in peace.



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"It works fantastically. I will be ordering a second one for the back bedroom A/C."

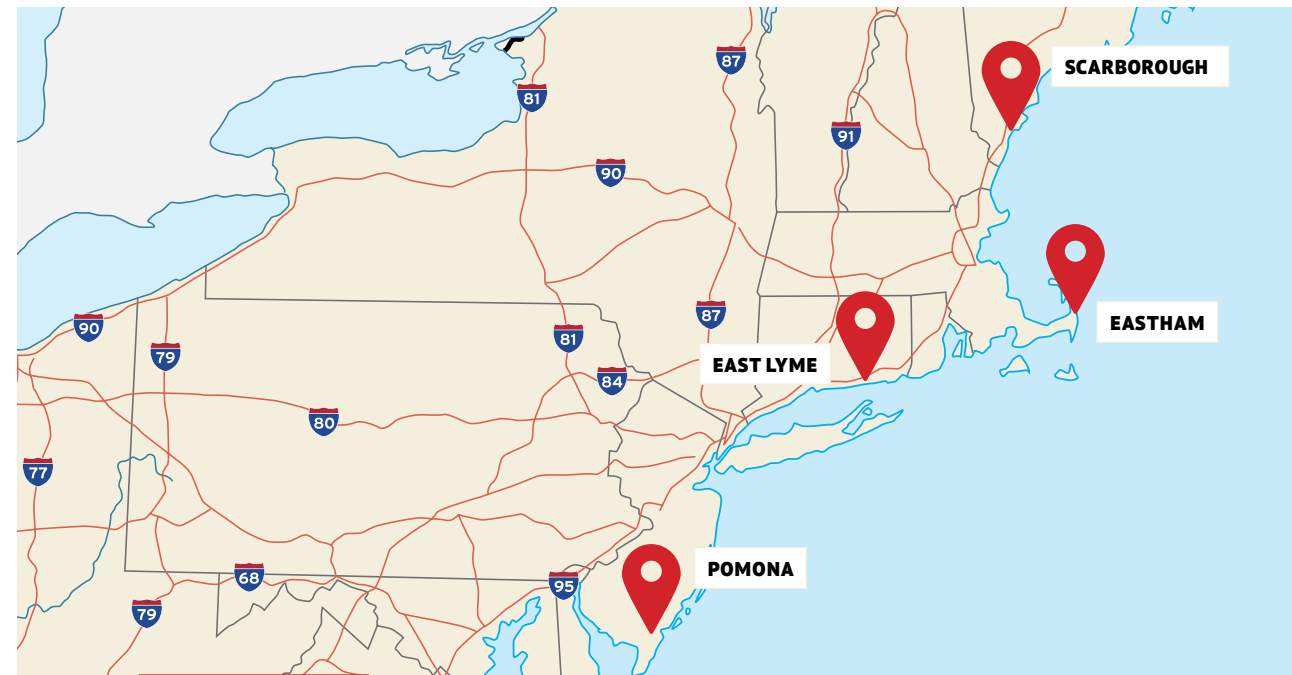
- Rod B., San Diego, CA

Order an RV A/C silencer today!
www.wackoproducts.com



Photos courtesy of The Vintages Trailer Resort

Map: Rainer Lesniewski/Shutterstock.com



CAMPGROUND GUIDE

Northern Shores

Not all vacays go South. Northeastern beach fronts have a character all of their own—with seals and lighthouses, fantasy parks and great golf.

Pomona RV Park and Campground

536 S Pomona Rd
Pomona, NJ 08240

(609) 965-2123

Road Trip: It's hard to say what **Storybook Land** is exactly. Here's our best shot: It's part theme park, part carnival, and part playground. What's not hard to say is why you should go—it's a paradise for kiddos. (Also, Atlantic City is right next door for the adults.) *11-minute drive*

Day Rate: \$65-\$72
Camp Sites: 95

WATER	■	STORE	■
SEWAGE	■	LAUNDRY	■
ELECTRIC	■	WI-FI	■
PROPANE	■	PET-CARE	■

Check-In/Out: 2 p.m./1 p.m.

PomonaRVPark.com

Aces High RV Park

301 Chesterfield Rd
East Lyme, CT 06333

(877) 785-8478

Road Trip: Do some seal spotting while taking in the beachy sights of the **Niantic Bay Boardwalk**. You'll love the great views, and with downtown Niantic just a hop, skip, and jump away, you'll have plenty of ways to spend a delicious day of leisure. *15-minute drive*

Day Rate: \$85-\$100
Camp Sites: 89

WATER	■	STORE	■
SEWAGE	■	LAUNDRY	■
ELECTRIC	■	WI-FI	■
PROPANE	■	PET-CARE	■

Check-In/Out: 3 p.m./12 p.m.

AcesHighRVPark.com

Atlantic Oaks Campground

3700 State Highway 6
Eastham, MA 02642

(508) 255-1437

Road Trip: According to local legend, the **Three Sisters Lighthouses** of Eastham got their name because they looked like women in white dresses from the Atlantic. Today, they still shine, lighting up a great night trip after a day on Cape Cod's beachy peninsula. *5-minute drive*

Day Rate: \$64-\$92
Camp Sites: 100 (70 RV-only)

WATER	■	STORE	■
SEWAGE	■	LAUNDRY	■
ELECTRIC	■	WI-FI	■
PROPANE	■	PET-CARE	■

Check-In/Out: 1 p.m./12 p.m.

AtlanticOaks.com

Bayley's Camping Resort

275 Pine Point Road
Scarborough, ME 04074

(207) 883-6043

Road Trip: Swing up the road a few miles from Pine Point Beech to **Willowdale Golf Club**. Majestic rivers flank the front and back nine of the course, making a beautiful golfscape. But the hidden gem is their vintage golf car collection from the 1950s and '60s. *9-minute drive*

Day Rate: \$100-\$125 (Summer)
Camp Sites: 833

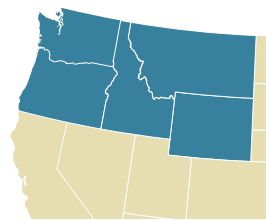
WATER	■	STORE	■
SEWAGE	■	LAUNDRY	■
ELECTRIC	■	WI-FI	■
PROPANE	■	PET-CARE	■

Check-In/Out: 2 p.m./12 p.m.

BayleysResort.com

Your Next Getaway Plan

Summer is prime time to book a coveted autumn campsite. Find the perfect spot near you to enjoy the season's best color show.



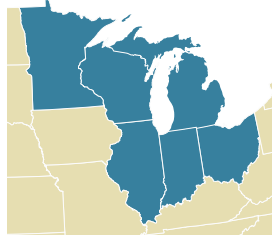
NORTHWEST

Bigfork Motorcoach Resort

Bigfork, MT
BigforkMotorcoachResort.com

- Bigfork Motorcoach Resort is a Class A resort that's just a hop, skip, and a jump away from Flathead Lake. The resort is specifically for long-term renters who want to settle-in and enjoy the view for at least 30 days. Shadowed by mountains, covered with trees, and a one-hour drive from Glacier National Park, there isn't a better parking spot for an extended autumn stay anywhere in the country.

I HEART TIPS
Montana's leaves peak the last week of September or first week of October. Arrive on time to see the aspen and tamarack trees give the landscape a dusky, yellow glow.



