

**DISCOVER**

12 Campgrounds for This Season—and the Next

**RELAX**

On the Beach with Your Perfect Road-Trip Playlist

**LAUGH**

Epic Misadventures with Three Boston Newbies

**STEP INSIDE**

Two Award-Winning RVs Pushing New Frontiers

# I ♥ RVing



**+Plus**  
**21**

**Tantalizing  
Gifts for Your  
Favorite Camper**

*(Even If It's You)*

# MAKE A MAD DASH SOUTH

*FROM GULF COAST CRUISES TO  
ISLAND LIFE ON HILTON HEAD*



p. 39

Winter 2022

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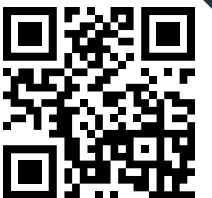
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No matter what kind of camping you enjoy, you rely on quality gear that's smart, fun, and reliable. So, we've compiled our top 21 gift ideas for your favorite camper. (Even if that camper is you.) See which items made our list—and will soon make yours.

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Trade the agonies of winter for the warmth of island life. At the Hilton Head Island Motorcoach Resort, snowbirds experience the luxury of paradise found—from local beaches to the world's best golf courses.

by Mark Settle

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by Liran Federmann

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Check out our snowbird vibes soundtrack



# I♥RVing

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 PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT  
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 WAS TRYING TO PARK THE RV  
 PLEASE RECYCLE THIS MAGAZINE  
 (OR, PREFERABLY, GIVE TO A FRIEND!)



## FINE PRINT/DISCLAIMERS

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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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## We ride together. We make a magazine together.

Closing in on our first full year of putting out the newest (and best!) RV magazine, I've learned three valuable things along the way.

**ONE.** RV people who are also magazine people are our kind of people. There's no doubt about it. One reason is that you're the kind of folks who want to discover interesting things in the world and then explore them. You choose adventure over sedentation. You choose tough learning over soft stagnation. I love that about you all.

For some of you, this is going to be your last free issue. (I know, we're sad about it, too!) But if you've learned, like I have, that we're your kind of magazine—and you're not ready for the ride to be over—visit [IHeartRVing.com/subscribe](http://IHeartRVing.com/subscribe).

**TWO.** The camper community is full of really helpful people. My favorite letter to the editor so far has been from a reader named Joe Maltese. It was after our very first issue, where we profiled our Best Route Through the Peach State. Joe sent us his own very well thought out route, which steered clear of Atlanta altogether. (Not a bad idea.) That willingness to help a fellow traveler is everywhere in this community. And it's awesome.

Because we're passionate about making this your favorite RV magazine, we can't imagine doing it without your help. If you, like Joe, have stories you want to see, road hacks you want to share, or improvements you want



to recommend, send them our way! We're listening at [editorial@IHeartRVing.com](mailto:editorial@IHeartRVing.com).

**THREE.** It takes a (mobile) village to put out the world's greatest RV magazine. Personally, I think we have the best editorial team in the business, and I hope you love them as much as I do. Also, our advertisers are an important part of our big virtual campground. Without them, no magazine shows up in your mailbox or inbox every three months. So, a big thank you to all of our partners, especially new additions this issue like Winnebago, Grand Design RV, and Truma. And always, of course, our great friends at DISH Outdoors. I wish I had room to mention them all! If you love what you're getting out of I Heart RVing, support these advertisers every chance you get. They're as passionate about the RV lifestyle as you are.

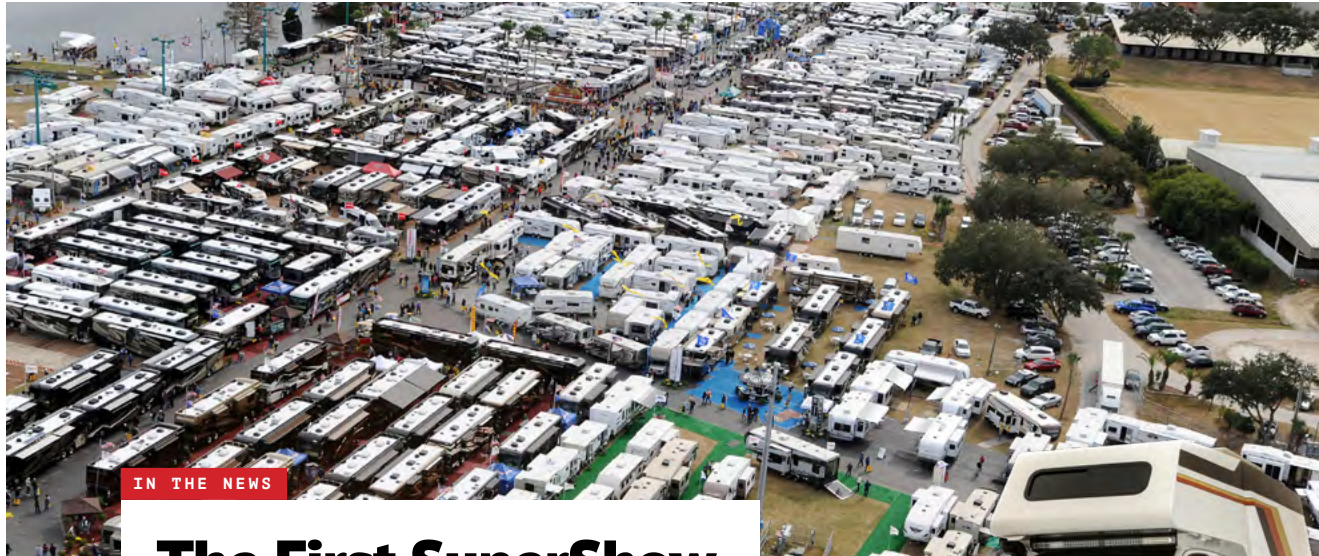
Thanks for joining us on the ride. Hope to see you next issue.

Love ya, mean it.

*Marc.*

**Marc Acton**  
 Publisher

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE RV NEWS AND COMMUNITY



IN THE NEWS

## The First SuperShow of the Year

**THIS JANUARY**, RVs by the thousands will flood the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa for the 37th year. The annual **FLORIDA RV SUPERSHOW** is one of the two largest RV shows in the nation (along with Hershey) and the first of the new year.

Wading into a sea of campers parked and polished down to the last detail, RV enthusiasts arrive each year to explore new

RV models, interact with their favorite brands, and make some savvy purchases. To max out the experience, seasoned RVers come prepared with a plan—identifying which vehicles, parts, and brands to visit. Establishing a route and booking camping spots (for as low as \$20 a night) in advance helps fine-tune the logistics, with many attendees preferring the weekdays to avoid the Saturday crowd.

This year's SuperShow is scheduled for Jan. 19-23, 2022, for the public. Two-day passes are available for \$12.

Find more info to plan your visit at [FRVTA.org/Show/Florida-RV-SuperShow](http://FRVTA.org/Show/Florida-RV-SuperShow).



## A SUSTAINED SURGE IN WHOLESALE SHIPMENTS

► From 2020 to 2021, cumulative wholesale RV shipments have increased 50.8 percent, according to the RV Industry Association (RVIA). And all indications are that the record-breaking upward trend is continuing. In 2020, cumulatively, 300,191 RVs were shipped wholesale compared to 452,637 RVs already in 2021. (So expect to see some new faces.)

# 452,637

RVS CUMULATIVELY SHIPPED WHOLESALE IN 2021

# +50.8%

WHOLESALE RV SHIPMENTS INCREASE OVER THE LAST YEAR



## TacoZilla Returns! And Smashes into Vegas

• This past November, Toyota's new retro camper burst onto the scene of the 2021 SEMA show in Las Vegas. Based on a 1970s' one-off, the TacoZilla is a custom camper built on a modern Tacoma TRD Sport. The yellow, orange, and bronze color scheme is inspired by the '70s. But its off-grid powers? Those are inspired by the King of the Monsters. Built more for off-roading than the streets of Tokyo, the TacoZilla rides on 33-inch all-terrain tires. And even with its compact design, passengers over six feet tall can walk comfortably inside.



Watch the story behind the beast's return on YouTube:



Photos courtesy of Florida RV Trade Association, Toyota

Off-road by Jenie Tombac/The Naun Project; Photos courtesy of

## California's Blackwater Flush

• Beginning in January 2022, California's SB-317 bill will officially ban the sale and use of particular chemicals, including formaldehyde and bronopol. Both chemicals are common in RV black tanks and septic systems, which means that California campgrounds will be required by law to enforce the same ban—especially if they maintain a septic system, onsite wastewater treatment system, or sub-surface disposal system to remove RV wastewater. (Hello, everyone with a full hookup.)

Campers traveling through the Golden State should plan on using high-quality, bacteria-based holding tank treatments like Monochem's Dyna-Bact toilet deodorizers and Cali-compliant solutions like Valterra Pure Power.

Prep your tank's chemicals at [Monochem.net/Dyna-Bact](http://Monochem.net/Dyna-Bact) and [Valterra.com](http://Valterra.com).

## Ember RV Cuts Ribbon—and New Trail

• With its employees and supplier partners gathered outside the company's 88,000-square-foot facility in Bistol, Indiana, Ember RV celebrated their first production unit. President Ashley Bontrager-Lehman sees the launch as a one of many milestones, not just for the company but for the industry itself. "As a team, we will challenge the status quo. We will make a positive impact on our industry. And we will build a better RV by building a better RV company." (Sounds good to us!)

See what's beyond the status quo at [EmberRV.com](http://EmberRV.com).



The Ember Overland Series

## Canadian Campers Free to Flock South

• In March of 2020, the U.S. closed its land border with Canada to all nonessential travel due to the pandemic, keeping most Canadian snowbirds in the Great White North. But this year, with the U.S. reopening its border to fully vaccinated travelers, the Canadian Snowbird Association predicts 90 percent of Canadian snowbirds will head south. Like many Canadian snowbirds, Fred Welsh of Gillams, Newfoundland plans to return to Florida for the warmer weather. His reasoning is rock solid: "It's kind of cold in Newfoundland," says Welsh, 59, "And I don't want to spend another here."

Read the full CBC story at [CBC.ca/News/Business/u-s-land-border-open-vaccinated-1.6235944](http://CBC.ca/News/Business/u-s-land-border-open-vaccinated-1.6235944).

## 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](mailto:editorial@IHeartRVing.com).



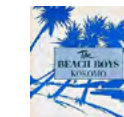
## Snowbird Vibes for Beachfronts & Boardwalks

IT'S 5 O'CLOCK SOMEWHERE. (ON THE BEACH. THAT'S WHERE.)



### Alan Jackson and Jimmy Buffett, "It's Five O'Clock Somewhere"

The kings of vacation who paved the way for Kenny Chesney and the Zac Brown Band, these two men KNOW what it means to take a load off—where there's no shirts, no shoes, no problems.



### The Beach Boys, "Kokomo"

Is it a beach playlist without The Beach Boys? One of the best earwigs of all time, "Kokomo" makes us want to head south and don an itty-bitsy teenie-weenie yellow polka-dot bikini.



### Blondie, "The Tide Is High"

Blondie singing beach music is disorienting (and delightful) all at once—big horns, smooth vocals, and reggae vibes. But it's just weird enough that it works. So, hold on.



### Bette Midler, "Under the Boardwalk"

Classic, but with a twist. Extra points if you're making your way down to Crystal Cove in Southern Cal to visit the oceanfront cottage that started it all. (Yes, you really can visit the "Beaches" cottage.)



### Kenny Chesney and Uncle Kracker, "When the Sun Goes Down"

If it's Kenny Chesney, it's beach music. It is almost impossible to choose one song by Chesney, but this is our pick for when you've got a cold drink chillin' in your hand.



### Bobby Darin, "Beyond the Sea"

A track like a saltwater oasis and a hug all in one. With big band instrumentals and an old-school crooner, it's the heart's perfect primer as you drive toward those golden sands.



## KEEP THE BEACH CRUISE GOING ON SPOTIFY

Follow us on Spotify and click the ♥ on our Snowbird Vibes playlist to listen as you travel.



# One Red-Hot Handle

TALKING WITH THE RVERS WE LOVE AND FOLLOW ON SOCIAL MEDIA

➔ Cruising the West Coast in an Airstream is the dream that is Shaundra and Jonathan's life. But they also make it their business to share that joy with others. From their Instagram handle, @t\_h\_e\_l\_o\_t, you can take a look—and draw inspiration from—their latest Airstream renovations. Let's just say, they don't cut a lot of corners.

Read how their adventure began, and enjoy a few of our travel and decor favorites from @t\_h\_e\_l\_o\_t on Instagram.



## Camping as a couple

@t\_h\_e\_l\_o\_t We wouldn't be renovating today had we not bought a 1972 Aristocrat 15 years ago. My husband grew up an avid camper. I, however, had never been camping when we met at the age of 24. Needless to say, our first excursion tent camping was not my favorite. It snowed in California that April, and we were extremely underprepared—having only brought spring clothing and flip flops.

## Finding Reno No. 1

@t\_h\_e\_l\_o\_t That trip prompted us to purchase a vintage camper. We renovated the 1972 Aristocrat into the sweetest little beach cottage on wheels (before it was even a thing) and took that little 14-foot trailer all over California, from the coast to the mountains and everywhere in between that year. And we've had some form of a tiny home on wheels ever since.

## Renovating a business model

@t\_h\_e\_l\_o\_t We found a 1972 Airstream Argosy in North Fork California on Craigslist in 2014 with no pictures, but the list price was unheard of at \$2,000! We jumped in the car and took a drive to go see it. We had always wanted to fully renovate an Airstream, but prices can be astronomical. And this was our opportunity. We learned so much from that build and had that Airstream for six years before marriage, kids, a house. When we sold her, we realized we could create profitable business renovating Airstreams. Soon after that, COVID hit, and we had a choice: Either move for my husband's corporate job or jump headfirst into renovating Airstreams. And that is how THE LOT was born.

## The next dream machine

@t\_h\_e\_l\_o\_t We will be simultaneously renovating a 1972 Airstream land yacht into a modern dream machine and renovating our first Airbnb, a 1987 Carver 40-foot yacht located in Sausalito, California, into a tiny home on the water. ❤️

Photos courtesy of @t\_h\_e\_l\_o\_t/Instagram

Photos courtesy of their authors



▲ @THEBUSFOLK\_ **WHY WE HEART IT:** Because Min and Matt's bus renovations rock ... and they're RVing Down Under. Should we read their posts with an Australian accent? (Asking for a friend.)



▲ @JEEPCHICK9 **WHY WE HEART IT:** We're always up for some boondocking vistas. But there's also this bulldog named Tank. We really like Tank.



▼ @DGSC **WHY WE HEART IT:** These images feel like eternal summer! You know, the snowbird dream.

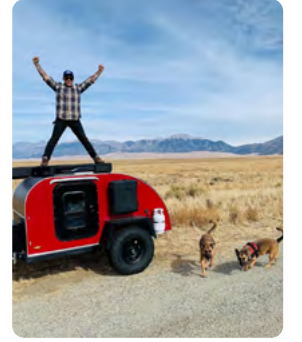
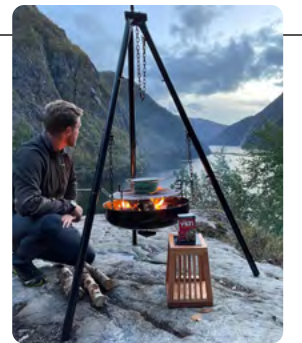


▼ @FRILUFTSBJERKE **WHY WE HEART IT:** It's the perfect reminder that not everyone flies south for the winter! Especially when you're bracketed by the Baltic.



# Scrolling the Virtual Campground

▼ @COLORADOTEARDROPS **WHY WE HEART IT:** We don't see a ton a photos of teardrops—and it's not because we don't want to! So a handle that's dedicated to them? We're all in.



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## MIRROR CHECK

### KEEP UP THE CHATTER

We love hearing from our readers—especially the articles you enjoy most! Keep telling us what you love (and what you want to see in upcoming issues). We're all ears!

Here's a quick look at what y'all have already been saying.

Roberta P., Washington

This is a beautiful magazine! It is as much fun to read as RVing itself.