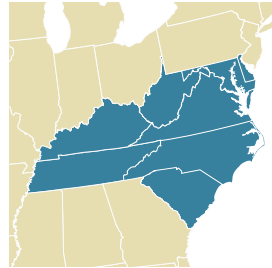
MIDWEST

Hearthside Grove Luxury Motorcoach Resort

Petoskey, MI
ReserveHG.com

- One of Michigan's most popular attractions, the Lower Peninsula's Tunnel of Trees stretches 27 miles along Lake Michigan's northwestern shore. In fall, the linking limbs of birch, cedar, maple, and oaks trees come alive with color. Located at the south end of the tunnel, Hearthside Grove Luxury Motorcoach Resort is family-owned and impeccably maintained. Their friendly staff may even convince you to stay.

I HEART TIPS
The brilliant gold and red leaves make driving north up M-119 an unforgettable experience. Arrive in late September to early October to catch the color in peak form.



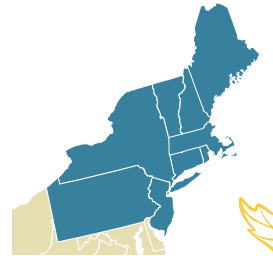
SOUTHEAST

Endless Caverns RV Resort

New Market, VA
EndlessCaverns.com

- At the foot of the Massanutten Mountain range, you'll find Endless Caverns RV Resort. Explore the massive underground cave system, go for a hike through the history-rich Shenandoah Valley, or try your luck at fishing at the nearby stocked pond. Endless Caverns hosts 148 wooded plots, so you'll have your pick of ideal spots. (And plan to bring the whole family because Endless Caverns is pet friendly.)

I HEART TIPS
Take a drive down Skyline Lane, which winds through the park for 105 miles. The valley's green and gold oaks mix with orange flashes of maple early to mid-October.



NORTHEAST

Mountain View Campground

Morrisville, VT
MountainViewCamping.com

- Widely known as "Fall's Color Capital," Stowe, Vermont explodes in a kaleidoscopic expanse of color. Right in the middle lies Mountain View Campground, with options for tent camping, cabin dwelling, and full hookup RV sites. Every site includes a picnic table, fire pit, and free Wi-Fi for uploading all of your Instagrammable moments—from perfect golden poplar leaves to pumpkin spice lattes.

I HEART TIPS
Early September through mid-October is your window (again). Under fall's canopy of golden elms, red gums, and maroon sumacs, branch out by foot, canoe, or back road.

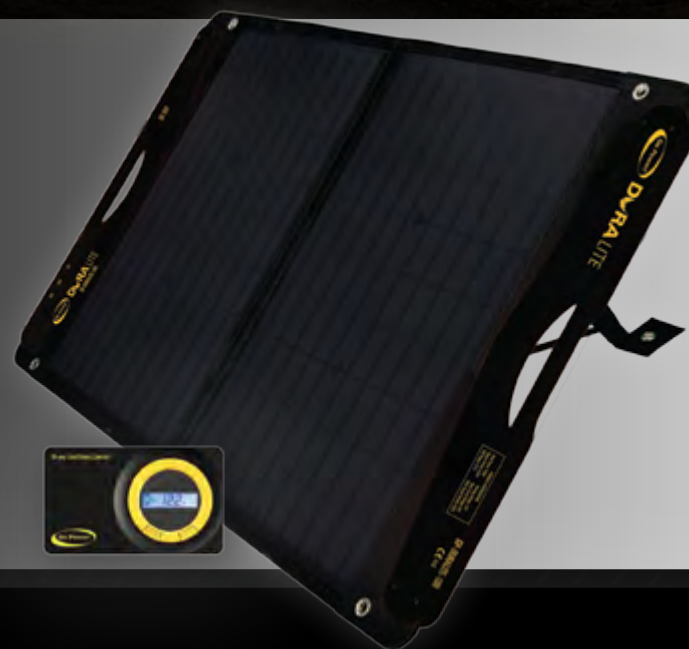


100% RENEWABLE, PORTABLE POWER



FOR WHEREVER ADVENTURE TAKES YOU

Park your trailer in the shade and charge your batteries with the sun! Lightweight and easy to use, the 100-watt DuraLite portable solar kit is perfect for powering weekend getaways. This kit features integrated kickstands and rigid plastic handles with built-in USB chargers, and convenient magnetic closures. Each kit comes with all you'll need to charge your batteries, including a 30-amp charge controller, cables, and an array of connection options.



DURALITE PORTABLE SOLAR KIT – 100W

- Compatible with solar pre-wired RV side ports
- Includes 12 feet of cable for maximum panel placement flexibility
- Integrated USB ports for handheld device charging
- 30-amp solar controller prevents battery overcharging
- A range of battery connection options
- Expandable up to 300 watts of solar charging with two DuraLITE-100-E expansion kits!

Illustrations by Kate Macate/Shutterstock.com

Learn more at GPELECTRIC.COM/DURALITE



TIME TO BE TREATED LIKE ROYALTY

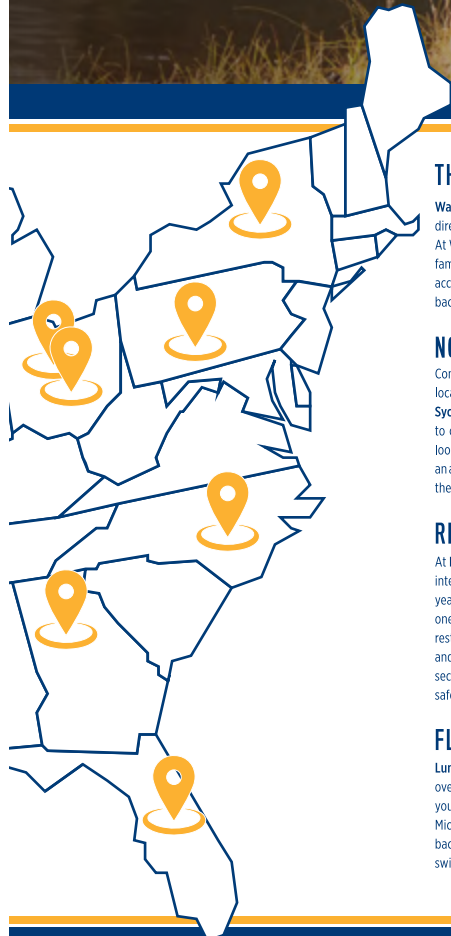
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THE BEST CAMPING ON THE RIVER!

Wally World Riverside Resort is your perfect vacation destination located directly on the picturesque Mohican River in the heart of Ohio's Amish country. At Wally World you'll have the best camping sites on the river at a clean and family oriented campground. With access to a full range of amenities and easy access to so many area attractions you'll want to come back again and again!



NORTH CAROLINA AT IT'S BEST!

Come experience one of North Carolina's most beautiful campground resorts, located just minutes from historic Pinehurst. Explore and enjoy everything **Sycamore Lodge** has to offer, from our historic main lodge and 200 acre forest to our private stocked lake, beach and swimming pool. Whether you're looking for a relaxing getaway amongst our beautifully manicured grounds or an abundance of fun family activities, Sycamore Lodge is the perfect destination for those who love to camp.



RELAX AT BASS LAKE!

At **Bass Lake Resort**, there is truly something for individuals of all ages and interests. Our activities and events are second to none, and take place year-round. Not to mention our two outdoor swimming pools; two clubhouses, one for families as well as one just for the adults; a miniature golf course; a restaurant and bar; a country store; nature trails, for both short walks and long hikes; laundry facilities and much more. As a gated and secure year-round resort, there's always a comfortable, safe and warm sense of community.



FLORIDA FUN AT LUNA SANDS!

Luna Sands is located about 30 minutes from beautiful Daytona Beach and a little over an hour from Orlando. The weather is beautiful all Winter and so close for all of your entertainment needs. Whether you enjoy NASCAR or Mickey Mouse you are right in the middle of things. Then head back to our beautiful resort; shoot a game of pool, go swimming or relax around the campfire.