RP

Bill S., South Carolina

Wanted to comment on the excellent article by Marc Acton. The reviews were great, even though a couple of the movies listed barely have RVs in them. Notable that two movies were missing, Race with the Devil, and The Leisure Seeker, both with major actors/actresses in them. Keep up the great articles!

BS

Lexi D., Kentucky

I ♥ RVing is one of a kind! It's as entertaining and funny as it is informative. It's an amazing source for travel inspiration too!

LD

Tim R., (email)

Love your magazine. 😊

TR

### Follow I Heart on Social

For more outdoorsy content, make sure to follow us at @IHeartRVing on Facebook and @IHeartRVing over on Instagram. We'd heart to see you there!

## MIRROR CHECK >

# RV QUIZ

## Your Winterization Warm Up

Take the quiz and test your knowledge to hibernate your RV for the winter hiatus.

No. 1

### You should winterize your RV if ...

- A. You're traveling north of the Mason-Dixon Line.
- B. Temperatures will drop below freezing for 24 hours or more.
- C. You can't remember when you last changed your antifreeze.
- D. Ned Stark is your daddy.

No. 2

### As a snowbird, you still need to winterize your RV.

- A. True
- B. False

No. 3

### When flushing your plumbing system, which step comes first?

- A. Remove any water line filters.
- B. Drain all freshwater tanks, systems, and lines.
- C. Drain and flush the gray and black water holding tanks.
- D. Open all faucets and flush the toilet.

No. 5

### Propane freezes at what temperature?

- A. 32° Fahrenheit
- B. -3° Fahrenheit
- C. -44° Fahrenheit
- D. Nice try, fella ... it doesn't freeze.

Answer: C. Tell us you're not parking in 44-below weather. If so, your propane will freeze. For the plus-43-below crowd (aka everyone), that's not a problem. Even so, it's a good idea to top off the tank and store it separate from your RV.

No. 6

### Why should you cover your RV tires over winter?

- A. For protection from UV rays.
- B. To retain exact tire pressure.
- C. To prevent exposure to ice.
- D. All of the above.

Answer: A. UV damage can cause cracking, dry rot, morale erosion, blowouts, bursts of profanity. So covering your tires is basically a CVA move. We recommend it.

No. 7

### What's the most important step to keep pests from establishing squatters' rights in your RV over winter?

- A. Place pest traps.
- B. Apply foam insulation to cracks and crevices.
- C. Empty the RV of food.
- D. Set lasers to stun.

Answer: C. Nothing against placing traps and insulating cracks, but we did say most important. Removing all food robs pests of their biggest incentive to invade your RV. Snakes, however, are another matter. (See Page 61.)

Nothing says you care to the person in the shotgun seat quite like a subscription to I Heart RVing.

Which means nothing says you *don't care* quite like not getting them one.

Make it right



I ♥ RVing

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# BEST CAMPSITE EVER.

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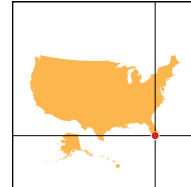
The rugged new HIKE 100 sleeps up to 3, hauls lots of gear, and comes with a long list of features, yet is light enough to tow with smaller vehicles.

LEARN MORE AND SEE ALL 5 FLOORPLANS AT [WINNEBAGO.COM/INSIDER](http://WINNEBAGO.COM/INSIDER).



# American Vista

VANTAGE POINTS OF AMERICAN BEAUTY



▶ EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK	▶ SOUTH FLORIDA
▶ 25°23'42"N, 80°35'01"W	▶ <a href="http://NPS.GOV/EVER">NPS.GOV/EVER</a>



Photo by Brian Losenby/Shutterstock.com

**EXPLORING A WILDERNESS OF WATER** Imagine the awe of the Spanish explorers as they first paddled across the Everglades. Fog on the water. Strange, long-legged birds taking flight out of cypress swamps and mangrove dens. The bellows of giant alligators rising from a river of grass. It's easy to imagine—because not much has changed. Today, the wetland sanctuary—the third largest park in the contiguous U.S.—remains largely untouched. And yes, you can drive through it and camp in it. The only thing missing is the sign: “Welcome to Jurassic Park.”



**The Tower  
Above Shark  
Valley.**

This panoramic view, 45 feet above the saw grass prairie, is accessible by hike, tram, or bike. Heads up: You won't see sharks, but you will see gators. Lots of them.

**Nearest  
Parking Lot  
Coordinate:**  
25° 45' 27" N  
80° 46' 01" W



**The Tranquility  
of Coot Bay  
Pond.**

Dip your oar into Coot Bay Pond to enjoy the double delight of shady mangrove tunnels and open vistas across the pond's still waters.

**Nearest  
Parking Lot  
Coordinate:**

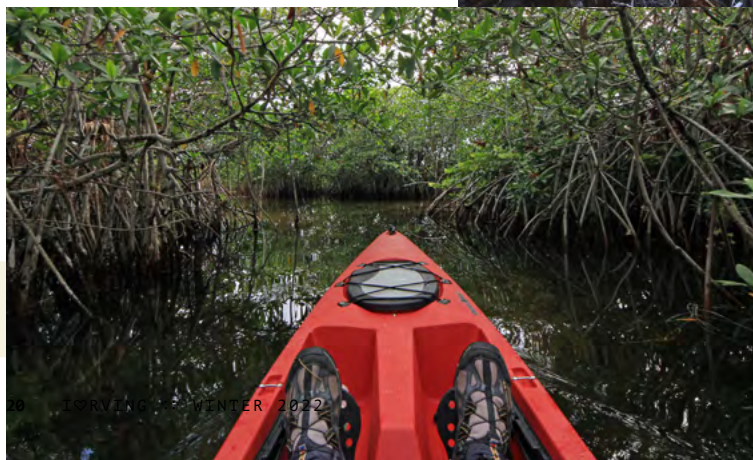
25° 10' 57" N  
80° 53' 52" W



**Drive into the heart of a wetland naturescape.**

Expect wildlife in the Everglades to be weirdly present, bringing out your inner child. (Heck, maybe that's the fountain of youth!) The biodiversity is truly stunning: manatees, snapping turtles, alligators, crocodiles, panthers, and over 300 species of bird.

As you enter, note that the park's three entrances don't interconnect—so, plan your route ahead of time, factoring in park admission, camping fees, and a way to get on the water. Whether it's by airboat ride or kayak, put the RV in park and take a nautical detour.



# Designed for Campers by Campers!

From the **ultra-lightweight** Sonic Lite (2,980 LB dry weight) to the **luxurious** SportTrek Touring (all floorplans w/bed slides), you'll discover Venture RV offers a **complete** lightweight travel trailer lineup.

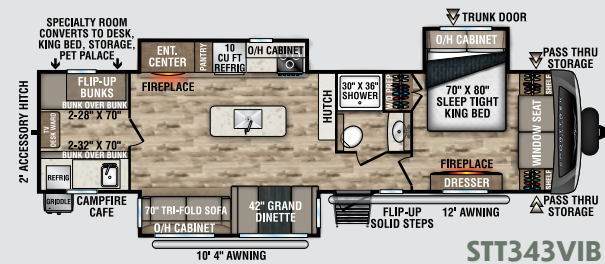
Venture RV's design team has developed several new floorplans featuring a Specialty (flex) Room. These specialty rooms can be utilized as an office area, second bedroom, craft room, and/or a bunkroom for today's active buyer.



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Flexible Specialty Room



ST343VIB



Photos (top to bottom): Don Mammosey/ Brian Laserby/ Ami Parikh/ FloridaStock/ Francisco Blanco/Shutterstock.com; Page 16: photo by Viktor Fuchs/Shutterstock.com; Page 18: photo by VIKVAD/Shutterstock.com

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6 tips to wash off your beachy urchins for a sand-free RV. Page 36

# RoadAbode

IMPROVING LIFE ON THE GO

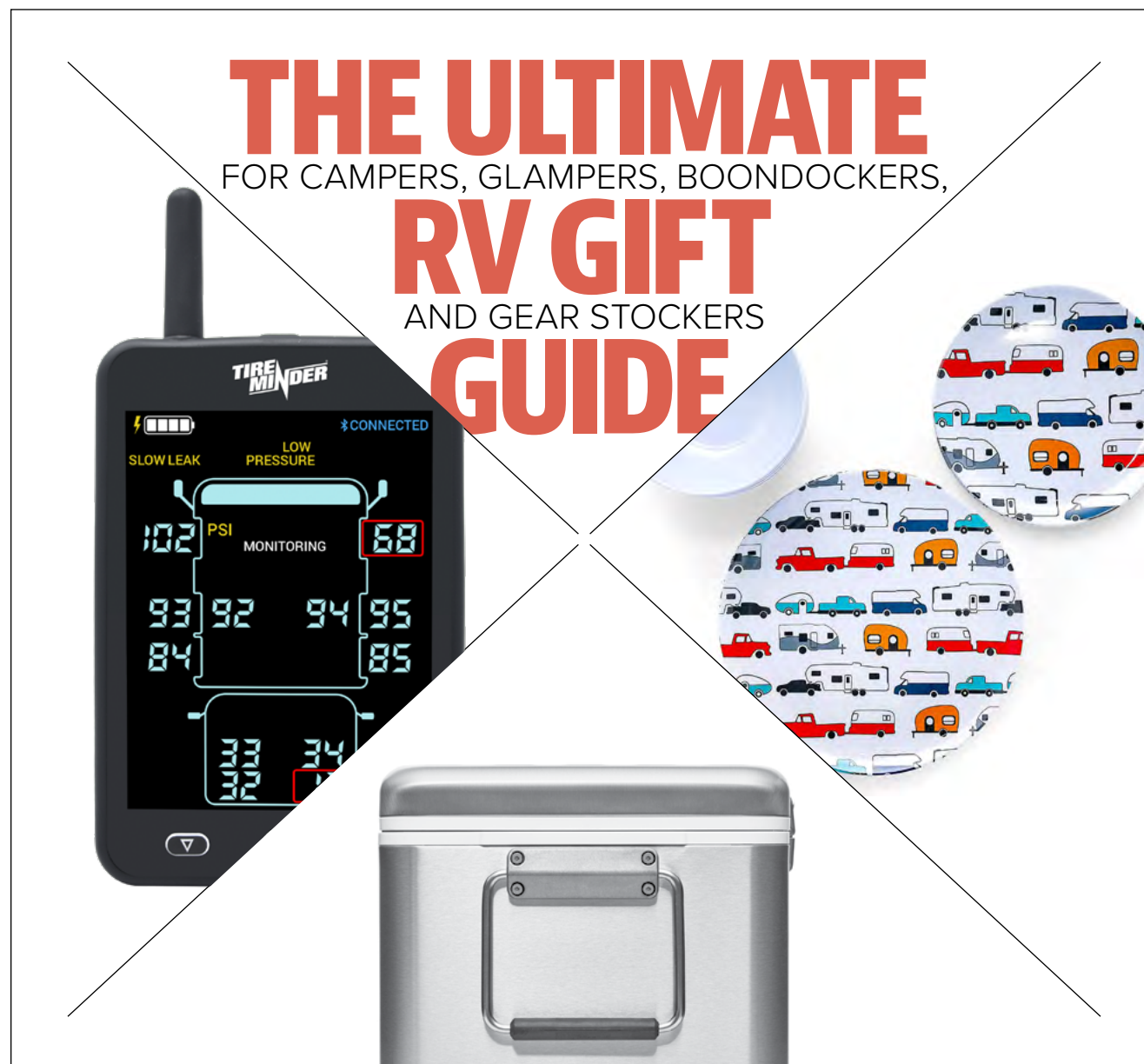
## THE ULTIMATE

FOR CAMPERS, GLAMPERS, BOONDOCKERS,

# RV GIFT

AND GEAR STOCKERS

# GUIDE



Photos courtesy of the manufacturers

**SOMETHING FOR EVERY CAMPER** Life on the road teaches you pretty quickly that it's not enough to have OK stuff. The RV lifestyle depends on quality gear that's smart, functional, and reliable. So we've compiled our favorite must-haves to give your favorite camper on any occasion. On the next page, see the top 21 gifts that made our list—and will soon make yours.

# Trick Out Your Favorite Glamper's Camper

HIGH-END GIFTS FOR THE RVER WHO HAS EVERYTHING.



## Traeger Ranger Portable Wood Pellet Grill

► Traeger is the cream of the grill crop, packing a highly engineered punch into a beautiful looking package. They're famous for their high-tech gear that combines the ability to cook with actual wood-fired smoke through an ingenious pellet system. Since it's all digitally controlled, you get the convenience of charcoal with the taste of real wood fire. And with their portable Ranger line, you can take it all anywhere. Perfect for any campsite, tailgate, or just a backyard.

Buy at [Traeger.com](http://Traeger.com), \$430



## AeroPress Go Travel Coffee Maker

► Like pairing a fine wine with an exquisite entrée, coffee aficionados pair perfect brews with morning views. And the AeroPress is just for them. Employing a clean but precise process, it's ready to impress. With flavor-enhanced pours to enjoy four different ways (espresso, American, latte, and cold brew) wherever that morning view is.

Buy at [AeroPress.com](http://AeroPress.com), \$32



## Yeti V Series Stainless Steel Cooler

► This is, undeniably, the Airstream of coolers. Stainless, with timeless design, the V Series packs everything you need into a cooler, including the ability to pack 46 cans of your favorite beverage, or a whopping 55 pounds of ice. At 35 pounds empty, it's a two-person carry when full, but the tradeoff is that it feels indestructible. (Like D.B. Cooper could've tossed this thing out the side of his hijacked 727 and picked it up at the bottom of his fall with nary a scratch on it.) But what makes it the perfect gift is that it's as beautiful as it is functional, easily standing out in a sea of campground coolers. Yeti hits the nail right on its stainless-steel head, calling it, "Solid and Stately." And with the hefty price tag, it's a splurgy item that your favorite camper might not purchase for themselves.

Buy at [Yeti.com](http://Yeti.com), \$800

## ThermaCell E55 Mosquito Repeller

► Pressing one button to create a 20-foot mosquito repellent sounds too easy to be true. But you don't have to take our word that it works—with a 4.2 out of 5 rating on Amazon, the ThermaCell E55 has thousands of votes of confidence. Perfect for those evenings where the only bites you want are out of a delicious RV meal. (See Page 33 for ideas.)

Buy on [Amazon](http://Amazon) (and grab a few refills while you're at it), \$40



# Make Your Ordinary a Little More Extra

EVERYDAY USE. EXTRAORDINARY GIFTS.

## MULTI SEAL FlatOut Tire Sealant

► While we all know that the perfect scenario is always keeping your trailer tires in great shape and never having a flat, a product like FlatOut might just be the second best. The manufacturer claims that a one-time application protects for up to 10 years. What's undeniable is that it works like magic, plugging huge holes up to 1/2 inches almost instantly (just watch the extraordinary video).

Buy at [FlatOutTire.com](http://FlatOutTire.com), \$22



Watch video of FlatOut in action.



Photos courtesy of the manufacturers



## Clear20 48-Ounce Advanced Gravity Water Filter Pitcher

► Filtration pitchers are a no-brainer for any unit without built-in purification systems, and they're wonderfully gift-sized. The Clear20 pitcher lasts for 60 gallons, which the manufacturer says is up to 50 percent more than its competition, so you won't need to pull over for a filter resupply nearly as often.

Buy at [Clear20.com](http://Clear20.com), \$35



## RV Mats/Rugs

► Getting the little details right is often a difference maker when you're making a house a home. And since it's the first thing you see when entering your RV, grabbing your favorite RVer a floor mat that perfectly captures their style is often a great personal touch. We like Camco's basic options, but you can get as wild as you want, even designing your own at places like AmericanFloor-Mats.com.

Buy at [Camco.net/Outdoor-Mats](http://Camco.net/Outdoor-Mats), \$50+



## Cummins Onan P2500i 2200-Watt Portable Inverter Generator

► Cummins has been manufacturing some of the world's toughest engines since 1919. With the Onan, they've taken that century's worth of experience and packed it into an RV-friendly machine that delivers a dependable pure sine wave electrical output. With 120 single-phase volts running at 60 hertz, 2200 rated watts, and 18.3 amps, the P2500i is perfect for powering a huge range of small to medium power draws. It claims a 6.1 hour run time at 50 percent load, and at only 58 decibels, it's about as loud as your office at its noisiest. It's a hard present to hide, but any RV gear nerd will appreciate its 3-year warranty (with an option to extend), and its ability to power even your most remote getaways.

Buy at a [Cummins](http://Cummins) dealer near you, \$820

## TireMinder A1AS RV TPMS

► Every camper on the road needs a tire pressure monitoring system, but very few provide peace of mind like TireMinder's A1AS. Syncing up with your smart phone (a world's first), the A1AS checks tires every six seconds for slow leaks, rapid leaks, blowouts, low pressure, high pressure, and high temperature. All with a +/- 1 PSI accuracy. Because trips are smoother on the road than the side of the road (see Page 56).

Buy on [Amazon](http://Amazon), \$500 (six transmitters)




## Bugg Banner

► There are a few products that are no brainers, and for all of you fifth wheelers out there, Bugg Banner is one of them. Because the paint on your front cap shouldn't be a pain in your rear. What makes them an amazing gift is the ability to customize your own banner. Pick your favorite RVer's favorite flag (American, of course), or honor their military service of choice. Your loved one will love it and love you. (Your own trailer will too.)

Buy at [BuggBanner.com](http://BuggBanner.com), \$250 for the banner (plus \$140 for the hardware)



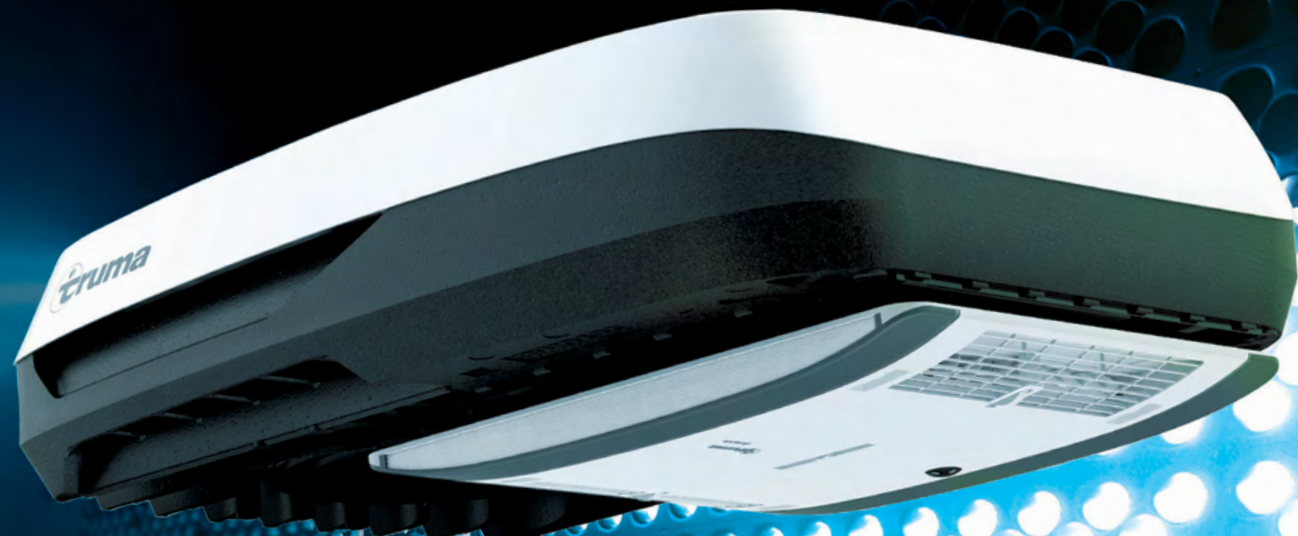
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## Get Some Kitsch in Your Kitchen

TASTY GIFTS FOR YOUR FAVORITE CHEF.



### Camco "Life is Better at the Campsite" RV Dinnerware

► Camco has packed a thousand miles of whimsy into their Life is Better at the Campsite line. Their dinnerware options have a nearly perfect rating on all the review sites that matter, and there's a good reason: They're awesome. Your favorite mobile foodie will be sure to eat it up.

Buy on Amazon, \$37

### Dometic TMBR32 11 Fluid Ounce Tumbler

► Everyone and their RVing cousin knows Yeti drinkware, but Dometic tumbler stands out in any campground crowd. If you're not on the Dometic bandwagon yet, their drinkware is the perfect sip to get you hooked. The Swedish masters of engineering just make things different. It's the perfectly designed, perfectly executed drink of water for any gift-giving occasion.

Buy at Dometic.com, \$20



### Great Northern Popcorn Pit Popper

► There's no denying the fun factor of campfire popcorn, and no one doesn't like hot, freshly popped goodness. It's also one of those products that everyone loves to partake in, but few think of when they're strolling through their favorite RV retailer (except you, thoughtful gift giver). All of which makes it a fantastic gift for RVers of all ages. And a popping good present.

Buy on Amazon, \$25

and Henckels, but if you really want a sharp gift, go for a Japanese brand like Shun, who makes pro-quality knives with a consumer-friendly price tag. Pick an 8-inch chef's knife for maximum versatility.

Buy at Williams Sonoma, \$100-\$170



### E-Z Over Grill

► For centuries, humans have been locked into an endless battle with their campfires, doomed to watch delectable culinary treats slide off of spits, skewers, grates, and any other device with grillable delights precariously perched on it. Now, a hero rises to rescue us from our ashy demise. That hero is the E-Z Over Grill, a smart use of a simple principle of cooking capture: strap it in and flip it. Fill this thing with your bacon, steak, tenderloins, or whatever else you want efficiently cooked, give it a few well-timed turns, and your status (or your favorite gift-giver's status) as grill-master extraordinaire will be secured.

Buy at E-ZOverGrill.com, \$355



### One Great Knife

► There's no single tool more important to a serious chef than a great knife, because every great meal starts with a great blade. The ones that make great gifts are rated on the Rockwell hardness scale, with a decent kitchen knife checking in at 58-62 HRC. The category kings are Wusthof

THE ULTIMATE RV GIFT GUIDE

Photos courtesy of the manufacturers



THE ULTIMATE RV GIFT GUIDE

# Put More Ooh in Your Boondocking

WAY COOL GIFTS FOR WHEN YOU'RE WAY OUT THERE.



## Thetford Titan Tote

► Those who want to go off-grid want to stay off-grid—as long as possible. And as much as we love a full hookup (see Page 52), lots of the very best places on earth don't have one. Thetford's newly released Titan Tote portable waste tanks buys nature enthusiasts extra time in the boondocks with clean connections, all-terrain wheels, and capacity from 21 to 35 gallons.

Buy at Walmart, \$270

## Air Head Composting Toilet

► There's no way around solving the classic boondocker's dilemma of where to do your business. The Air Head composting toilet makes answering it simple: Wherever you are, there you go. Now, you might think that a toilet makes a crappy gift. Well, we say that premise stinks. The Air Head composting toilet is a fantastic present that's guaranteed to garner you a buttload of thanks.

Buy at AirHeadToilet.com, \$1,060



## Think Outside the Camper

GREAT GIFTS FOR THE GREAT OUTDOORS.



## Kammok Swiftlet Portable Hammock Stand

► There are few greater feelings than putting your feet up and getting a good sway going in a great hammock. But why should your hammocking be constrained just to tree country? It shouldn't. And with Kammok's portable hammock stand, the entire camping universe is open to rope-based lounging.

Buy at REI, \$250

Photos courtesy of the manufacturers



## Travel Easy Decks

► Travel Easy Decks are so convenient you might just find yourself installing one at your full-time residence. They're customizable, require no tools to set up, and keep you out of the mud, bugs, and camp rugs. A surprisingly great gift, after you give one, your favorite camper will never want to live without. You can purchase by the single decking square or in kits with a wide range of square footage.

Buy at TravelEasyDecks.com, \$33 per 2x2-foot square (discounted in bulk)



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► If your loved one hearts RVing as much as we do, they're going to relish the chance to shout it from the mountaintops with officially licensed I Heart RVing gear. We've got shirts for all 50 states, hats, coffee mugs and more. But for a gift that really keeps on giving is a subscription to the greatest magazine in the history of RVing.

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# A Total Life Renovation

For a former military couple, the RV lifestyle represented a new station in life. See how they make it their own.

by Torrey Swan

**ONCE UPON A TIME,** Joseph and Kathleen used to go wherever the military took them. Now they go wherever the wind takes them. With their three kids, they've been on the open road since 2019. Using an RV to ease their transition to civilian life, they got a taste for the freedom of a mobile home and the joy of always being together. So they made the decision to renovate their entire lifestyle—including their new Coachmen Chaparral.

Here's what Kathleen says about their new life on the road.

◀ **Project space and living space are the same space when you renovate as a full-timer.**

## Why did your family decide to RV full-time?

**KATHLEEN** We left the military in 2019, and we traveled [in a Forest River Cruise Lite] for a little over eight months. When we came back from the road in 2020, we purchased the fifth wheel that we are currently renovating—then left again in April of this year!

## What made you want to renovate your RV?

**KATHLEEN** We decided to renovate our RV because we knew we wouldn't be moving as fast as we did when we originally hit the road in 2019. It needed to feel more like home. The original model just wasn't our style, so we decided to make it ours!

## What's been your biggest renovating challenge?

**KATHLEEN** How long it takes! We have been renovating for over a year. No joke. It is a constant work in progress. And every time we start one project, we find another one we want to do. I have learned to love my space through each step as we continue to make it ours.

## What's been the best thing about RVing?

**KATHLEEN** Do I have to pick just one? There are so many things I love. I love how close it has brought us as a family, how many incredible adventures we get to go on, and the community. The RV community is so quick to help, and being with like-minded people and hearing everyone's stories never gets old to me.

## Where do you guys go in the winter?

**KATHLEEN** We wintered in Texas and Arizona when we first hit the road, and we'll be in Florida this year. We have the Keys on our RV bucket list!

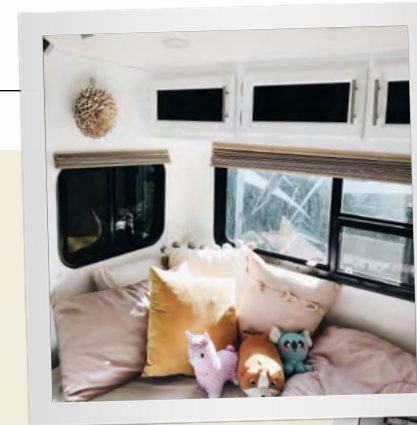
## What piece of advice would you give someone transitioning to the RV life?

**KATHLEEN** Figure out your budget so you can be sustainable long-term on the road if that is your goal. We learned this the hard way! And enjoy the journey. This is a huge leap of faith, and there will be bumps along the way. Being able to learn from them and find joy in the trying times makes the good times that much better!♥

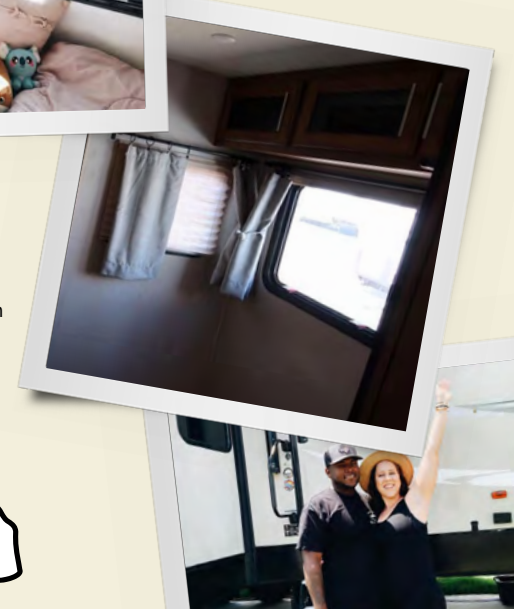
▼ **RV renovations are not as perfect —or as easy—as they look on Instagram. But they can be so rewarding when complete. Like this bathroom's total transformation.**



Photos courtesy of @faithboundtravel/Instagram



◀ **Spaces, even in an RV, deserve to have an individual feel. Exhibit A: the character this reno brought to their daughter's room.**



## See Their Renovations in Action

Follow Joseph and Kathleen @faithboundtravel on Instagram and YouTube as they tackle new projects.



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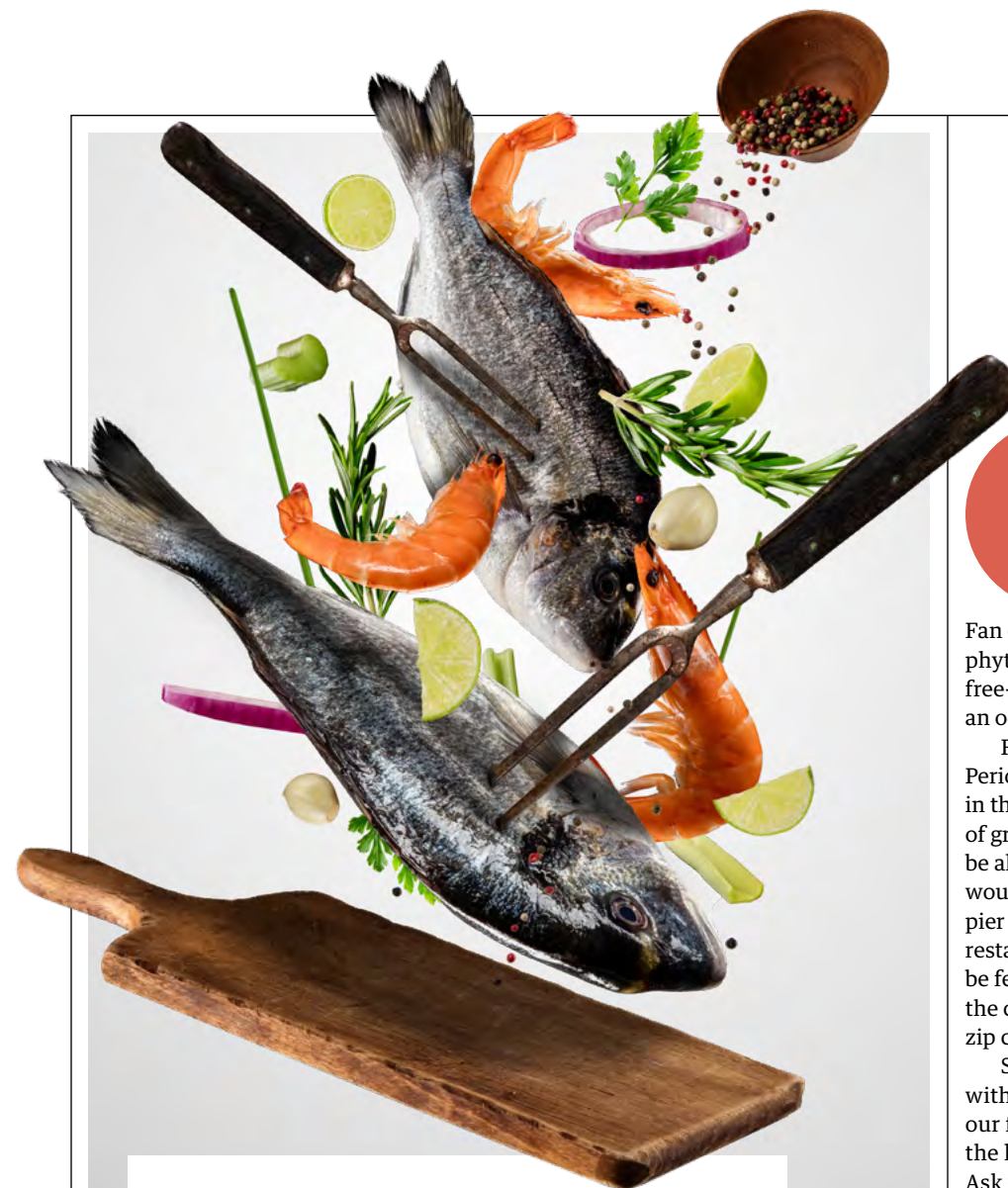
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Photo by lag\_cz/Shutterstock.com



# Seafood by the Sea

Your galley is the perfect place to do seafood right. Here's everything you need to know to make it happen.

by Marc Acton

**P**ROXIMITY TO THE ocean gives us more than just great views and sandy butts. It also gives us the chance to score the freshest of seafood.