LIFE'S AN ADVENTURE, ENJOY THE RIDE!

Located in the Salt Fork Lake Region, **Rocky Fork Ranch** is the perfect place for a family getaway. With over 850 pristine acres, this resort truly has something for everyone. Nestled in one of Ohio's most spectacular forests, Rocky Fork Ranch provides endless possibilities for the outdoor enthusiast.

You don't even need to leave the ranch for an adventure-packed vacation as amenities include: indoor heated pool, outdoor pool, horseback riding & trails, golf driving range, mini golf, paint ball and so much more!



RELIVE THE GETTYSBURG EXPERIENCE!

Located on the southern edge of the most famous Civil War battlefield, our amazing campground resort provides by far the best setting for the perfect family getaway. Whether you're soaking up American history or sun by our Olympic size swimming pool, you will discover unlimited opportunities for epic fun and relaxation at **Gettysburg Battlefield Resort**. So come create your own Gettysburg history and visit us today!

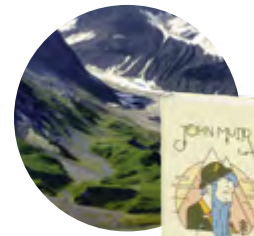


MAKE GEORGIA YOUR NEXT STOP!

Fifty-five acres make up our beautiful **North Shore Resort** at Lake Oconee, GA. The campground was developed with a "railroad" theme and 23 railroad cars were brought in and used as offices, in recreational areas, as shops, and as overnight accommodations. Club cars, cabooses, and boxcars were used in the design scheme giving the resort a truly unique flavor for your next vacation stay. The railroad cars exist today and are just one of the amenities that makes us a premier Georgia Lake Country destination. Call today to ask about a campsite or cabin vacation stay. We have plenty of space for your next event or vacation. Come see what North Shore resort has to offer.



RVX



INSIDE:
Follow a
legend into
the wild.
Page 63

CAMPING, ADVENTURE, AND THE RV EXPERIENCE



FAMILY TRAILS AND HIDDEN KINGDOMS

Caves are the gateway to the world beneath us—kingdoms of splendor and solitude, majesty and imagination. You know, the stuff that kids love and parents always remember. Plus, with thousands of caves across the country, you just might trim your gas bill. On Page 65, unearth our four favorites for an unforgettable family road trip.

Photo by Mr_professionalZ/Reddit

CALL 855.834.4682 TODAY OR VISIT US AT IHEARTRVING.TRAVELRESORTS.COM



The Big Family Breakaway

Take a grand tour of 4 great trails for families looking to just spin their wheels. *by Mark Settle*



You live for this moment. Summer is here, and the schedule is wide open. School is done for the kids, and you're putting work on pause.

How do you make the most of this special time? Here's a hint: It doesn't involve the fam sitting in silence staring over separate screens. And here's a second hint: It has everything to do with the reason you bought your RV.

Now, more than ever, families—moms, dads, and the whole big brood—need to feel the earth race beneath them, the wind whip by them, and a world in motion about them. And the moments you do it *together* can be life-changing for your kids. In the words of Wes

Anderson's Royal Tenenbaum, "You got to brew some recklessness in them." The RV means your whole family can make a breakaway, but for your kids to really push their own boundaries, put the RV in park somewhere that the whole crew can mount two wheels and ride.

And we have a few trails in mind.

Whether you have a specialized road bike or just an old beater, it doesn't really matter when you're taking your kids. You're gonna be going at their speed. It also goes without saying (but we're still gonna say it) that both you and your army of tiny bikers should wear age-appropriate safety gear. For those smaller model humans whose legs aren't long enough to pedal, gearing up will include bike seats or trailers to get them in on the collective joy ride. It's also in your own best interest to be exceedingly honest about what level of biker everyone is (including yourself, possibly with a trailer). Picking the perfect bike trail should involve matching the difficulty to your slowest common denominator.

Got it? Got it. Let's mount up!

Photo by Halpoint/Shutterstock.com

Santos Trailhead photo courtesy of Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Cranberry Tri-Rivers Trail photo by John Brueske/Shutterstock.com; Kingdom Trails photo by @kingdomtrails/instagram; Lighthouse Trail photo by Martina Birnbaum/Shutterstock.com; Product photos courtesy of their manufacturers



Florida's Mountain Bike Mecca

Santos Trailhead and Campground
Ocala, FL

► You're reading this right: A mountain bike Mecca ... in Florida. While Florida isn't known for its rugged mountainous terrain, the Santos Trailhead has just the right amount of elevation for the kiddos (meaning not much). But what makes it particularly great for cyclist families is that it has something for bikers of every ability. Another huge and awesome bonus is that the trailhead is also a campground, so it gives the person putting the RV in park (you) a great two-for-one.

Difficulty: **EASY**



West Virginia's Level Pedal Cranberry Tri-Rivers Trail

Richmond, WV

► Mountain biking in Florida. And now, smooth riding in West Virginia, huh? Irony of ironies. You heard it here. Cranberry Tri-Rivers Trail is a rail trail that retraces an old train track—hence the level approach. But what the trail lacks vertically, it makes up for in diversity. (And that's key when you have little ones who always wanna see something new.) West Virginia is a natural spectacle of waterfalls, rivers, and green life. But the heart of this adventure just might be a 640-foot railroad tunnel they'll have to pedal through with headlamps on.

Difficulty: **EASY**



Vermont's Cool Bike Kingdom

Kingdom Trails
East Burke, VT

► Like the Santos Trailhead down South, Kingdom Trails has something to offer bikers of every age and ability up North. First-time mountain bikers can practice in the balance bike park or get some air under their heels at the beginner jump park. The trails are infinite but friendly and fun, which is really the character of Kingdom Trails. There are food trucks and ice cream and swimming holes. So the kids will have lots of opportunities to catch their breath.

Difficulty: **VARIOUS**



Texas' Red Canyon Romp

Lighthouse Trail
Canyon, Texas

► Palo Duro Canyon is the second largest canyon in the U.S. (ranking just behind *you know who*). Just southeast of Amarillo, Texas, its spectacle will leave you and your pack in absolute awe. The canyon's Lighthouse Trail is also the perfect place for your kids to take their mountain-bike handling up a notch, as they kick up red dust and bypass green cacti on a wide path. Making it even better is what waits for them at the end: an elevated lighthouse that they'll have to dismount their bikes and climb a manageable bit of rock to see.

Difficulty: **INTERMEDIATE**

Equip Your Pack



INSTEP Convertible Double Bike Trailer

Faster, servant!
(Ages 1 to 6)
\$400-\$600



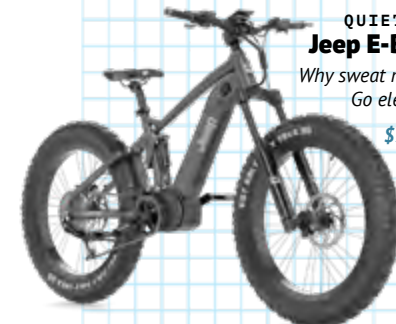
WOOM Woom 3/4/5/6

Making comfort count.
(Ages 4 to 14)
\$400-\$600



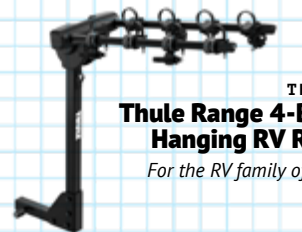
MONGOOSE Switchback

Good all-around hybrid. (Adult)
\$690



QUIETKAT Jeep E-Bike

Why sweat more?
Go electric.
\$7,500



THULE Thule Range 4-Bike Hanging RV Rack

For the RV family of four.
\$400

Taking the kids to an awesome mountain bike destination has lots of benefits—some subtle, some emotional. After a day of riding, they should drop like rocks come bedtime, and if—with indomitable adult strength—you’re able to fight the same gravity, you’ll get to share some extra quality time with your significant other. Best of all though, you’ll have made great memories that you and the kids will cherish forever.