Fan of grass-fed beef? You should try phytoplankton-fed oysters. Big fan of free-range chickens? Can I interest you in an ocean-range tuna?

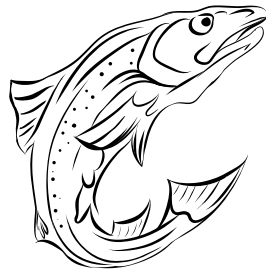
Food caught fresh is just finer. Period. Plus, seafood that lived its life in the oceanic expanse is probably freer of gross stuff like antibiotics, which can be all too common in fish farms. And I would rather take a long walk off a short pier than take my taste buds to a chain restaurant, where you're just as likely to be feasting on farmed fish from across the country as something caught in the zip code in which you're eating.

So, the next time you're parked within an hour or two from the beach, our first recommendation is to look for the local seafood joint you can find. Ask your server which of their catch of the day options are locally sourced, and pick one of them, even if you have to step outside your salmon-flavored comfort zone. Your taste buds will thank you.

But if you're ready for a masters-level culinary adventure, go the pro route: Capitalize on the nearness of saltwater by sourcing and cooking some seafood yourself. Every decent sized-beach town has a fish market where you can find something just off the boat, and this is the perfect place to start.

Even the fanciest markets can be intimidating, though. They inevitably smell funny. They have fish you've never heard of. Some of the meat they have seems like it might even be *looking at you*.

Persist. Power through, and profit, using these tips for picking the perfect pescatarian provisions.



**THE FISH, THE WHOLE FISH, AND NOTHING BUT THE FISH**

- Fish age badly. As they lose freshness, their eyes gloss over, and they stink. So, as you're picking out your dinner, remember: clear eyes, fresh smell, can't lose.

Different fish take different preparations, and your fishmonger should be an expert at knowing them all. Don't be afraid to ask the magic question: How would you recommend cooking this? Then, your fish guy (or gal) should be able to do most of the prep work for you, like removing pin bones, scales, heads, or tails. Leave the tedious prep work to the experts.

If you're buying filets, they should have been cut that day. Filets have a much shorter shelf life than the full fish, so if they weren't cut in the last 24 hours, just ask for your filets to be butchered to order.

Cooking a great cut of fish is like grilling a great steak: Staying out of the way is typically the key to success. A little olive oil or butter, a sprinkle of salt and pepper, and finishing with a spritz of fresh lemon juice is often all

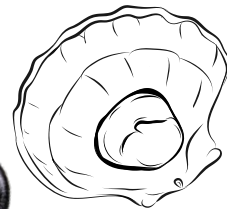
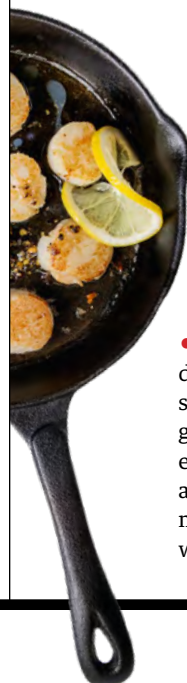


Show your respect to a great cut of fish by seasoning with restraint. Olive oil, salt, pepper, and lemon can usually get the job done.



you need. Adding a rub of fresh garlic is OK too.

But if you want to go full chef-mode, without all the work and using only store-bought ingredients, a light-colored hummus (the darker varieties end up extremely unappealing visually) can work wonders. Season your favorite filet with salt and pepper to taste, slather upon it a healthy helping of hummus, then bake, adding a couple of extra minutes to your filet's typical baking time to compensate for the topping. That's it. Nothing to it.



**MOLLUSKS: GO BEYOND THE OYSTER**

- Oysters are the shelled darlings of many serious seafood joints, and with good reason: The difference between good ones and bad ones is enormous, and great ones are worth paying for (see Page

50). But unless you're a shucking expert, a dozen oysters (I prefer mine on a cracker with a little horseradish and lemon juice) at home is probably more trouble than it's worth.

Clams and mussels are fun, and great for a romantic dinner. But for RVers, cooking them often takes a variety of time, ingredients and utensils that just isn't feasible.

That means that when you're cooking in your home away from home, scallops are where it's at. Cooked properly, they're buttery, delicious

Illustrations by Sinitis Lopez-Velazquez; Fish: Elena Enomenko/Shutterstock.com; Scallops in pan: Natasha Green/Shutterstock.com; Shrimp: Luisca74/Shutterstock.com

in their unadulterated form, and require almost zero prep work. They're also extremely quick and easy to cook with nothing more than a frying pan, skillet, or even a grill.

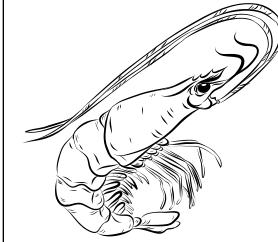
When cooking scallops, there are two absolute keys to success. If you do these two simple things, it's nearly impossible to mess them up.

First. Rinse them thoroughly. Like most mollusks, life on the ocean floor often leaves them feeling sandy. You should get your scallops preexcised from their shells, but don't assume that means they're grit-free. Wash them thoroughly under cold water, rubbing gently to avoid damaging the flesh, but firm enough to get in all the cracks.

Second, do not overcook them. Overcooking even by a minute or more will change their gloriously tender proteins into glorified rubber.

After prepping, let your scallops shine by pan searing and seasoning simply. Heat a skillet with a few tablespoons of butter (or any of your favorite oils will work fine, as

even at high heat you shouldn't be cooking long enough for the smoking point to be a problem). Pat the scallops dry with a paper towel, or air dry for several minutes after washing. Season to taste, then sauté for about two minutes per side, and no more than seven minutes or so total depending on girth. You'll know they're done when they're beautifully browned on both top and bottom, with the centers white and warm. Finish with another spritz of lemon juice and salt. Or go full chef-mode by finely chopping some chili-roasted pistachios and tossing in your sauté pan for the last two minutes, being careful not to burn the pistachios.



**IT'S OK TO BE A LITTLE SHELLFISH**

- Americans eat over a billion pounds of shrimp each year. They're cheap and easy (the shrimp, that is), and hard to screw up in the kitchen, making them perfect for chefs of any experience level. They even have a built-in indicator when they're cooked properly. (When they turn pink and look like cooked shrimp,

they're probably done). Any RV with a heat source and a pan of any type can handle their preparation. And since they're a sponge for flavor, pairing well with literally almost any flavor profile both simple and complex, their permutations in finished form are almost endless. Toss shelled versions in almost any sauce with pasta. Put them in a taco with almost any accoutrements. Or salt, season, boil, peel, and eat with any old cocktail sauce. Mykelti Williamson as Bubba in Forrest Gump had it right. Shrimp really is the fruit of the sea. You can barbecue it, boil it, broil it, bake it, sauté it ... all from your favorite RV's galley. ♥



▲ Itching to show off some culinary mussel? Consider us interested. Share your most delicious shots with us on Facebook.

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## Wash Off the Sandcastle

Take these tips to the beach and leave the sand behind. *by Torrey Swan*

**THERE'S NOTHING BETTER** than a day at the beach! The laughter of your kids. Their little sprints into the waves. The sand between their little toes. But as much as your whole family loves the beach, you really don't want to return and have the RV look like the set of "Dune." Because sand is not fun to clean up.

So, here are some tips and tricks to bring your fun-and-sun-soaked family home without leaving a trail.

1

### Pack Some Baby Powder

Your babies may have graduated to kiddos, but trust us: Baby powder has a big payoff as you leave the beach. Here, it's for toes, not butts. Simply sprinkle some on your kids' feet, and they'll be sand-free in no time. Baby powder soaks up the seawater that binds sand to your skin—so the sand will slide right off.

2

### Buy a Beach Blanket

Not all beach blankets are created equal. So, if your fam has a beach trip in the future, invest now and purchase a sandless beach blanket or a set of sandless beach towels. Unlike standard terry-cloth material, sand does not stick as easily and makes ridding your towels of sand a sea breeze.

3

### Dry First, Wash Later

Wet clothes + sand + a washing machine don't mix—unless you want a sandy washing machine. (You don't.) So resist the urge to throw everything in the washer right away. Let wet clothes and towels remain outside until they're completely dry. Then have the kids shake them out before you give them a spin.

4

### Rinse Your Sandy Urchins

Your kids don't need to go the full monty outside your RV—just a quick rinse in their bathing suits with an outdoor shower attachment. Camco has an outdoor shower head that is compatible with garden hoses and even has a suction cup to free up your hands to make sure you are extra sand-free before heading indoors.

5

### Water (Can) Those Feet

Watering cans are cheap and convenient, as well as fun and easy for the kids to use. Have the kids fill it before you head out, and when you arrive home, give them the responsibility of running the family foot-bath station. (It's also a good reminder for everyone to take their shoes off before getting in the RV.)

6

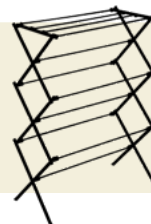
### Deploy the Dust Buster

Despite all your baby-powder, sandless-towel, and watering-can tricks, some sand will make its way inside. (Big sigh.) So, keep a dust buster on board for any stubborn grains that follow you home. And while you're at it, deputize those energy-filled kids to patrol and dust-bust any tracks they find. ♥

## Equip the trip



◀ **Dock and Bay Sandless Beach Towels**  
Starting at \$27,  
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◀ **Honey-Can-Do Tripod Clothes Drying Rack**  
\$35, [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)



◀ **WolfWise Pop Up Privacy Shower Tent**  
\$27, [wolfwise.com](http://wolfwise.com)

Kids at beach: Sergey Novikov/Shutterstock.com; Numbers: Tatiana Barinova/Shutterstock.com



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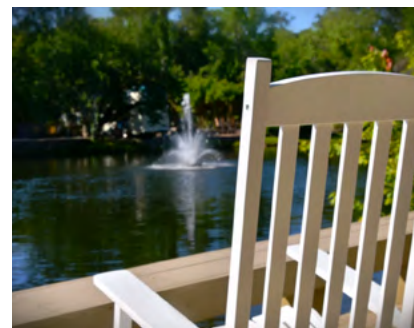
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# EDGE OF THE MAP

FROM THE HIGHWAY TO THE CAMPGROUND



INSIDE: How to choose an RV that will keep out winter's cold. Page 43



## MIGRATING TO WARMER WATERS

Having an RV means that winter is strictly optional. Especially when the other side of the snowbird coin is island life at Hilton Head. On Page 46, check in to the Hilton Head Island Motorcoach Resort and experience the relaxation of paradise found. From local beaches to the best golf courses, we've prepared your island tour.

Photos courtesy of Hilton Head Island Motorcoach Resort

	▶ HILTON HEAD ISLAND MOTORCOACH RESORT	▶ HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC
	▶ 32°09'34"N 80°45'40"W	▶ HHIMOTORCOACHRESORT.COM

# Charting a Gulf Coast Cruise

Stay in the sun of the Floridabama coast as you turn east from New Orleans toward the magic of Orlando.

**WE HAVE A PLAN FOR WHEN WINTER COMES KNOCKING.** And the name of this plan is “Poof!” Mobility has its benefits and enjoying the perks of summer in the winter months is not the least among them. Few places allow us to do that better than the Gulf Coast states. Starting at New Orleans, a quick turn east puts the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico on your right flank, launching a four-state cruise that will be the envy of every snowbird. From sunny beaches and sweet coastal towns to the sea-market menus of Tallahassee, the trip is guaranteed magic—whether you finish at Walt Disney World or not.

## Eastbound and Down

For starters, there's no hurry to hustle out of New Orleans before you've soaked in Bourbon Street and eaten gumbo with the locals. (This the South, and you can take your time.) The entire French Quarter is worth whatever time you have to spare—and you'll want to step into the Bombay Club at least one night to let the smooth sound of jazz sweep over you. But when the road calls, head east over Lake Pontchartrain onto Interstate 10, which will take you clear across four states and into the Panhandle of Florida. Your Gulf Coast cruise will steer you directly into some great Southern cities and towns (looking at you, Biloxi), but Mobile, Alabama is your biggest obstacle, traffic-wise. One approach—a good one—would be to park it in Mobile for a spell (more on that in a sec), but if you're passing through, time your approach either before 4:00 p.m. ... or well after.

## Plan for a Southern Detour

Because winter isn't going anywhere, consider taking the scenic route. For a beautiful view of Mobile Bay, hop off I-10 onto US Route 98 East at Spanish Fort. This small highway will take you through Fairhope, Magnolia Springs, and Foley, which are some of Alabama's most charming towns. At the Grand Hotel in Fairhope, the Bayside Grill and Southern Roots restaurants have panoramic windows with stunning views. (The food is pretty good, too.) When you're ready to head out, stay on US 98 East and follow it through to Pensacola where you'll reconnect with I-10. Once you clear into Florida, you'll remain on “The Ten” till you dip south on Interstate 75 and link up with US Route 27 South toward Orlando. But take note: Temperatures in the Sunshine State can still drop down to the 40s in the winter, so pack coats with your swimsuits.

### A Stop to Smell the Flowers

*Pull off in Theodore, Alabama to stretch your legs and explore the grounds of Bellingrath Gardens. The grounds have serene waterfalls and a 1930s house with a porcelain collection. But the big show is the expansive garden with winter berries in January, camellias in February, and an explosion of over 250,000 azalea blooms in March—a refreshing rest stop.*

### Pensacola Beach RV Resort

17 Via De Luna Drive  
Pensacola Beach, FL 32561  
(850) 932-4670

**Flying J, I-10 Exit 31**  
9351 Canal Rd  
Gulfport, MS 39503

### Bellingrath Gardens & Home

12401 Bellingrath Gardens Rd  
Theodore, AL 36582  
(251) 973-2217

### Make a Historic Landing

*Pensacola is a jackpot of visual history—the kind that kids actually enjoy. They can climb into Spanish forts like Fort Barrancas, and imagine being explorers and conquerors. (They have their choice: Spanish, French, British, Confederates, and Americans have all captured the city at some point.) And when you're done learning, congrats. You're in a prime spot for beach camping. (See Page 66)*

### Tally Fish House & Oyster Bar

6800 Thomasville Road #106  
Tallahassee, FL 32312

**Flying J, I-10 Exit 192**  
32670 Blue Star Hwy  
Quincy, FL 32343

### The Salty Flavor of Warmer Waters

*Savor the flavor of your favorite saltwater entrees in Tallahassee. You can take your pick from a just-caught seafood menu at the Tally Fish House & Oyster Bar—whether that's gulf shrimp, red snapper, swordfish, or Atlantic trigger fish. And for brunch, they offer bottomless mimosas and Bloody Mary's. Yes, please.*

### Nichols RV & Truck Center

2900 Kurt St  
Eustis, FL 32726  
(352) 589-4422  
NicholsDiesel.com

**Pilot, I-75 Exit 358**  
4032 W Hwy 326  
Ocala, FL 34482

### Plan an Hour Ahead

*Is it losing an hour or gaining an hour? May depend on your outlook. Either way, factor in the time change as you cross from Central to Eastern Time Zones. Whatever your philosophy, plan for that hour when looking at your check-in times.*



Garden: travelview/Shutterstock.com; Beach: Matt Baillie/Shutterstock.com; Clack: New Africa/Shutterstock.com; Fish: minicase/Shutterstock.com

**MAP KEY**

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## We Ain't All Snowbirds

Heating is a matter of comfort when you're riding out winter. Here's how to find out if an RV has what it takes to fight the cold.

by Harold Ogden, Jr.

Not everybody heads south for winter. And if you've spent the night in an RV when the temperature drops, you know how important heating is. You also probably know how hard it is to sleep when the water heater suddenly turns on, like some cruel Soviet sleep deprivation method. It may be loud, but an RV's heating system is vital in the winter months. So if you're renting an RV in the wintry realms or looking to land a new model, here's how to ensure it has a heating system that's simply better and more reliable.

### ASSESS YOUR HEATING NEEDS

Let's start this off with a question: How important is hot water to you? Even if you're going off-grid for some primitive camping, a hot shower in your RV might be the one luxury you don't want to live without. When assessing your needs, let comfort be your guide. Your comfort level should be the same whether you're boondocking or not.

Photo by Pure77/Shutterstock.com

Once you're clear on what you need (water heater, warm air heater—I think you'll want both), you can work backwards toward more functional questions like: Do I prefer using propane, electric, or diesel to power my heat? Your answers will give you a better idea the kind of heating systems your all-weather RV should have.