And if you’re looking for more good news (here it comes), there are lots of great local trails branching out from state parks and campgrounds near you where you can have similar experiences. Which means biking together is an experience you can always cycle back to, no matter where you are.♥

A Higher Gear Awaits

There is a time to pedal. And there is a time to cruise. When you’re ready to do the latter: Land will be waiting.

Explore more at LandMoto.io.



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Photo courtesy of LandMoto



In the Father's Footsteps

John Muir's *Wilderness Essays* is the perfect primer to follow the epic trail he blazed for all of us. *by Torrey Swan*

Take in the awe-inspiring beauty of Crater Lake on Page 15.

Illustration by Ken Schulze/Shutterstock.com

Anyone who has camped along the volcanic shores of Crater Lake or watched wild moose graze in the shadows of the Grand Tetons should offer a prayer of thanks for John Muir—the father of our national parks. His mystical and moving writings about the sights, sounds, flora, and fauna of these “pristine lands” helped inspire the public to preserve thousands of acres of rapture-filled wilderness that we still enjoy today.

Reading John Muir's *Wilderness Essays* today reminds us that nature is full of wonders to behold and encounters to share. So, for those who want to chase the legend, here are your trail notes.

ALASKA

REDISCOVER GLACIER BAY

JOHN MUIR: “When the sunshine is sifting through the midst of this multitude of icebergs, and through the jets of radiant spray ever plashing (*sic*) from the blows of the falling and rising bergs, the effect is indescribably glorious. Glorious, too, are the nights along these crystal cliffs when the moon and stars are shining.”

Chase the legend in Glacier Bay National Park, AK. Hike to the Jackson Glacier Overlook; stay at Glacier Bay Campground.

CALIFORNIA

BRING YOUR BEST MANNERS

JM: “We were frightened and embarrassed, both of us, but the bear's behavior was better than mine ... I rushed towards him to frighten him ... When I stopped short a few steps of him, as he held his ground in a fighting attitude, my mistake was monstrously plain. I was then put on my good behavior, and never afterward forgot the right manners.”

Chase the legend in Yosemite National Park, CA. Hike the John Muir Trail; stay at Lower Pines Campground.

OREGON

HIKE INTO WILD GARDENS

JM: “Passing from beneath the shadows of the woods where the trees grow close and high, we step into charming wild gardens full of lilies, orchids, heathworts, roses, etc., with colors so gay and forming such sumptuous masses of bloom, they make the gardens of civilization, however lovingly cared for, seem pathetic and silly.”

Chase the legend in Crater Lake National Park, OR. Hike the Castle Crest Wildflower Trail; stay at Crater Lake Resort & Store.

WYOMING

WITNESS WEIRD WONDERS

JM: “Besides the treasures common to most mountain regions that are wild and blessed with a kind climate, the park is full of exciting wonders. The wildest geysers in the world, in bright, triumphant bands, are dancing and singing ... amid thousands of boiling springs, beautiful and awful, their basins arrayed in gorgeous colors.”

Chase the legend in Yellowstone National Park, WY. Hike the Upper Geyser Basin Trail; stay at Madison Campground.

COMBAT WOUNDED

THEY'VE GOT HEART, THEY NEED WINGS

Imagine a soldier returning home from combat facing devastating injuries and long-term hospitalization-- in a facility hundreds of miles away from their family.

Now imagine yourself bringing them together.



The VAC provides free air transportation to post 9/11 combat wounded and their families for medical and other compassionate purposes through a national network of volunteer aircraft owners and pilots.

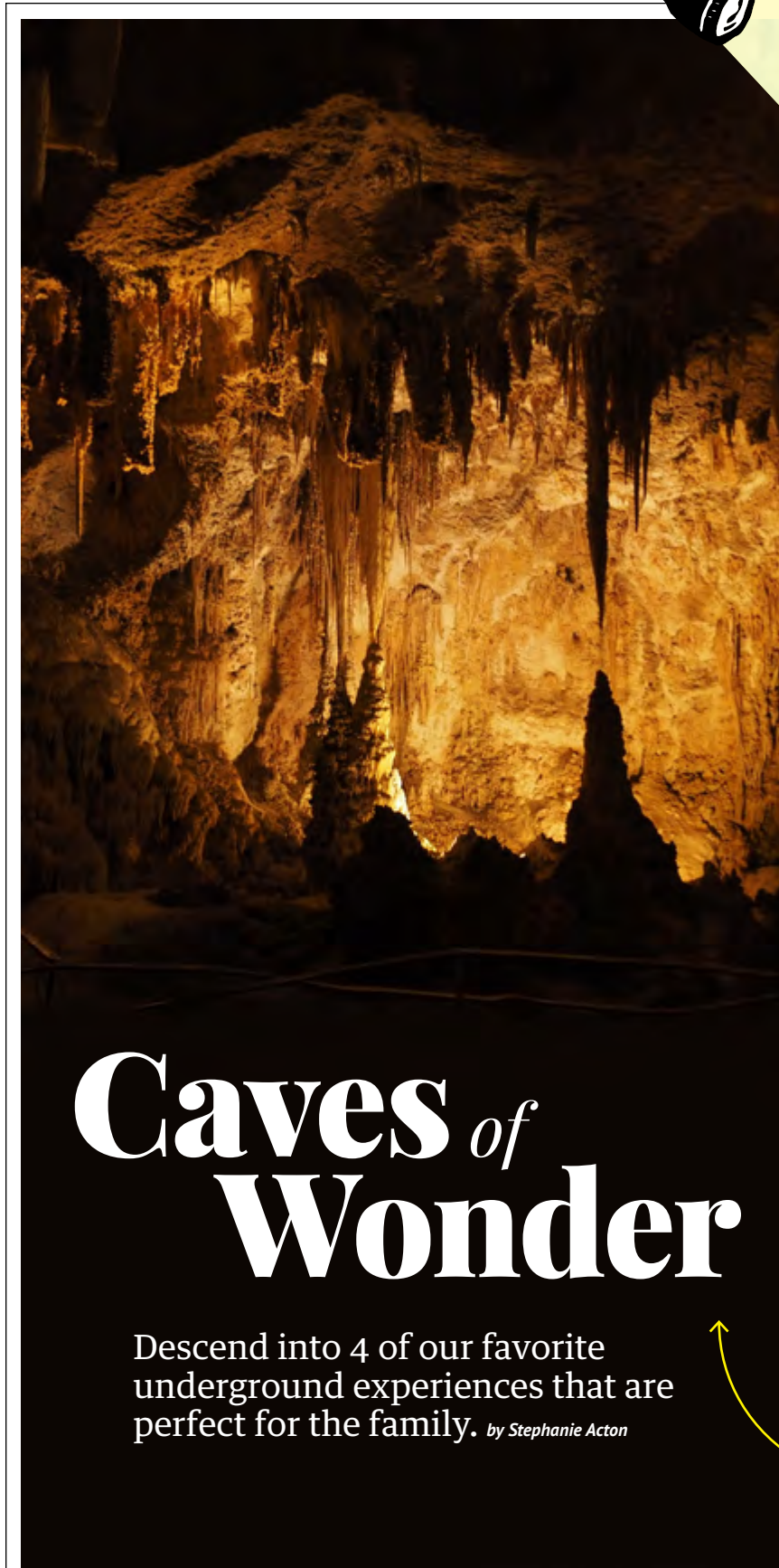
FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

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Photo by tomsaya/Shutterstock.com; illustration by Ron and Joe/Shutterstock.com



RVX



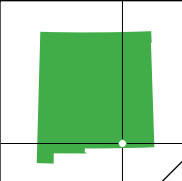
N

NOTHING QUITE reawakens your sense of awe like descending into the earth. It's been that way for a long time. The ancients

imagined a passage to the afterlife. Jules Verne took us to the very center of the earth in fiction. And children, of course, have always imagined hidden kingdoms just beneath their feet. Walk into a cave of wonder, and you have to admit: The kids got this one right. Strange and terrible rock formations evoke a sense of the surreal. Giant rooms and massive chambers suddenly appear after long passages. The whole idea suggests a paradox: These hidden kingdoms, full of weird beauties, are surely meant to be seen. And when you find yourself in these underground halls, there's no escaping the feeling that your eyes are the ones they're meant for.

No matter where you are in the country, you're likely within driving distance of a magnificent cave. (Which is good news to all of us trying to save some gas money this summer.) It's estimated that there are 17,000 all across the U.S. The following four are our favorites, but, trust us, there's a cave of wonder near you wherever you are.

So grab those little ones! Squeeze your significant other into the cab. And begin an unforgettable descent into fun.



Bruce Wayne's Dream Cave

Carlsbad Caverns
New Mexico

- ▶ **BEST PARKING SPOT:** Carlsbad RV Park, 4301 National Parks Highway, Carlsbad, NM 88220, (575) 885-6333
- ▶ **BEST EATS NEARBY:** This is desert country. Get a jump on the heat and start your morning with some French toast at Blue House Bakery.
- ▶ **WHILE YOU'RE THERE:** Hike the Guadalupe Mountains (just 40 minutes away) and then visit the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park.

Caves of Wonder

Descend into 4 of our favorite underground experiences that are perfect for the family. *by Stephanie Acton*

When **CARLSBAD CAVERNS** was first discovered, no one believed the reports. But something magical was just beneath



earth in New Mexico's Land of Enchantment. Giving away its location with a tell-tale sign worthy of the Dark Knight (we're talking clouds of bats here), Carlsbad Caverns became one man's secret, Jim White's, until the public finally began to believe the unbelievable. Today, an elevator takes visitors 750 feet down into the cavern's eerie, magnificent chambers. The names of the sights themselves are suggestive of Carlsbad's unparalleled power over the imagination: Big Room, Temple of the Sun, King's Palace, Spider Cave, Rock of Ages, Hall of the White Giant.

But what's inside is only half the fun. Each summer evening, a giant, swirling, echolocating mass of Mexican free-tailed bats emerge in all their thousands. At the peak of their flight, 5,000 bats leave the caverns per minute. Needless to say, you'll be as awestruck as any kiddos you may take. Beware though: It might be the exact push you need to start wearing a cape.



Headlamps? Check! You'll need those (plus a flashlight) when you venture into Ape Cave—a memory like no other.

Lava Tube of Mystery

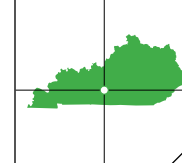
Ape Cave
Washington

- ▶ **BEST PARKING SPOT:** Cougar RV Park & Campground, 16730 Lewis River Road, Cougar, WA 98616, (360) 238-5224
- ▶ **BEST EATS NEARBY:** Eating Bigfoot BBQ Bacon and Crazy Ape burgers at the Lone Fir Cafe is the perfect finish to your caventure.
- ▶ **WHILE YOU'RE THERE:** Hike around Mount St. Helens and visit the Lewis River Falls to see a stunning cascade of water.

Cave names can be as awesome as they are mysterious. (More on that in a sec.) And with a name like **APE CAVE**, you could be forgiven for thinking that something primitive happened here. Like Edgar Allen Poe's "Murders of Rue Morgue." Or an unsolved assault that the locals attribute to Bigfoot. You know, monkey business. But whatever the truth is about how the cave got its name, at two and a half miles long, it remains the third longest lava tube in North America—with a creepy sensation like no other. Unwinding deep beneath the forest floor of Mount St. Helens National

Volcanic Monument, Ape Cave is damp, dark, and covered in living cave slime (that's a real thing). We're talking total darkness. The only light inside is what you bring. (Wear a headlamp and bring a second flashlight, because your phone won't cut it!) The temperature underground averages 42°F year-round.

Adding to its eerie effect, visitor groups are spaced out by reservation (one ticket covers an entire vehicle), so the experience feels more individual, without the clamor (or comfort) of a bustling crowd. Here, like Gilgamesh of old, you have to press on in complete darkness till you escape.



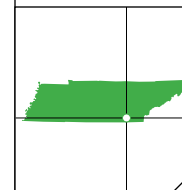
Into Earth's 400-Mile Maze

Mammoth Cave
Kentucky

- ▶ **BEST PARKING SPOT:** Rock Cabin Camping, 5091 Mammoth Cave Road, Cave City, KY 42127, (270) 773-4740
- ▶ **BEST EATS NEARBY:** Who feels like hot pizza after spelunking one of the world's coolest caves? Everyone. Make Cave City Pizza your stop.
- ▶ **WHILE YOU'RE THERE:** Give the kiddos a prehistoric glimpse at Dinosaur World and cycle together on the Mammoth Cave Railroad Bike and Hike Trail.

MAMMOTH CAVE's massive name can lead to some wild expectations. There are no woolly mammoths—live or fossilized—here, so keep your inner Alan Grant under control, at least partially. (The cave does have live troglobites, which were thought to be extinct, but's not exactly Jurassic World.) The true mammoth is the cave itself. As the world's longest known cave system, Mammoth Cave is an underground treat with 400 miles of space for the whole family. Throughout, the cave is well-lit by lanterns that give the walls an ambient orange glow. Because of its expanse, you'll have a variety of cave tours to choose from, ranging from short to long walking tours, lantern tours, and adventurous crawling tours (you know you want to).

No matter what tour you choose or what sights you see, the most impressive thing about Mammoth Cave is that it just ... keeps ... going. And with more always there to explore, you have every reason to keep going too.



Subterranean Waterworks

Ruby Falls
Tennessee

- ▶ **BEST PARKING SPOT:** Raccoon Mountain Caverns & Campground, 319 West Hills Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37419, (423) 821-9403
- ▶ **BEST EATS NEARBY:** All that exploration might just create a craving. Stock up on tacos and share nachos at Taco Mamacita.



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▶ **WHILE YOU'RE THERE:** Continue your underwater exploration at the Chattanooga Aquarium. After that, three words: See Rock City.

RUBY FALLS was never meant to be discovered. In fact, the whole story reads like a fantasy. A man breaks open a rock on the side of Lookout Mountain and discovers a narrow passageway. Descending, he beholds a geological gem never seen by man: a towering waterfall hidden in the heart of the mountain. In awe, he then returns with his young bride and names the falls after her: Ruby.

Today, getting inside the mountain is much easier. When you begin your tour, you'll descend 260 feet into historic Lookout Mountain while riding in a glass-front elevator. Once you arrive at the bottom, you can begin your guided walking tour, see ancient cave formations and arrive at the breathtaking, now illuminated waterfall. Tours typically last one hour to an hour and twenty minutes, depending on the date and time of visit. You'll need to reserve tickets ahead of time. If you are feeling adventurous, there's an after-hours tour, available for ages 5 and up and on select evenings, where the cavern and trails are lit only by the use of hand-held lanterns.