## WARM UP ON THE TECH SPECS

For a heating system to achieve maximum efficiency, it needs to be installed specifically for an RV model. (More on this in second.) But by familiarizing yourself with the capabilities of different heating systems—and how they answer your needs—you'll get a better picture of an RV's all-weather capability. Using **Truma's premium products** as an example, let's review some heating systems you might find on the spec sheet of a potential purchase. (In some cases, you'll even see these complimentary systems sold together in an efficiency package.)

		
<b>INSTANT WATER HEATER</b>	<b>GAS FURNACE</b>	<b>COMBINATION HEATER</b>
<b>Truma AquaGo comfort</b>	<b>Truma VarioHeat</b>	<b>Truma Combi comfort plus</b>
<b>HOT TAKE:</b> Instant water heaters ensure you can take a hot shower around the clock. With the AquaGo, if you have water and propane, you have hot water that's instant, constant, and endless. Hybrid technology keeps temps constant, and decalcification maintains performance. Easy to winterize. <i>Heated By: Propane</i>	<b>HOT TAKE:</b> Gas furnaces heat your space, but most are loud and zap the moisture out of the air. Not so with the VarioHeat. This luxury furnace is near-silent, automatic to keep temperatures steady, has a three-stage burner system, and offers efficiency up to 90 percent. <i>Heated By: Propane</i>	<b>HOT TAKE:</b> Combination heaters like the Combi are a furnace and water heater in one appliance—saving you space. The Combi comfort plus provides hot water in a very short time. Warm air is optimized with four air outlets and operates almost silently with very low power consumption. <i>Heated By: Gas, electric, or mixed mode</i>

## GET A WARM FUZZY ABOUT QUALITY

If you want to make it easy on yourself (you do), ask about an RV's weather certification. Gold and Silver certifications mean Truma has partnered with the manufacturer to test the heating system in the same RV—using thermal imaging in a climate chamber to identify cold spots and customize installs to amplify the RV's heating circuit. Which means the RV can go from freezing to room temperature in four hours or less. So if you're looking for heating that is simply better, the Truma sticker is really the place start. Because comfort should be constant in your RV, no matter what the weather looks like.♥

 Bring warm water home with Truma AquaGo. Schedule an install at [Truma.net/locations](http://Truma.net/locations).

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# A SEASON IN PARADISE

Slip the hold of the winter solstice and experience the warmth of island life on Hilton Head. *by Mark Settle*

**THE BIRDS MAY BE ONTO SOMETHING.** When winter's cold begins its cruel sweep across the northern frontier, it's a clear invitation for departure. And sure: You can choose to be one of many intrepid campers. You can winterize that RV, run your heat to the max, and power through till the coming of spring. But philosophically, it's easier to agree with Dante: Deep cold is the harshest hell. Especially when you can opt for paradise. Because mobility gives you the warmer option, there's no shame—and perfect wisdom—in taking flight toward warmer waters. After all, why fight nature?





**Find Your Piece of Paradise**

Reserve a lot at [HHIMotorcoachResort.com](http://HHIMotorcoachResort.com).

Taking an avian hint each year, thousands of snowbirds steer their RVs on a migratory pattern that puts all that wintry mix in the side-view mirror. Heading south, where eternal summer is the new winter, inland roads open up into coastland highways. With the windows down and the taste of saltwater in the air, you almost feel airborne. Like riding with a thermal gust beneath your wings. Like you're ready for island life, if only you could drive there.

Take U.S. Route 278 East down to South Carolina's coastline, and you can. Gliding across a bridge that arches its back above the Atlantic, you'll descend into a perfect paradise—Hilton Head Island. Tucked between Charleston and Savannah, Georgia, Hilton Head is the second largest barrier island on the Eastern seaboard, just behind Long Island. And what New York is to business, Hilton Head is to leisure.

Here, you can lie back on white-sand beaches and watch dolphins breach the gray-blue wavetops. Here, you can park beneath palmetto trees and tee up on endless fairways in a golfer's Shangri-La. Here, you can lose track of time. And that is a very good thing.

*Above: On entering the 53-acre, Hilton Head Island Motorcoach Resort, guests park in luxury lots paved with intricate stonework and surrounded by lush vegetation, giving the resort the feel of a high-end neighborhood. The resort offers lots with canopy, lake, and clubhouse views. All guests are free to enjoy the resort's recreational activities, which include water aerobics, pickleball, and tennis.*

## A Resort Made in the Shade

▶ **TWO MAIN** roads lace their way through Hilton Head Island: Cross Island

Parkway on the mainland side and Business 278 on the Atlantic side. Eventually, the two roadways meet at one of many traffic circles on the southern end of the island. Nestled behind the northeast corner of that circle, in a straight shot down Arrow Road, lies the Hilton Head Island Motorcoach Resort.

As you turn into the resort, you sidestep the heat of the open road and are immediately cloaked in the cool shadow of a beautiful forest canopy. Live oaks and cypress trees wind their way toward the sun and spread a canvass of shade. Hanging from extended branches, sage-green strands of Spanish moss waft down. Palmetto trees line the drive. Approaching the front entrance, you get the feeling that you've arrived at the heart of the island. And so you have. The Hilton Head Island Motorcoach Resort is a 53-acre expanse of private luxury that is literally made in the shade.

Stepping into the front office as you check in, the resort staff are easy to spot in their hot pink shirts. Smiling, they greet you with, "Welcome to paradise!" And you get the feeling they mean it. Most staff members are workcampers who stay at the resort, which is why every guest is treated like a new neighbor. Workcamping makes them the perfect resource for folks with Class A and Class C motorhomes, whom the resort is exclusively for. The staff know exactly what you need—no matter what you're looking for. Need assistance finding your lot? Happy to help. A restaurant recommendation? You got it. RV troubles? No manual necessary. Check-in is a snap, and with your admission, the gates swing wide as you enter.

Just through those gates, natural beauty begins to blend with man-made accommodations. (Making it easy to understand why RVshare voted this place as the #1 Best Luxury Motorcoach Resort.) Jennifer Radford, the activities director on site, says it makes a big impression on guests, "Everybody is always happy to be here. This is paradise, whether you're here for a night or live here every single day of the year." It's a happy entrance indeed. The bright blue waters of the pool catch your eye as they shimmer in the sunlight. The two-level clubhouse rises just behind. It's

circled by a spa, playground, six pickleball courts, two tennis courts, and a new green space in the making. Relaxation covers the grounds like a wave as guests migrate from place to place—with a lightness of spirit that has cast off all burdens.

When selecting a lot, you have your choice of a canopy, lake, or clubhouse view. The resort's 401 lots—all full hookup—come in the 45-foot and 25-foot variety, depending on the space you need. But each one feels private. Jennifer remarks, "The way that the resort has been designed, you feel like you're in your very own piece of paradise on your lot. And I think that makes a huge difference."

The driveways are stunning and spacious, trimmed with immaculate brickwork and lined with lovely vegetation. Lots with the lake view can hear the rhythmic sound of the fountain. Clubhouse lots can feel a lively pulse of activity. Everywhere, fine patio sets and outdoor kitchens are available to rent, and as you pull into your new drive, you get a warm sensation: This is a community. You can expect friendly smiles. And your pets will quickly figure out that the staff, driving around in carts, keep treats just for them.

But as relaxing as the Hilton Head Island Motorcoach Resort is, the island itself has even more to offer. And being less than two miles from Coligny Beach, you're in the perfect place to explore.

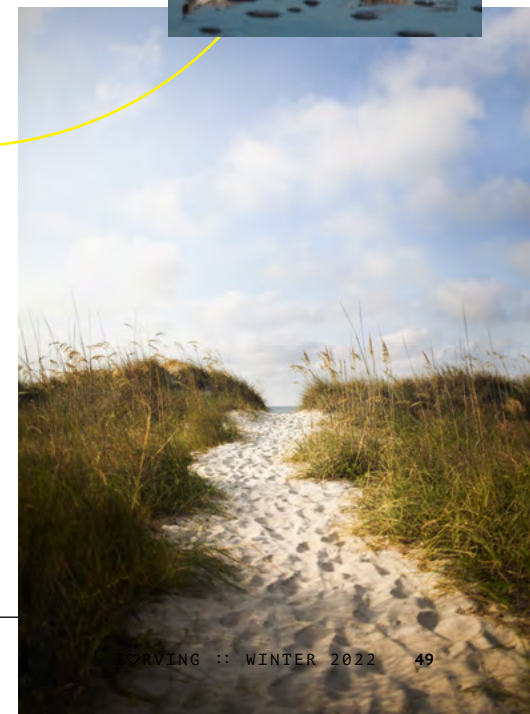
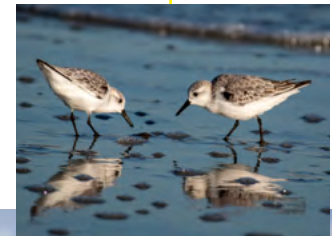
Free parking is in walking distance from Coligny Beach.



## The Sole of the Island

▶ **THE ISLAND OF HILTON HEAD** has a unique shape: It looks like a shoe—with its heel kicked out into the Atlantic and its toe pointing south back toward the mainland. Covering a compact 42 square miles, the island has a wonderfully diverse footprint. The bright Atlantic beaches, seagrass coves, delightful harbors, splendid shopping centers, and, of course, world-class golf courses are just a few pleasures you'll discover in South Carolina's warmer waters.

Dipping your toes into the Atlantic is easy. From a spacious parking lot within walking distance, **Coligny Beach** awaits. Under the cover of now-familiar palmetto trees and past small shops full of beach gear, the beachfront opens into a series of small grass-covered dunes. As the white sand warms your toes, the ocean lies flat before you like a man asleep in a beach chair with a soft, steady snore. Sailboats and fish boats appear and vanish like deep-sea dreams. Seagulls flit in between tents and blan-



*This page: photos courtesy of Hilton Head Island Motorcoach Resort; Previous spread: photo by Robert H. Ellis/Shutterstock.com*

*Photos (top to bottom): Margaret Wiktor/Lean Matuska/XinXin/Shutterstock.com*



kets. All around, squadrons of children flee their castles and squeal with laughter as they run to the waves, leaving a trail of bright pink pails and plastic green shovels. Even the adults find moments to rise, point out into the surf, and laugh with wonder as the island's family of dolphins make their circuit through the shallow waters. The bliss of it is, there's nowhere else to go for hours. The warm sun on your shoulders is the perfect reward for a perfect migration.

Whenever you decide to loose yourself from the beach's grainy grip (find tips on Page 36), there's an entire island to explore. Harbour Town lies just shy of Hilton Head's southern toe with its iconic lighthouse and a walk-worthy seascape flanked by a reef of colorful shops. Even better for golf aficionados, you've made a deep drive into a range of the nation's finest fairways. The Sea Pines Resort includes classic courses like the Harbour Town Golf Links and Heron Point, both masterpieces designed with the deft touch of Pete Dye. Voted by "Golf Digest" as one of the top ten golf destinations in the world, here, you can approach the greens, calculate course hazards, and perfect your strokes like a

Above: Harbour Town's iconic, red-striped lighthouse peers over the blue waters of the marina and the sailboats docked there. Shops skirt the shoreline and bustle with life. Below: The Raw Bar Tower, aka "seafood tower," is one of the signature dishes at the Old Oyster Factory, a Hilton Head dining staple.



master. And with a catalogue of classic venues across the island, you can tee off somewhere new each day. Which is just par for the course in paradise.

## A Taste of the Sea

▶ **EVEN FURTHER DOWN** at South Beach, there is the legendary Salty Dog Cafe, named after Jake, a heroic dog who retrieved his owner after three days and nights capsized at sea. But for a real taste of maritime cuisine, circle back inland and tack north up the Cross Island Parkway. Crossing the seagrass splendor of Shelter Cove then down Marshland Road, you'll find a hidden treasure tucked against the cove's northern bank—the Old Oyster Factory.

Hilton Head has more great places to eat than you can count. For seafood alone, Hudson's Seafood House on the Docks and Poseidon are big catches come dinner-time. (And the fish tacos at Slapfish just might change your life.) But the Old Oyster Factory is something more. The multitiered building stands alone, jutting up with its back to the cove and a low porch in the setting sun. Just down the bank, boats lie on their side in the low tide. Out back, the massive pile of shells on the shore looks like the walrus and the carpenter have finished creating a graveyard of delights. There is a rustic, salty feel to the place. It's in the marshy grass that hides the drive. It's in the sedentary old truck that sits in front of the entrance.

But everything exterior is a shell. There is a pearl inside. Seated by the window facing the cove at dusk, the high tide comes in, and the boats rise to life—as does the entire cove. Even as you order from the menu, the dark fins of dolphins emerge as they hunt fish along the dock, where a great blue heron lands and spreads its wings. All this unfolds in the gold-green waterlight of sunset just as your food arrives. There's no wrong decision on the menu, but the

**seafood tower** is the great prize. Packed on ice, an arrangement of six oysters, six mussels, and six jumbo cocktail shrimp rises in succession with split lobster, snow crab legs, and smoked salmon. On the water, you taste the first fruits of the ocean, dressed with capers and served with lemon. This is a flavor far beyond the ordinary. It is the exact thing every RVer searches for—the breathtaking power of place.

## An Eternal Summer

▶ **HEADING BACK** to the Hilton Head Island Motorcoach Resort, you may realize it already feels like home. Out one day for adventure. Back home the next to relax. At the resort, you can make your way to the hot tub or ready yourself for water aerobics class tomorrow morning. (The resort offers them every morning, Monday through Friday.) You might just weigh your options poolside by the clubhouse, as more neighbors arrive and get checked in. Amid an eternal summer, you feel like this could last forever. And Jennifer, the activities director, is happy to relay the good news: Forever is an option. At any given time, the resort has five to ten lots for sale.

"We want you to come back or maybe even consider living here. Just being here, it transforms you." She adds, "It's funny because I think sometimes when you go on vacation, you find yourself trying to fill your time. Here, you come, and you lose track of time—in a great way."

Indeed, time can become abstract in the warm glow of paradise. So when the northern winter cold dissolves into spring, you'll have a decision to make. You could migrate back north with nature. Or maybe not. Taking a hint from Hilton Head's permanent pod of dolphins, you could decide to stay. Come to think of it, maybe those dolphins are onto something. ♥

Photos (top to bottom): Jwwaldes/Denise Kappa/Helioscribe/Shutterstock.com; Seafood: courtesy of the Old Oyster Factory; Opposite page (top to bottom): aceshotz/New Africa/Evan Austen/Shutterstock.com



### HARBOUR TOWN GOLF LINKS

at Sea Pines

11 LIGHTHOUSE LN  
HILTON HEAD ISLAND

Approach evasive greens with Jack-Nicklaus precision.

Par	Slope	Rating
71	148	75.6

### ROBERT TRENT JONES COURSE

at Palmetto Dunes

7 TRENT JONES LN  
HILTON HEAD ISLAND

Enjoy one of the best views of the Atlantic for 18 holes.

Par	Slope	Rating
72	141	74.8

### HERON POINT

at Sea Pines

100 N SEA PINES DR  
HILTON HEAD ISLAND

Play risk-reward on a course designed to tempt the bold.

Par	Slope	Rating
72	140	74.0

### ROBBER'S ROW

at Port Royal

10 CLUBHOUSE DRIVE  
HILTON HEAD ISLAND

Swing easy down wide fairways that get trickier as you go.

Par	Slope	Rating
72	134	72.6

Explore these classic courses and more at [HiltonHeadIsland.org/Golf](http://HiltonHeadIsland.org/Golf).



CAMPGROUND GUIDE

## Crowd-Free Coastlines

Enjoy a warm, waterside view that sidesteps the traffic. Check out these secluded spots to explore the coast away from the main drag.

### Camp Hatteras RV Resort and Campground

2478 NC-12  
Rodanthe, NC 27968

(212) 987-2777

**Road Trip:** Head down North Carolina Highway 12 (NC-12) from your campsite at Hatteras to **Ocracoke Island**, a charming spot where you can walk along 16 miles of undeveloped coastline. With a permit, you can even drive directly down to the beach. The shore is about two miles from the village, so be prepared to drive, or stay in the village and take in the local cuisine and culture. *90-minute drive. Ferry required.*

**Day Rate:** \$49-57 + tax  
**Camp Sites:** 200

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

**Check-In/Out:** 1 p.m./11 a.m.  
[CampHatteras.com](http://CampHatteras.com)

### Jekyll Island Campground

1197 Riverview Drive  
Jekyll Island, GA 31527

(912) 635-3021

**Road Trip:** Stop into the state's only sea turtle education and rehabilitation facility at the **Georgia Sea Turtle Center**. With year-round indoor and outdoor programs, it's the perfect chance to encounter live sea turtles and see rehabilitation in action. You can enjoy a wide range of interactive exhibits and experiences, like "Turtles at Twilight" and "Scutes School." *8-minute drive*

**Day Rate:** \$48 + tax (\$4 pet fee per dog per day)  
**Camp Sites:** 167

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

**Check-In/Out:** 2 p.m./12 p.m.  
[JekyllIsland.com/Lodging/Jekyll-Island-Campground](http://JekyllIsland.com/Lodging/Jekyll-Island-Campground)

### Edisto Beach State Park

8377 State Cabin Road  
Edisto Island, SC 29438

(843) 869-2156

**Road Trip:** Walk the **Spanish Mount Trail**. The site dates to approximately 3,000 to 4,000 years ago and features a 12-foot-high circle of shells that may have been a Native American ceremonial site. Under the shade of a maritime forest of live oaks palmetto trees, it's a hike that's beautiful, easy, and lightly travelled. *10-minute drive + a hike*

**Day Rate:** \$48 + tax (\$4 pet fee per dog per day)  
**Camp Sites:** 162 (50 full hookup)

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

**Check-In/Out:** 1 p.m./12 p.m.  
[SouthCarolinaParks.com](http://SouthCarolinaParks.com)

### Clearwater Lake Campground

24511 Country Road 42  
Paisley, FL 32767

(352) 669-0078

**Road Trip:** Stay in the forest and paddle your canoe or kayak across **Clearwater Lake** to find the perfect quiet spot. The edge of the lake boasts more than a mile circuit, so you have plenty of space to explore. Rentals are available, so if you don't own a canoe or kayak, don't fret. Full hookups aren't available, but it's the perfect boondock stop to convene with nature.

**Day Rate:** \$25 + tax  
**Camp Sites:** 42

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

**Check-In/Out:** 24-hr (w/ gate code)/1 p.m.  
[AdventureOcala.com/Clearwater-Lake-Campground](http://AdventureOcala.com/Clearwater-Lake-Campground)

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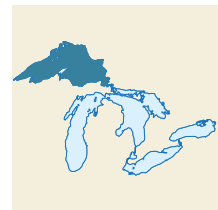
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# Your Next Getaway Plan

Migrate from the Southern sands up to the freshwater beachfronts of the Great Lakes.



LAKE SUPERIOR

**Twelvemile Beach Campground**  
Grand Marais, MI

- This public campground offers 36 total sites and an interpretive amphitheater that's on the lakefront. And while we'd like to tell you what interpretive theater is... it's open to ... well ... interpretation—just another fun way to play after hiking the rustic trails nearby.



Camper or vehicle/trailer length should not exceed 42 feet to stay on the beach campground.



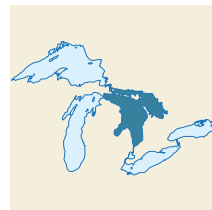
LAKE MICHIGAN

**Timberlake Resort and RV Park**  
Mears, MI

- Enjoy a private beach on Lake Michigan when you find your way to Timberlake RV Park. You will also have access to a pool, adult hot tub, and private lake. And did we mention all the water sports you can do on the lake? Didn't think we had to.



Hold out till summer, and you'll be able to experience the Fourth of July golf cart parade, luaus, and live music.



LAKE HURON

**Port Crescent State Park**  
Port Austin, MI

- Set along three miles of Lake Huron, Port Crescent has a dark-sky preserve, waterfront views, and 10 additional overnight lodging options. Outdoorsmen rejoice: You will also have access to trails, fishing, canoeing, birding, and more!



For a best view of the stars, head to Parking Lot D and snag a spot on the viewing platform.



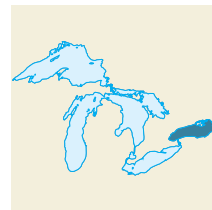
LAKE EERIE

**Hearthside Grove RV Park**  
Geneva-on-the-Lake, OH

- The perfect place for luxury motorcoach living on the shores of Lake Erie, this RV park is minutes away from wineries, covered bridges, and lots of outdoor recreation. Whether you're on the water or at Odawa Casino Resort, you won't have a dull moment.



Pair your trip with a wine festival or a nighttime hot air balloon display. (Yes, they have those!)



LAKE ONTARIO

**South Shore RV Park**  
Sodus Point, NY

- Rest your eyes on the cool lake views and picturesque stone roadways that make Sodus Point unique. Have a large rig or long trailer? You can reserve a drive-through site. And the big bonus: All campsites at South Shore provide a full hookup.



Just a mile east, the resort town of Sodus Point is loaded with restaurants, shopping, and historical sites.

# RVX

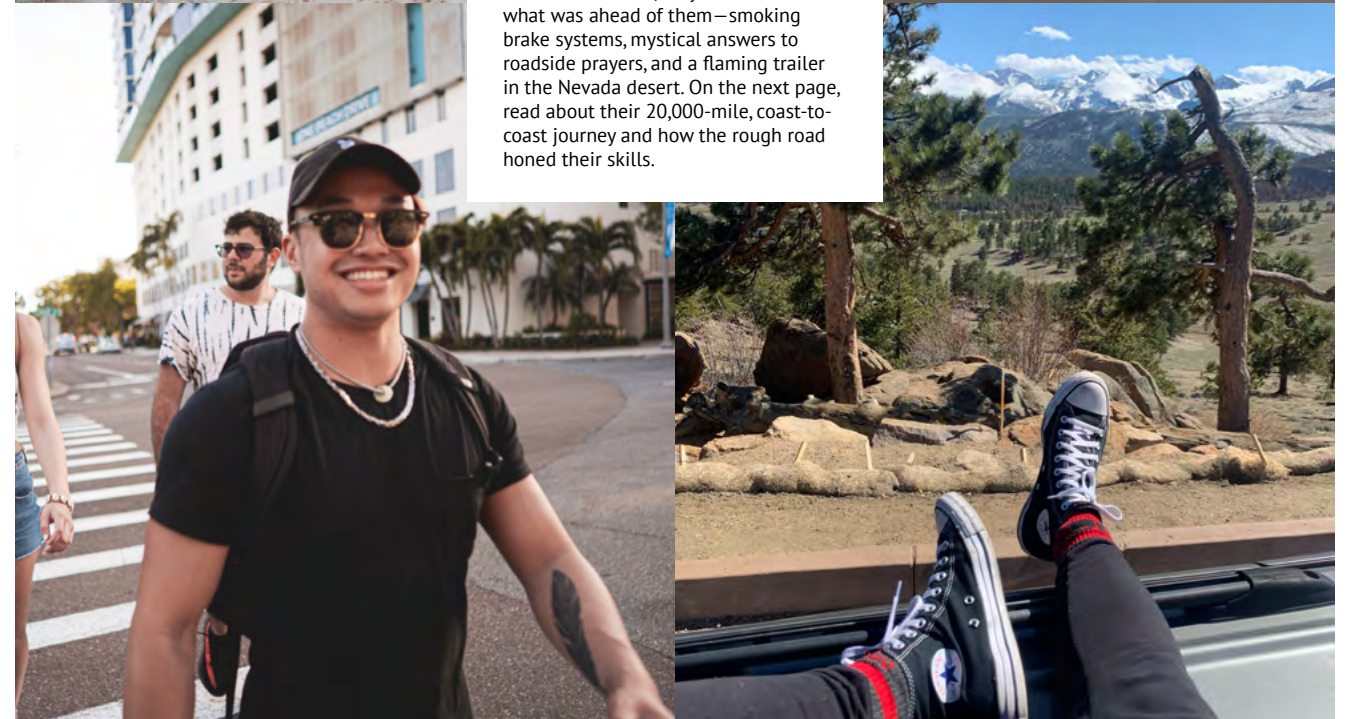
CAMPING, ADVENTURE, AND THE RV EXPERIENCE

Turning Disney World into a magic RV ride (that you can afford). Page 62



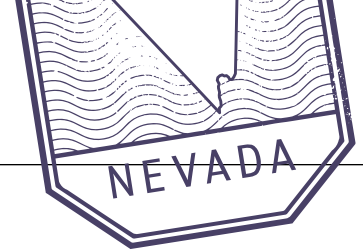
## APOCALYPSE TRAINING, BEGIN

When three Boston newbies took their trailer to the road, they had no idea what was ahead of them—smoking brake systems, mystical answers to roadside prayers, and a flaming trailer in the Nevada desert. On the next page, read about their 20,000-mile, coast-to-coast journey and how the rough road honed their skills.



RV illustration: Dmitry Narasim/Shutterstock.com; Lake maps: Rainer Lesniewski/Shutterstock.com

Photos courtesy of Tim Mo



# APOCALYPTIC



# FEVER DREAM

THREE BOSTON NEWBIES EMBARK ON A HAPHAZARD JOURNEY COAST-TO-COAST AND DISCOVER THAT NO PLAN JUST MAY BE THE BEST PLAN.

by Liran Federmann

**JUST OUTSIDE A GAS STATION** in the middle of the Nevada desert, they can all see it—something dark on the horizon. Standing by their road-wearied trailer, the three Boston natives squint their eyes and watch as it comes closer, a pillar of cloud streaking down the highway. Soon, they can view it clearly: a car is towing an RV trailer engulfed in flame. As the vehicle careens down the road in a wild sprint, fire is bursting through the trailer windows leaving a trail of black smoke in the onrushing wind.

Photo by pondpony/Shutterstock.com; Opposite page: photo courtesy of Tim Mo

Ross and his two friends, Matt and Josh, have been on the road for just over three months. And the surprises just keep coming. Seeing the car wheel into the gas station, they run to the vehicle where the driver slams on the brakes and leaps out. The driver, an elderly man, and his wife begin frantically unhitching the trailer and trying to rescue the propane tanks before they ignite. Ross and his friends, shocked at first, finally react. Dropping their gas-station coffees, they search their own trailer for anything that can help. Ross finally emerges with a comically small fire extinguisher. Spraying the smoldering wreckage with the six-inch can is all he can do. It's like a scene from a dark comedy.

Other than that, there's little anyone can do, except watch the trailer melt into a blackened shell. When the fire department arrives, there's nothing left to save. The driver and his wife are flustered but safe. And as Ross and his friends take their own trailer back onto the highway, they can't help but feel lucky. With three wild months on the road behind them, Ross admits, "It is entirely possible that your trailer can be totaled at any moment."



## Disaster Research

Before his coast-to-coast journey began, Ross Friedman had never driven an RV. But Ross has always had the attitude of a camper: He does what he wants and does it on his own terms. At age 22, splitting time as a student at Suffolk University in Boston, he'd already founded a company that manages college concerts and nightlife events. So in 2020, when COVID closed the nightclubs and pushed the university to remote learning, Ross got tired of being boxed in. So he planned a road trip.

Having been in the music industry, he'd seen stories online about RVing and loved the concept. Over the course of the winter, Ross pitched the idea to his friends and began researching worst-case scenarios on YouTube. He was going to make this happen, and by the end of January, he'd already bought a 2011 CrossRoads RV Sunset Trail. He scored some recruits too: Matt Young, a local friend and DJ, who joined the trip on a whim; and Tim Mo, a fellow student and photographer. Personally, Tim had never seen the Deep South and interior of the country.

"Boston was closed," says Tim, "And I wanted one whole season of adventure." Which made this trip too good to pass up. Together, the three acquire a used Chevy Suburban with an 8,000-pound towing limit. Embarking in February, they have no plan whatsoever for the road.

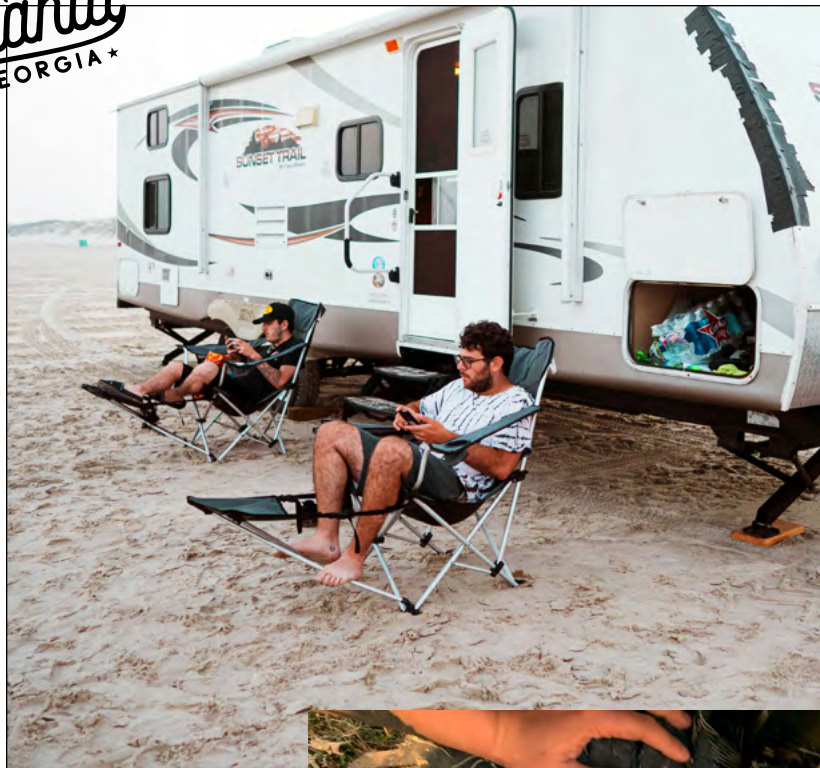




## The Big Brake Down

YouTube can only prepare you for so much. Just a few weeks into the trip, en route to Atlanta, a message on Ross' brake controller pops up: The trailer's brakes are engaged—even though his foot is on the gas. Immediately pulling off the highway into a nearby vacant lot, Ross hops out just in time to see the trailer's back left tire explode. Plumes of smoke engulf the tire, and everyone scrambles out of the Suburban to throw water on the fire. Ashes cover the brake drum. For a good moment, Tim is prepared to see the entire trailer go up in flames. But as the smoke dissipates, the trailer remains intact.

Stuck in the middle of nowhere, they finally find a truck repair service. Turns out that the old, electric brakes short-circuited, causing the whole mechanism to engage while Ross was driving. The heat from the friction melted the entire braking system. Blew the tire right off the rim. Close call. From here on out, everyone in for the ride is on alert mode. Ross even considers abandoning the trip. But instead, they learn how to deal with disaster. Later in the trip, they'll have responsibilities down to a science: Ross digs out the jack and tire iron; Tim directs traffic.



## When Prayer Goes South

Approaching Atlanta, the city teems with life, especially when compared to a chilly, shut-in Boston. At last in the Deep South, the crew heads out to hit the night clubs and discovers it's also the NBA All-Star Weekend. (A real double double.) Eager to cut loose, they hit the town, making tentative plans to visit Daytona Beach next. Once back on the road, the Boston troop makes a stop at a beautiful RV Park near Stone Mountain, mystified by the strange men on horseback chiseled into the rock face.

Pressing toward Daytona later that night, another tire blows. The trailer is stranded on the roadside. In the middle of rural Georgia. Surrounded by farmland. A small house is nearby, and within minutes, a man approaches from the house asking if they need help. Ross politely refuses: They've dealt with tire issues before. But as the sun sets, Ross realizes they'll need a new tire. Just then, the man's wife and teenage son emerge from the house and walk down to trailer, with all their Deep South hospitality in tow.

"Howdy, y'all! You guys need anything?" She asks, even adding an invitation, "Do you want to come in for dinner?" Ross and Tim say that they're alright, but she's



Above: Matt (far) and Ross (near) camp on the beach. Tim captures photos along the journey—including shots of roadside troubles.

not letting them get off that easy, "Well, if you won't let me do anything, at least pray with me."