Whether you go here with the kids, or save it for date night, seeing Ruby Falls is an experience you'll treasure together. ♥

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INSIDE: Get your bike rack in gear. Page 76

RV TECH AND TRADECRAFT

T O P
L V L



RV-LUTIONARY is not a term we use for every RV. But Keystone RV's Cougar 30BHS Travel Trailer and Dynamax's Isata 5 are driving big—and awesome—change into campgrounds across the country. Whether you're a family looking for more sleep space and better energy efficiency, or a long-time enthusiast hunting for a radically rugged Class C, you're in luck. On the next page, your search will come to an end.

Photo by IrinaK/Shutterstock.com; Illustration by Ron and Joe/Shutterstock.com

Photos courtesy of Keystone RV, Dynamax RV

Travel Trailer on the Prowl



Dinette Configuration



Sleeping Configuration



Conserving Energy

Off-grid, your energy resources make a huge difference. Fortunately, Dragonfly Energy Lithium batteries now come standard or optional with all Keystone RVs, including the Cougar. Lithium batteries are a safer and more stable option than their lead-acid counterparts. They also outperform them—more than doubling power in the same physical space, with 100 percent depth of discharge, an accelerated charge time, and a lifespan that is ten times longer. Coupled with Keystone RV's Solarflex package, you can continue to keep your batteries charged and run all of your 12V systems whenever the sun is out.

Into the Lions' Den

You're going to need a lot of space if you're making a big trip with the fam (see Page 60). And the Cougar 30BHS has loads of it. With a wide-open layout, it's designed to sleep up to eleven. Remove the table from the Ready-For-Anything dinette, and the dinette converts into a sleeper sofa. Just behind it, two oversized

bunk beds provide an even more fun option. And all this is before you convert the trifold sofa into a sleeper. Just past the bathroom, there is a king-size mattress—in a bedroom complete with a full wardrobe, underbed storage, and an oversized window directly above the bed. In other words, space for your whole pride.

Keystone RV's New Force of Nature

THE COUGAR IS ONE COOL, ALL-WEATHER, HALF-TON CAT.

YOU NEED THE HIGH GROUND to dominate. And Keystone RV ascends a new peak with its latest travel trailer: the Cougar 30BHS. Lean enough to be towed by a half-ton truck, equipped for energy efficiency, and hungry for adventure, the Cougar increases the range of what we normally expect from a travel trailer. With design beautifully suited for boondocking, its premium features enable you to lounge in cat-like comfort wherever you roam.

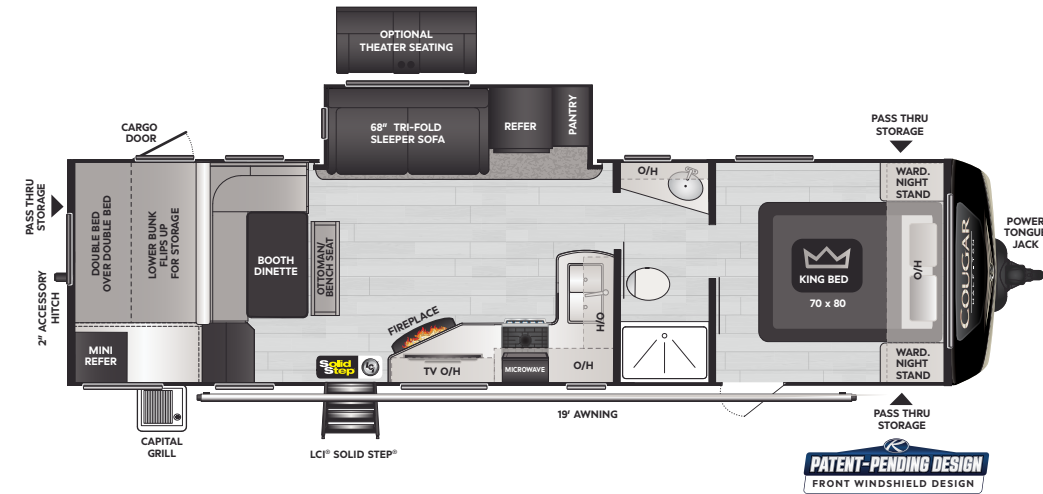
Out in the elements, nature rewards survival of the fittest. Fortunately, Key-

stone's Cougar is an all-weather animal. True-Fit slideouts seal the cabin. Its HyperDeck flooring is stronger and more resilient to water damage. The

trailer is also double insulated, so you keep your cool and enjoy the 360-degree air circulation of the Blade air management system. Same goes for heating when those cold months arrive (see Page 56). The Cougar's 35,000 Btu furnace is complemented with an electric fireplace, as well as a heated and enclosed underbelly. Additionally, PEX plumbing boosts hot-water retention and diminishes condensation in cold water lines. All told, the Cougar's Climate Guard protection package keeps you comfortable up to 110°F and down to 0°F.

The Cougar's cabin features a kitchen with a beautiful backsplash and over 10 feet of countertop space. The bright Driftwood decor enhances that roomy feel. Arched rafters rise, opening the living area and trimming it with crown molding. The bathroom suite is refreshingly complete, with a 38-inch walk-in shower (with glass door), porcelain toilet, and large sink—all serviced by a 60-gallon, largest-in-class, freshwater tank. And whether you're sweating the mountain trail or lounging on your trifold sofa, you can monitor and control power, slide rooms, HVAC, and more from your smartphone (or central monitoring panel) with the iN-Command Generation 3 system. So, no matter where you've parked, the Cougar always ensures that you land in luxury.

Photos courtesy of Keystone RV



COUGAR 30BHS TRAVEL TRAILER FLOORPLAN

▶ LENGTH: 34 FT 5 IN	▶ DRY WEIGHT: 7,136 LBS
▶ HEIGHT: 11 FT 5 IN	▶ GVWR: 9,500 LBS
▶ FRESH/GRAY/BLACK: 60/60/30 GAL	▶ SLEEPING CAPACITY: 11

Hunt for your Cougar. Visit KeystoneRV.com.

A Great Leap Four x Forward



All Power in Your Hands

Assuming control of your rig shouldn't involve a struggle. Which is why the Isata 5's suite of systems puts the power right at your fingertips. The Firefly Multiplex touch screen command center gives you complete control of every component—electrical, lighting, climate systems, awnings, and slideouts. The Isata 5 also includes a quad-view camera system with right side, left side, hitch, and rear horizon views.

Liberty! Quality! Cabinetry!

Choosing to build your best life in a motorhome is a big step toward freedom. And while that requires sacrifices (see Page 34), Dynamax ensures that quality isn't one of them. The Isata 5's cabin harbors hardwood Shaker-style cabinetry, with hidden hinges, and under-cabinet lighting. Drawers extend fully and close softly. Along the counter, the gas range has a glass cover and the double-bowl, stainless steel sink is plenty spacious.

Dynamax Sparks Class C Revolution

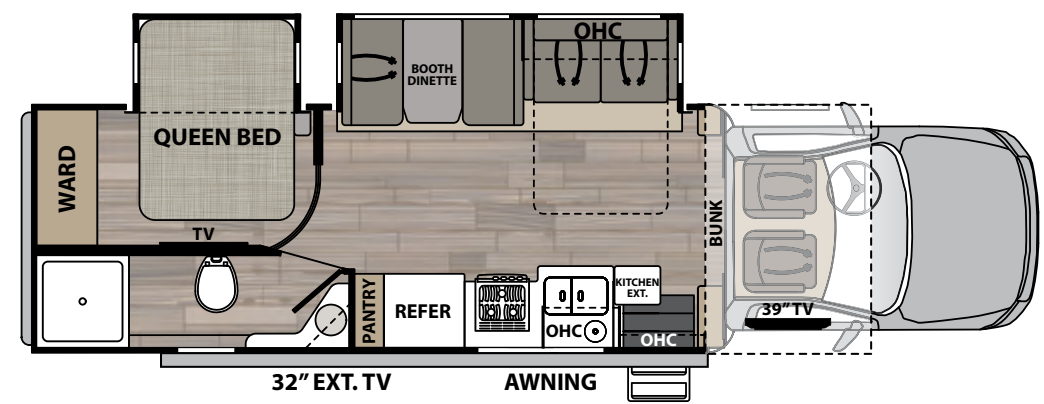
ISATA 5'S RUGGED POWER IS THE MOVEMENT MOTORHOME ENTHUSIASTS HAVE BEEN WAITING TO GET BEHIND.

IT'S A REVOLUTIONARY IDEA: That better is out there for the taking. And it's that idea driving the Dynamax Isata 5 forward into a whole new class of Class C. Rippling with the working-class muscle of its powerful 4x4 chassis, the Isata 5 is as comfortable rolling smoothly down the highway as it is going off-road. There's

no choice to make between luxury living and rugged power. Dynamax has made it clear: This is no time for compromise, because the Isata 5 has it all. Boasting 360 horsepower with 800 pounds-feet of torque, the Isata 5's 6.7L I6 turbo diesel engine is built by Cummins—giving it every reason to be undaunted by tough terrain and epic road trips. But don't let its raw power deceive you: The ride is smooth. Complete with adaptive cruise control, trailer brake control, a smart exhaust brake system, and an electronic stability control (ESC) suspension package, the Isata enables you to maneuver nimbly and safely on the road. Once parked on the campground, its power continues to impress, with an 8kW Onan diesel generator, and two 100W solar panels with a

30-amp controller. But the Isata 5 can do more than flex. The Dynamax design catapults Class C comfort to new heights. On arrival, electric slideouts expand to extend your living space. And when you've returned from your nature hike, you can rinse yourself in a designer shower with a body-spa showerhead, under sauna-like heat provided by the 60,000-Btu Truma AquaGo Comfort. The rest of your cabin will keep cool, thanks to dual-ducted, low-profile 15,000-Btu air conditioners with heat pumps. Whether you're relaxing on the trifold sofa, catching a cat nap off the front cab, or crashing into the gel-infused memory foam queen bed, there's comfort in every single corner—and that's the kind of progress we can get behind.

Photos courtesy of Dynamax RV



ISATA 5 30FW MODEL FLOORPLAN

▶ CHASSIS: RAM 5500 SLT - 4WD	▶ ENGINE: CUMMINS 6.7L I6 TURBO DIESEL
▶ GVWR: 19,500 LBS	▶ LPG: 20.3 GAL
▶ EXT LENGTH: 33 FT 3 IN	▶ EXT HEIGHT: 12 FT 4 IN
▶ EXT WIDTH: 8 FT	▶ FRESH/GRAY/BLACK: 78/45/45 GAL

Join the Class C takeover. Visit DynamaxCorp.com.



Ember RV

The hottest brand of 2021 is sending sparks through the overlander market.

Ember Recreational Vehicles is just a little over a year old, but they've already got a buzz that any manufacturer would covet. You might think it's because of their lineage—their President and CEO is Ashley Bontrager, granddaughter of Lloyd and Bertha Bontrager who founded Jayco, where her father Derald and Uncle Wilbur also played large roles. But Ember's success to date has little to do with her family history. In fact, it has more to do with Bontrager's desire to blaze a new path. "If we're going to do this, we're not going to do it the way it's always been

done," she says, relating how she and her cofounders wanted to challenge the status quo from day one. "And we had the guts that it takes to step out of the comfort zone and try something a little bit different."



Ashley Bontrager, President and CEO of Ember RV

Bontrager is also quick to credit her cofounders. Chris Barth is her chief operating officer, with Steve Delagrang and Ernie Miller running operations. If Barth wasn't

already known for trend-setting designs and product innovations, he would be now, as Ember's look isn't just distinct. It's *elevated*.

To start, they're exclusively focused on the overlander market. "For us, the market is segmented by how our users are going to use the RV. This overland space is taking off, and we [wanted to embrace this] trend toward unconventional hookups."

Their product designs aren't just pretty—they're smart, too. When the company was just warming up in 2021, the supply chain was still feeling the effects of COVID intensely. "The supply chain was wrecked. A lot of our initial meetings were around parts and pieces," says Bontrager. Their willingness to embrace a different approach paid off. "But we had this

Photos courtesy of Ember RV

idea for featuring composite materials more prominently. No rot, no mold, no mildew. And today, the only wood in our unit is inside with the furniture, which gives a more organic feel." That shift to composites also eased their supply chain needs, as they weren't competing for the same parts as everyone else.

Embracing composites adds to their durability, but it also makes their units distinctly Ember. The I Heart RVing team first saw their production units at the 2022 Florida SuperShow, where they stood out among thousands of more traditional designs. Their elegant minimalism delivers a wildly appealing visual style. They've got cool factor. And they shine in the details, even down to the chunky, go-anywhere, do-anything tires and wheels.

Having met Bontrager more than once now, this doesn't feel like just a great brand. It feels like a great company. "I don't want to build a company that I just want to buy from," she says, "But one that I would want to work for. I'm providing a workplace that people come to and devote time to, and they need to be walking away from our company feeling fulfilled by the job that they're doing."

Her energy is consistent and clear, a force to be reckoned with. And while years spent in a familiar industry can often lead to a business-as-usual attitude, her love for it is still strong. "It's just a great, vibrant industry, and ultimately I think that everybody wants everybody to be successful."

Ember is connecting with an RV audience that shares Bontrager's desire for doing things differently (see Page 34). How far that takes her company over the long haul is still to be seen. That'll be determined by how successful she is at infusing the company with her own start-with-me mentality. "If Ember and I are successful at providing a great culture—if we are successful at building a better RV company, then we will in turn build a better RV." ❤️

Heat Up Your Overland Hunt. See how Ember RV is torching the status quo at EmberRV.com.



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FULL REVIEW:

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There aren't many bike racks that can be installed on a pickup truck that still allow for the tailgate to be completely opened. The V-Lectric FAT PRO does. Its super slick slide-out function adds a full 22.5 inches when fully extended, providing almost 50 inches of clearance from hitch to the big V-shaped mount—meaning you'll have access to the back end of whatever you've hung it off of. At around \$800 bucks retail, it's not for the faint of heart or weak of wallet, but you're not going to hang your \$7,000 QuietKat Jeep 1000W monster of an e-bike on a \$100 bike mount. You're going to put it on this one, which is rated for 75 pounds per bicycle, stacked on the GMC award-winning Twin-Tube® platform mount, and packed with Zero-G bike freeze technology, all of which makes this monster as sturdy as it is easy to install.

→ **Improve your mount. Buy at LetsGoAero.com.**



FEATURES WE LOVE:

Easy Access Around Back

We can't say enough about how convenient the sliding feature is, making it convenient to access the rear door, hatch, or compartment of whatever it's trailing behind.

Heavy Duty Handling

The extra weight of most eBikes will make normal racks wobble at every bump. This one gladly accepts whatever load (officially 75 pounds or less) you entrust it with.

A Powerful Grip

This rack isn't just about its ability to carry weight. It's also about its grip on the load, which comes from an exceptionally sturdy, four-point attachment system.

Snappy Installation

Designed for a standard 2-inch receiver, assembly and installation was a snap. Easy on, easy off. You'll be up and running (and then biking) in no time.

Photo courtesy of Let's Go Aero

Photo by Lucky Business on Shutterstock

Firesides

FINAL TOASTS AND LAST ROASTS FOR THE ROAD



Wherever you park, may your cup overflow. See more on Page 48.