Everyone, weary and heavy-laden, makes a small circle on the side of the road as the Georgia family lifts the travelers up in prayer. (Tim had wanted to know what the Deep South was like.) And sure enough, a blessing came.

Arriving at last in Daytona, Ross discovers a sweet RV park with a spot directly on the beach and full hookups. Somehow, it's Daytona Bike Week, for which attendees often book years in advance. Ross laughs, "If we had planned it, we wouldn't have made that happen. It was just so accidental and lucky." Tim smiles with a wry theory of his own: "Peak effectiveness of the prayer circle." Watching the stars light up the night sky at Daytona Beach, it does feel like a miracle. There hasn't been a plan since leaving Boston, but here they are.



## Passage to the Pacific

Continuing to press westwards from Memphis to Hot Springs and from Hot Springs to Texas, Ross and his rambling crew enter their second month on the road. In the Suburban, trailer in tow, Ross drives down a single-lane road on a foggy day into Corpus Christi. Everyone's cell phones are rolling in and out of service as they enter Mustang Island State Park. This is their third attempt at finding a beach where they can camp, and morale is in the dumps.

No one even sees the name of the beach as they arrive. But something changes. An unimaginably wide expanse of flat sand extends down to the water, with plenty of room to boondock near a sand levy. As day flows into evening, the fog lifts, and the sun makes an appearance. Everyone watches it set over the beach, its orange orb fading away from the long, blue waves that make the edge of the earth. With the sound of the tide in the background, Ross fires up their generator. Matt begins setting up a DJ booth, and the aura is complete—laughing, listening to music, mingling with other RVers (and noting how much better their RVs are). The next morning, they wake to the sound of sea waves. Tim says he will never forget that feeling.

Still proceeding west, they ride horses in Palo Duro Canyon, stop by family friends in Colorado, trek through the red rocks of Utah—crisscrossing their way to Los Angeles, where they pick up their friend Josh, and Tim catches a flight back. Reaching the Pacific Ocean in Santa Monica, they park on a cliffside just off the Pacific Coastal Highway, an expanse of cool ocean stretching out to the golden western horizon. Then it's north to San Francisco, where it's time, at last to head back home—cutting through the Northern Nevada desert, with its flaming trailer.



Above: Matt rides shotgun as the crew presses through the Red Rock country. Josh, a witness to the flaming trailer in Nevada desert, here stands alone in the chaos of the RV interior. Josh was one of many friends to join Ross, Matt, and Tim for a part of their coast-to-coast journey. When Tim flew home from LA, Josh swapped in and stayed on until Philadelphia.

Photos courtesy of Tim Mo



## A Wanderer's Return

Turning back east, Ross takes a route with one last destination in mind: Yellowstone National Park, where he wants to boondock. He recounts, "We went to the middle of nowhere, and then turned left and kept going." Heading into an area with no defining geographic features except a small lake, the Suburban winds across dirt roads and switchbacks to a lonely RV park designed for boondocking. Their surroundings are a picture-perfect postcard. With mountains all around and the lake lying still in front of them, Ross sets up camp as the ever-dimming rays of the sun play on the



Los Angeles

face of the water. It's June, and the night only begins to set in after 10:30 p.m. Then the bright moon rises and takes its turn on the lakefront. It's like a scene from a nature documentary. Or a vision where the heavens touch the earth.

Racing back across the country, one last delay awaits. Hitting Philadelphia, five hours away from Boston, the braking system melts down—again—leaving Ross and Matt stranded on the side of a highway for a whole night. Somehow, it seems appropriate. But by now, they know exactly what to do. They're not newbies anymore. And on June 17, they arrive home in Boston. The entire trip has lasted four months and gone over 20,000 miles coast-to-coast—an achievement of great cost, at least \$40,000 for the whole trip. Doing it over again, Ross says he'd focus more on quality purchases on the front end (see Page 23), especially the vehicle doing the towing: "I would live and die by that."

Even so, the rewards are equally great. For a generation constantly accused of living through their phones, life on the road is like going for the cure. These days, Ross catches himself critiquing the brakes in his dad's



Share an epic story from the road with us.

We're all ears at editorial@IHeartRVing.com.

car. Tim's certain he could handle any situation with technical aplomb. If mistakes are life's greatest teacher, RVing is a master

class in improvisation. Especially when you're a newbie.

But all in all, both men agree, that no plan was indeed the best plan—a journey driven by chance encounters, day-to-day decisions, and blockbuster memories. Tim says, "I like to think that we found more direction in our lives after going through that whole experience. Sometimes it feels like a fever dream. Like, damn, we actually did that." They both joke that now they're ten times more prepared to survive the apocalypse. Another coast-to-coast trip. Or anything else that lies on the road ahead.♥

Photo by Michiel de Wit/Shutterstock.com; Cottonmouth: Creeping Things/Shutterstock.com; Coral Snake: Patrick K. Campbell/Shutterstock.com; Cottonmouth: KF2017/Shutterstock.com; Rattlesnake: Jason Mintzer/Shutterstock.com

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# A Snake-Free Campsite

Four tips to make common sense your snake repellent.

by Sean Richard

**AT SOME POINT IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS**, it's going to happen: You're going to see a snake. As a camper, you know that encountering one of these nope ropes is a natural (if unwelcome) occurrence, especially when you're boondocking. But seeing a snake is one thing. Having it in your campsite? That's another.

Here are a few things you can do to improve your odds for a snake-free site.

## 1 Make Cold Weather Your Friend

With the arrival of winter, many warm-blooded critters take the winter off to hibernate. Snakes don't hibernate exactly (it's called brumation), but they do become less active. By boondocking in the winter months, you decrease the odds of a serpentine encounter. Even so, keep a sharp eye out when gathering wood for your campfire.

## 3 Set Up Camp in an Open Clearing

Snakes like to hide in dense foliage, scrub brush, rock piles, and areas with lots of ground cover. So, the simplest way to avoid snakes is to set up camp in an open clearing. Most premade campsites will do just fine. If you are out forging your own trail (awesome and highly recommended), avoid rock caverns and thick underbrush where snakes like to coil up.

## 2 Don't Rely on Snake Repellents

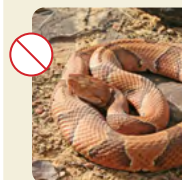
There's an ongoing debate on whether snake repellents work or not. (We suspect they don't.) Some are anecdotal: A snake won't cross a rope on the ground because they think it's another snake. (No idea if that's true.) Other snake repellents have chemicals that aren't very nature-friendly or people-friendly. The truth is being our loud, clumsy selves may be the best repellent.

## 4 Button-Up Your Rations

The best way to avoid snakes is to ensure that all food and drinks are put up and secure. While leaving food out will not directly attract snakes, it will attract their prey (aka vermin)—and that will garner some slimy slithery attention. Storing your food inside the RV and away from open areas helps. Remember, even if your food has a lid on it, it will be detected. So play it safe.

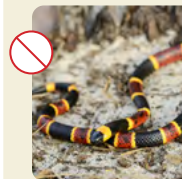
## Your Do Not Handle Guide

Steer clear of these four venomous species, regardless of your snake-competence level.



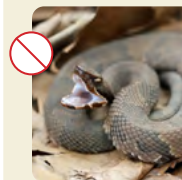
### COPPERHEADS

**Range:** Texas to Massachusetts  
Hour-glass shaped crossband patterns. Bites painful but rarely life-threatening.



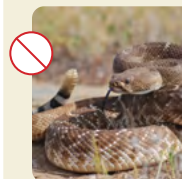
### CORAL SNAKES

**Range:** Arizona to North Carolina  
Best identified with the rhyme, "Red-on-yellow kills a fellow." Highly venomous.



### COTTONMOUTHS

**Range:** Texas to Virginia  
Keeps head clearly above water while swimming. Bites can be fatal.



### RATTLESNAKES

**Range:** Coast to Snake-Infested Coast  
Easily identified by the rattle on the tip of tail. Most dangerous snake in America.





# The Magic of Walt Disney's Wilderness

How to make Walt Disney World a camping adventure that enchants the family without breaking the bank.

by Jasmine Rochelle



**CHILDREN ARE ALL ALIKE IN ONE WAY:**

They sparkle with wonder. It's all over them. God bless 'em, they dream about magic stories. Enchanted castles, too. And spell-bound princesses? You bet. Which means you can expect them to ask—or possibly plead with—you to take the RV to Walt Disney World. (Forgive us,

but it's a tale as old as time.) And with everything that Disney offers, making that dream come true is an impulse you should trust. From the endless enchantment of the Magic Kingdom to the campfires of Fort Wilderness, Walt Disney World is a trip the entire family will enjoy. Because when those kids light up, everyone catches the glow.

But while Walt Disney World may be the most magical place on earth, it's also one of the most expensive. All that fairy dust ain't cheap, and Mickey and Minnie go through a lot of cheddar! That's why we've compiled the best insider tips and tricks to RV Disney. As a camper, you'll save time and money—while still keeping things magical. After all, you want to vibe more hakuna matata, and not be one of those poor unfortunate souls paying full price.

Here's the best way to hop in your RV and meet the Mouse!

# Camp at Fort Wilderness

## ► No Worries for RV Guests

Driving from the west side of Orlando on Country Road 535, turn on Vista Boulevard and pull onto Fort Wilderness Trail, and be transported into a 750-acre woodland fantasy with 784 campsites and 409 cabins. Tucked away in the pine and cypress forests, you'll encounter spacious campsites, charming hiking paths, and fun for the whole family. With two video arcades, movies, a dinner theater, swimming pools, a beach, and special campfire programs, there is something for everyone.



### Find Your Perfect Camping Spot

Taking a few notes from Len Testa and Bob Schillinger, authors of the Unofficial Guide to Walt Disney World, we recommend loops 100, 200, 700, and 400 (in that order) to be close to guest services, restaurants, and the beach. For campers who want a more scenic site, Testa recommends loops 1800, 1900, 1700, and 1600, but stay off the first 40 or so yards of each loop to avoid noisy traffic. (Also, double-check construction when booking to avoid the soundtrack of not-so-magical things like hammers, nail guns, and tractors.)



### Plan Your Resort Transpo

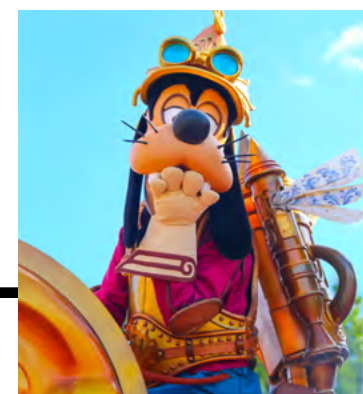
Seven hundred fifty acres is a lot of land. While Disney does provide transportation to and from the parks, it can be a waiting game. Most campers find the easiest and most reliable way to get around the resort itself is to rent an onsite golf cart. Use your personal vehicle to drive to the parks before they're open—early access to the parks is a perk that you have as a resort patron—for the best parking and most time saved. The last thing you want to do with your small, tired children is wait for a boat to wait for a bus to, possibly, wait for another bus before you return to your RV.



# Spin Some Savvy into Gold

## ► Valuable tips to save cash—and sanity

Don't be afraid to get goofy.



### Split Time with Fort Wilderness

The resort itself is chock full of adventures for the whole family. Alternate days between going to the parks and staying at the campsite, exploring nature, hanging by the beach, or catching the fabulous Chip 'n' Dale Campfire Sing-A-Long show.

Icons: Colourcreatype/Sillicon/Bonsymbols/Russian Design/Muhammad Aunis/Ayub Ibrahim/Ben Davis/Gregory Cresnar/Piero Borgo from the Noun Project; Photos (this page, top to bottom): Christian Lambert/Dia Turner on Unsplash; (opposite page): Rayna Tiero on Unsplash

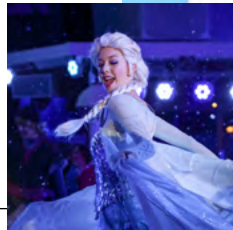


### Be Intentional About Meals

Pack affordable snacks and meals in your RV, and be intentional about eating at the parks. Reserve one special meal per day in the parks or at the resort with the My Disney Experience app. Otherwise, make the RV snack headquarters. Bagels and fruit, scrambled eggs, and homemade granola bars go a long way for fueling your family without draining your bank account.



Grab the My Disney Experience iPhone app here:



### Cash-In on the Freebies

Traveling with small children? Head to guest services when you enter the park, and they'll hand out official Disney World buttons. From there, head to the Town Square Firehouse in Magic Kingdom to pick up your "Sorcerers of the Magic Kingdom" cards. Cast members usually have stickers on hand, and transportation workers carry trading cards. At the end of the day, your souvenirs are taken care of and are way more fun to collect.



### Make Use of the Monorail

Planning to park hop, but don't want to get back in the car until the end of the day? Start at the Magic Kingdom or Hollywood Studios where you parked your car, then hop on the Monorail to EPCOT for international lunch or dinner reservations. Structuring your day around food and transpo may seem like less fun, but it will save valuable time and money.



### Extend Your Time at EPCOT

Book breakfast at EPCOT before the park opens or reserve your dinner table for park closing time. Scheduling your meals will allow you the full opening hours to explore the wonder EPCOT provides, including free concerts, a soaring trip around the world, an international showcase, and of course, The Seas with Nemo & Friends.

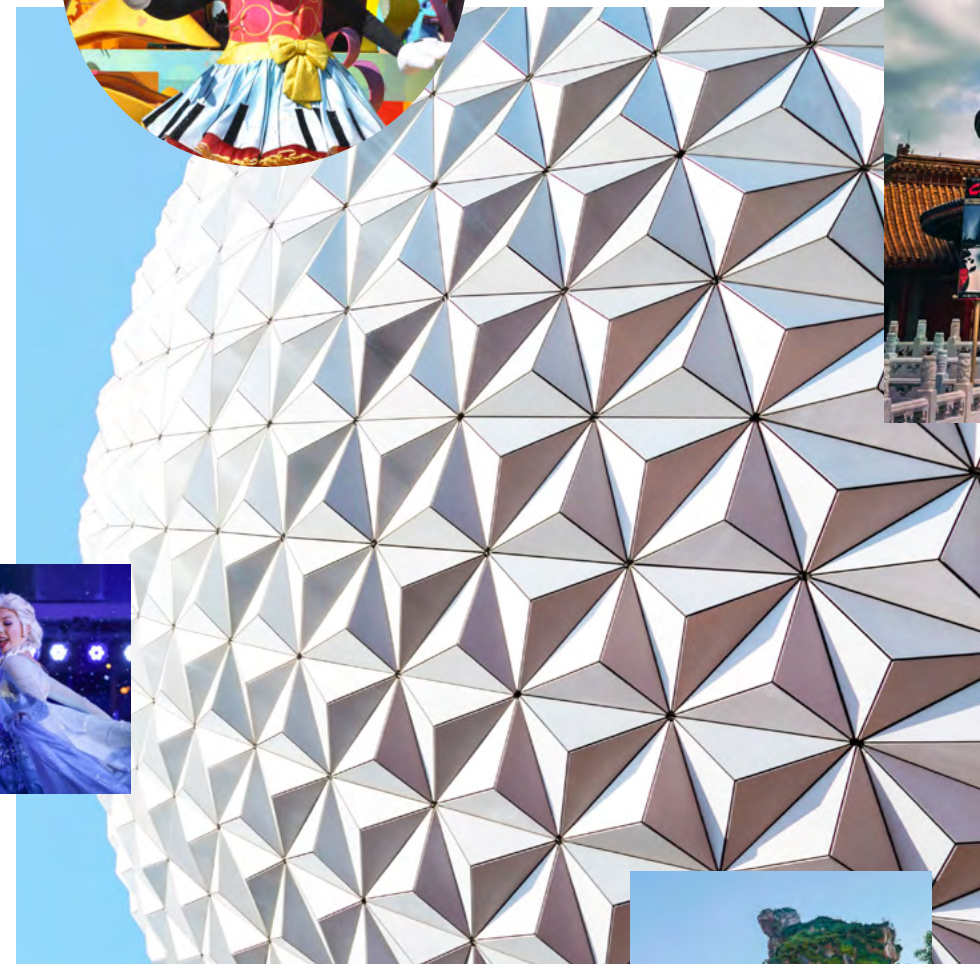


### Get Ready to Glow

Say what now? Order some glow paints ahead of your trip and pack it in your day bag. Apply paint before you spend the evening at **Pandora - The World of Avatar** in Disney's Animal Kingdom. It's a super affordable way to create a unique and lasting memory for your kids. (Props to Global Munchkins for the heads up on this insider tip.)