One Final Toast to Summer

RVING IS SO HOT RIGHT NOW.

1 LAST LAUGH

(The Daddest Joke Around)

Everyone's talking about the price of gas, but I had to pay \$3 to pump up my tires the other day.

Inflation sucks, doesn't it?

1 FINAL INSPIRATION

(Deep Thoughts)

"A journey is like marriage. The certain way to be wrong is to think you control it."

—John Steinbeck

"You put your whole life on wheels, but you don't always have to be moving."

—Mike Boyink, Page 34

1 SIMPLE HACK

(Good Galley)

If you use your kitchen to cook at all, your exhaust fan probably comes in handy often even if you're not burning stuff. It will be noticeably more effective if you also open a window, giving it more fresh air to pull in.

1 BIG TEASE

(Party Like It's 2023)

Talk about a tease—we've got a great one in our next issue, when we'll give you your first look at the upcoming 2023 models from your favorite OEMs. (Check out one of our new favorites, Ember RV, on Page 74.) We'll also be looking at destinations for fall, presuming we all survive this summer heat. RVing has never been hotter. Please, send your ideas for how we can keep cool to editorial@IHeartRVing.com.

1 FORMAL INVITATION

(Just for You)

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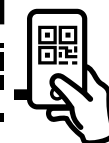
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1 CLOSING WORD

(Welcome to the Campground Is 4 Words)

For some of you, this was your first look at the greatest RV magazine in the world today. If that's you, we're so glad you've joined us. We're on a mission to build a digital campground of people just like you who love what RVs do for them. If you haven't yet, we'd love for you to subscribe. If you've already subscribed, [click the QR code here](#) to give your favorite friend, lover, relative, or enemy a gift they're sure to heart.



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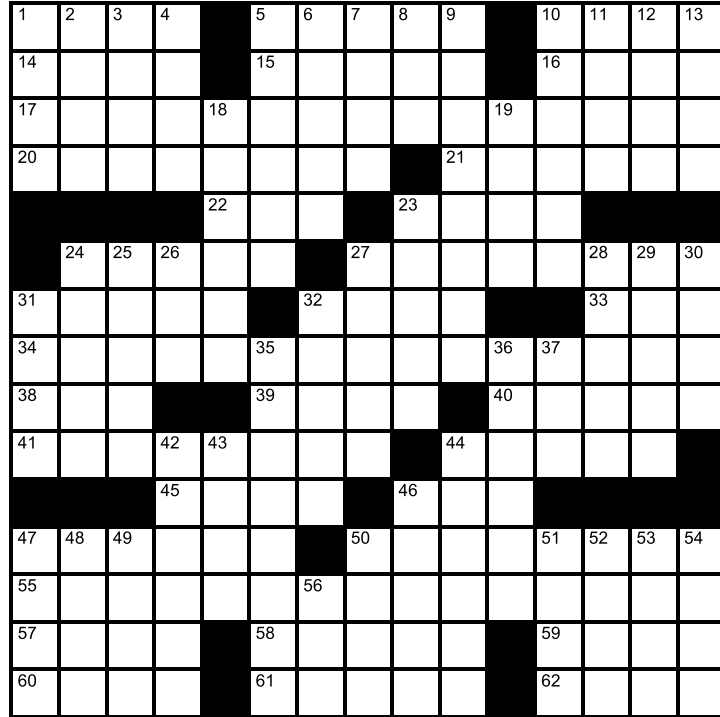


ACROSS

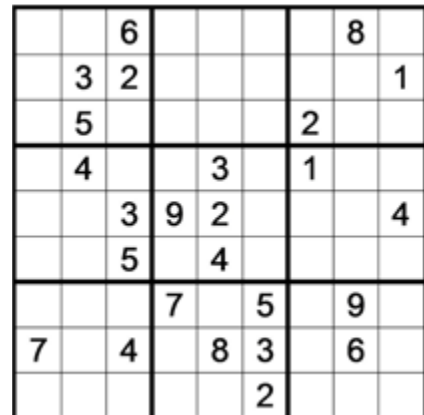
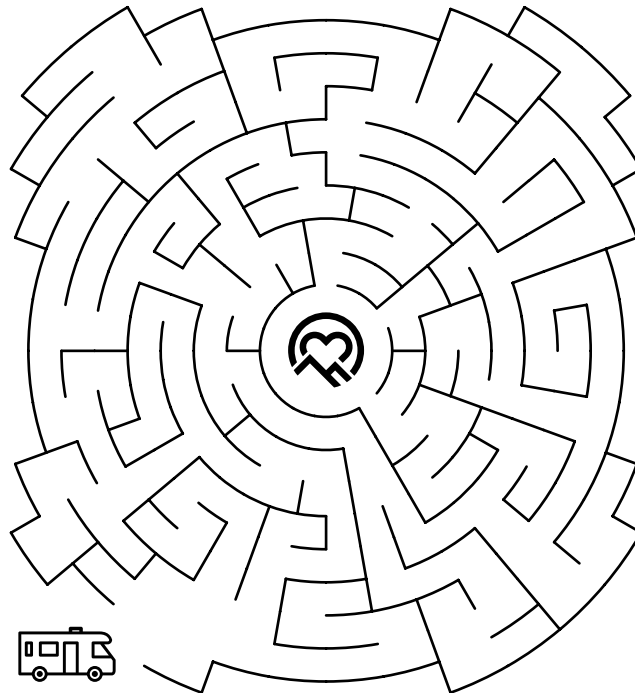
- 1. Legal prefix
- 5. Absolute
- 10. Bundle of nerves
- 14. x, y or z
- 15. Nary a soul
- 16. Eye layer
- 17. Dizzy feeling
- 20. Lingerie item
- 21. Delicate
- 22. Ashes holder
- 23. Quick trip
- 24. Display
- 27. Left out
- 31. Development sites
- 32. Above
- 33. Directly
- 34. Myopia
- 38. _____-tac-toe
- 39. Delight
- 40. Microwave's purpose
- 41. Funny bit
- 44. Cereal servings
- 45. "Don't be _____!"
- 46. _____ el Amarna, Egypt
- 47. Maximum
- 50. Acquire
- 55. A level of high acclaim
- 57. Yorkshire river
- 58. Milky gems
- 59. Elliptical
- 60. Approach
- 61. Lasso loop
- 62. Adopted son of Claudius

DOWN

- 1. Lobster's feeler
- 2. Left-to-branch angle
- 3. Baltic capitol
- 4. Far from ruddy
- 5. O.K., in a way
- 6. Wheel alignment
- 7. Exactly
- 8. Armageddon
- 9. Organ part
- 10. Encounters
- 11. 20-20, e.g.
- 12. Makeup, e.g.
- 13. "No problem!"
- 18. Trouble, in Yiddish
- 19. Honoree's spot
- 23. Struck hard
- 24. Draft holder
- 25. Tranquility
- 26. Bobby of hockey
- 27. Additional
- 28. Archetype
- 29. Boots
- 30. 1987 Costner role
- 31. "Do _____ others as ..."
- 32. Lace tip
- 35. Starting process
- 36. Wild dogs of Asia
- 37. "What's _____?"
- 42. Not as tight
- 43. Acad.
- 44. Addle
- 46. Hammer and wrench
- 47. "Once _____ a time ..."
- 48. "How _____!"
- 49. _____ Verde National Park
- 50. "Bye now"
- 51. Knowing, as a secret
- 52. Actress Campbell
- 53. Bygone autocrat
- 54. Christiania, now
- 56. Mail place: Abbr.



Completion is one kind of standard ... correctness is another. Scan the QR code to see which standard you met.



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