# Experience the Wonder

► Ways to get that magic carpet ride



Photos (this page, top to bottom): Elijah Merrell/Kyle Desantis on Unsplash; (opposite page, top to bottom): Joseph Nilas/Park Troopers/Lydia Turner/Hansun Kim on Unsplash

## BRING THE BARE NECESSITIES

Yeah, yeah. You know the basics. Walking shoes and sunscreen. Snacks and Chapstick. Hand sanitizer, etc. But here are a few you'll thank us for later.

- Face mask (required indoors)
- Raincoat
- Layerable clothing (winter in Florida can get chilly)
- Band-Aids
- Glow sticks/necklaces and glow paint
- Magic Bands (you'll get these as part of your resort stay)
- Reusable stainless cups (fill them up with water in the park)
- Autograph book and pen for cast member autographs
- Child and adult pain medicine (someone will get a headache)
- Bubbles (to pass the time in longer lines)

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See some clever tips to keep the sand out of your RV on Page 36.

# Beach Camping 101

With the right prep work, you can get hot and sandy and still keep your chill. Follow these 6 tips and blow your next trip out of the water.

### OUTSIDE THE RV

#### GIVE YOUR UNIT A WAX

Both sun and sand are hard on paint jobs. Protect yours from damage by making sure you've got a good wax on before arrival, keeping your paint shiny and smooth like the day it rolled off the showroom floor.

### INSIDE THE RV

#### PACK A BROOM

No matter how often you rinse, you're going to get some sand in places you don't want it. And sand can be a much bigger problem than regular old dirt. Come prepared with a broom and/or a hand-held vacuum solution.

### PLANNING

#### BOOK YOUR STAY EARLY

Campgrounds everywhere are filling up faster than ever, and they're not making any more beach-front property. Planning ahead might be the difference between a beach view and a view of the backside of the guy who has a beach view. Never good!

### TIMING

#### CONSIDER OFF-PEAK TRAVEL

The farther north you go, the more important it is to visit during the hotness. But off-peak Florida is a hidden gem. Nonexistent crowds, it's warm and sunny almost every day, and prices are much more reasonable. You just won't be doing as much beach swimming.

### PASSENGERS

#### BRING A FRIEND OR FOUR

The beach is inherently more social than lots of other RV spots. Consider leaning into that made-for-friends quality and inviting some of your best travel buddies. Or make some new ones! The beach is best when shared. (For proof, see the story on Page 56.)

### DRAFT NOTICE

#### PREP FOR WIND

Windy days are no big deal if you're ready for them. But one word of warning: A still morning doesn't mean the day will stay that way. Each time you leave your RV (and at night) secure things like awnings and anything outdoors that isn't tied down.



## TIME TO BE TREATED LIKE ROYALTY

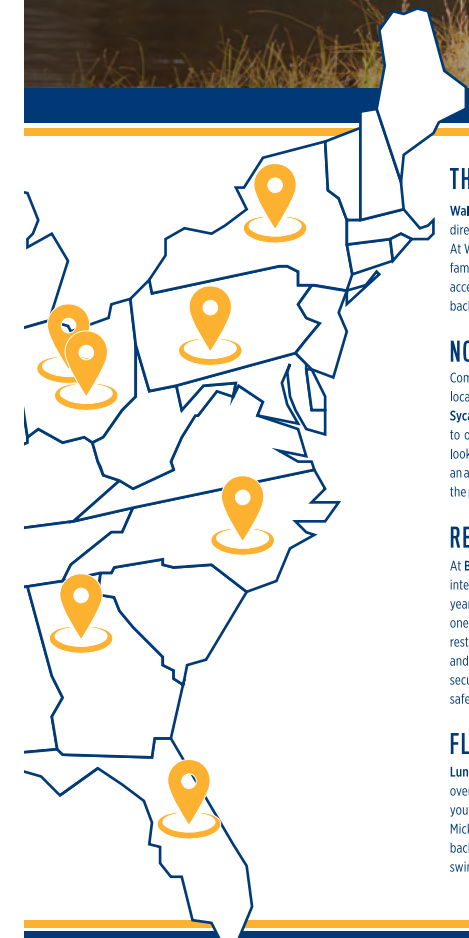
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### NORTH CAROLINA AT IT'S BEST!

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.



CALL 855.834.4682 TODAY OR VISIT US AT [IHEARTRVING.TRAVELRESORTS.COM](http://IHEARTRVING.TRAVELRESORTS.COM)

# 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.**

**VETERANSAIRLIFT.ORG - 952-582-2911**



**INSIDE:** See how Lavario uses gravity to get clothes fresh and clean-clean. Page 75.

RV TECH AND TRADECRAFT



**AWARDS ARE JUST THE BEGINNING** for KZ RV's Durango Gold and Fleetwood RV's Frontier. Raising the bar for fifth wheels and diesel pushers alike, their innovative designs and luxurious features are turning heads—including ours. But what's to come is even better. With a turn of the page, their next chapter starts with you.

Photos courtesy of Thor Motor Coach

# Fifth-Wheel Gold Strike



## Setting the Bar for Life Unbound

*KZ RV'S DURANGO GOLD FORGES NEW STANDARDS FOR FIFTH-WHEEL COMFORT.*

**THE SEARCH FOR GOLD** is an old story, but the thrill of discovery is always new. And recently, we have KZ to thank, because the Durango Gold is expertly crafted—we could even say gilded—with dozens of the details that we're constantly looking for in a fifth wheel. From

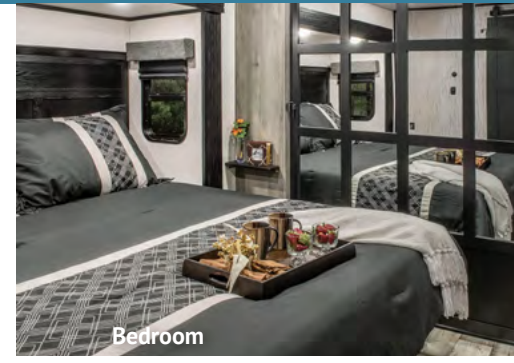
its comfort-insulating features to its luxurious design, we see why RV News named the Durango Gold the 2022 Full Profile Fifth Wheel of the Year.

Comfort starts with insulation, no matter which season you're weathering. And here, the Durango Gold shows its mettle. The all-weather insulation package includes: an insulated roof; insulated front and rear walls; an enclosed, insulated, and heated underbelly. (Heck, even the basement is heated.) All of which means that the heating system (with its 40,000 BTU furnace) and the Whisper Quiet cooling system (with its two 15,000 BTU ducted-roof ACs) keep your fifth wheel at whatever temperature standard you set. Because a life unbound

shouldn't be at nature's fickle mercy. (Get an amen from Truma on Page 43.)

The Durango Gold's cleanly minted features allow you to enjoy the great outdoors—and the great indoors. Its rear patio includes a three-season patio door, step, awning, and railing to enjoy the backyard of your choosing. Just inside, you can recline in front of the 65-inch LED TV and 40-inch fireplace, and get a heated massage (courtesy of your theater seats). Even cleaning up is easy, with a central vacuum that stores out of sight. What you will see though is the 70- by 80-inch walk-around, electric-tilt, king-sized bed (even if you don't see the storage underneath). On the road, it's your golden ticket to a great sleep.

Photos courtesy of KZ RV

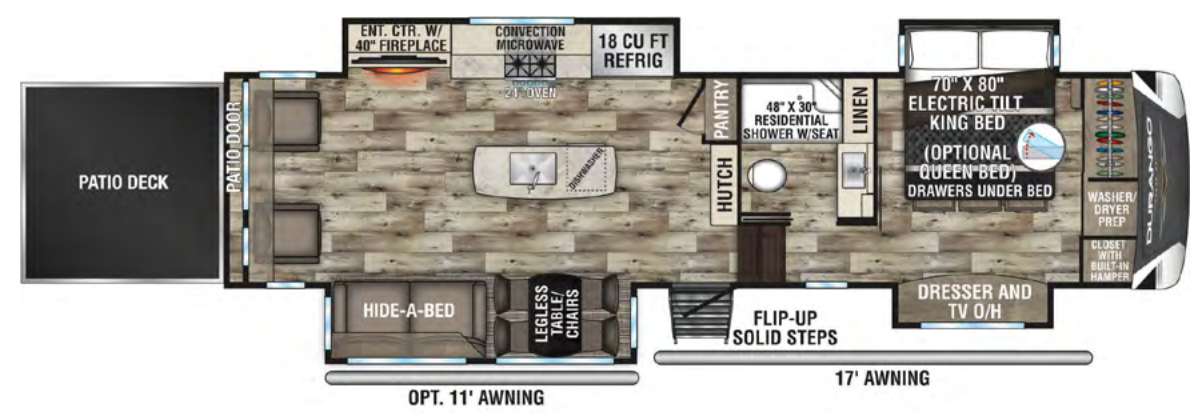


### Controls as Tight as Fort Knox

Keeping control of your systems and comfort settings should be easy. (Like super easy.) With the KZ Engage, powered by OneControl, it is. From a screen by the entrance door, you can monitor tank and battery levels, control sliderooms, leveling systems, awnings, interior lighting, HVAC controls, you name it. With Wi-Fi prep and Connect Anywhere, you even get access by mobile device.

### Mother Lode in the Galley

A lot happens around those countertops, and the Durango's design gives you plenty of space with all the kitchen features you need: a kitchen island; pantry; four-door, 18-cubic-foot fridge; stainless steel dishwasher; microwave; oven; and large dining table. Modern farmhouse cabinetry circles the space with storage. The drawers are even made from Baltic birch.



## DURANGO GOLD G358RPQ FLOORPLAN

▶ LENGTH: 36 FT 8 IN	▶ DRY WEIGHT: 12,660 LBS
▶ HEIGHT: 13 FT 6 IN	▶ GVWR: 14,995 LBS
▶ FRESH/GRAY/BLACK: 96/65/45 GAL	▶ HITCH WEIGHT: 2,550 LBS

Survey more shiny features. Visit [KZ-RV.com](http://KZ-RV.com).

# A Bold New Frontier



Bedroom



Sofa/Dining Table



Hide-A-Loft



Sofa Bed Converted

### One Spacious Diesel Pusher

Every RV owner knows that space is the final frontier. And Fleetwood RV's new model takes a bold leap in both storage, living, and sleeping space. The Frontier includes a 100-gallon fuel tank to keep you on the road—and 135 cubic feet of full pass-through storage for easy access to all your toys when you arrive. Triple slides

also generously expand the living area for family and friends. With a king-sized bed and a pull-out queen sofa bed, you can comfortably sleep seven—and even more if you opt to include a Hide-A-Loft™ drop down queen bed above the cockpit.

## First-Class Living for Wide Open Spaces

*FLEETWOOD RV'S FRONTIER TAKES HEAVY HORSEPOWER AND SMOOTH HANDLING INTO UNCHARTED TERRITORY.*

**OUT ON THE BOUNDARY**, you only take what's reliable and proven to work. The Fleetwood RV Frontier brings that same spirit to Class A diesel motorhome

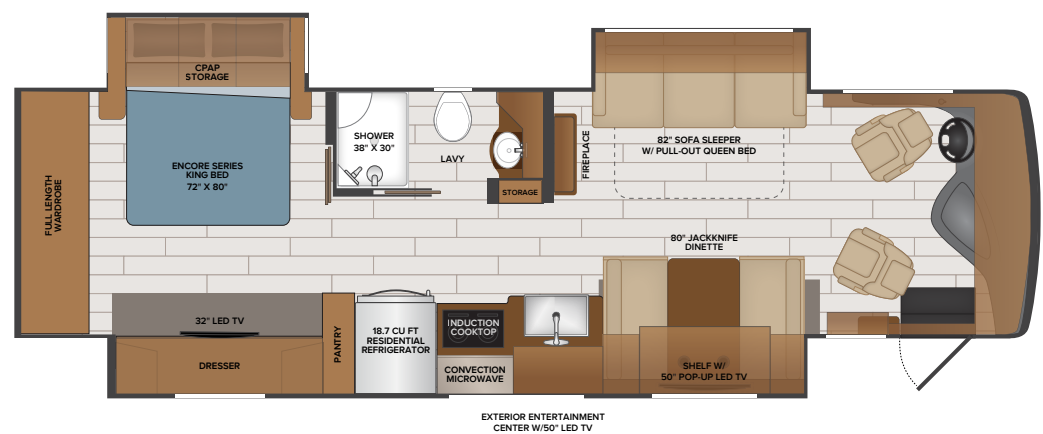
design. Driven by owner-innovations and a refusal to sacrifice comfort, the Frontier gives you the ability to find wide open spaces—on the road and inside your home. Named the RVBusiness Top RV Debut and the RV PRO Best New Model for 2022, the Frontier is blazing a big trail in handling and comfort for diesel pushers.

Powered by a 6.7-liter Cummins diesel engine with an Allison 2500 six-speed automatic transmission, the Frontier boasts 340 horsepower at 700 pound-foot of torque. And unlike most of its Class A diesel peers, the engine does not protrude upwards, allowing for a full-flat floor. When driving you'll also enjoy an

LED OptiView™ instrument panel and 10-inch cockpit dash radio as you navigate the road ahead.

Lucky for you, the Frontier's comfortable interior design means you can push the boundary in the cozy warmth of home with the posh accents of a hotel. Heated by the Aqua-Hot® 250D hydronic heating system, there's unlimited hot water, heat by zones, and no need for propane. This full residential electric coach also includes a stunningly complete kitchen, a glass/tile backsplash in the galley, a jack-knife dinette booth, and residential-style bathroom—keeping luxury parked nearby, no matter how far you push the boundary.

Photos courtesy of Fleetwood RV



### FRONTIER 34GT FLOORPLAN

▶ CHASSIS: FREIGHTLINER XCR	▶ ENGINE: CUMMINS 6.7L 340HP
▶ GVWR: 32,400 LBS	▶ GCWR: 33,000 LBS
▶ EXT LENGTH: 35 FT 4 IN	▶ EXT HEIGHT: 12 FT 10 IN
▶ EXT WIDTH: 102 IN	▶ FRESH/GRAY/BLACK: 95/65/45 GAL

Explore your next Frontier. Visit [FleetwoodRV.com](http://FleetwoodRV.com).



### Honda EU2200i 2200-Watt Super Quiet

▶ DIMENSIONS: 20 X 11.4 X 16.7 IN
▶ WEIGHT: 46.50 LBS
▶ VOLTAGE: 120.00 VOLTS
▶ WATTAGE: 2200.00 WATTS
▶ DBA: 47-58
▶ PRICE: \$1,199.00 ON AMAZON



### Champion 2000-Watt Ultralight

▶ DIMENSIONS: 17.3 X 11.5 X 17.7 IN
▶ WEIGHT: 39.00 LBS
▶ VOLTAGE: 120.00 VOLTS
▶ WATTAGE: 2000.00 WATTS
▶ DBA: 53
▶ PRICE: \$427.73 ON AMAZON

# The Power of Do Not Disturb

These portable power sources keep the serenity up and the decibels down when you're off-grid.

**LOOK, WE'LL JUST PUT IT THIS WAY:** You didn't drag yourself across the map, negotiate the RV down that switchback (see Page 56), and park in your own pristine corner of nature to listen to the music of BWAANNH. But if your generator isn't designed for "do not disturb," that's exactly what you'll hear, no matter how far out you go. Luckily though, you have better options. Whether it's a portable inverter generator designed to keep the peace or the silence of solar power squeezing juice out the sun, alternative solutions are available to lower your volume in the boondocks—without having to put all your wattage-powered comforts to the wayside.

## GAS POWER, WITHOUT THE GROWL

Being off-grid is about stripping things down to their essentials. (See ya, constant AC.) So while you could opt for a larger, louder, more powerful generator, we recommend you don't. Instead, calculate the wattage of the items you need to power while roughing it. When you get down to the basics (running appliances, charging your phones), you'll find you can manage nicely under 2000W while primitive camping.

Harnessing the ever-ready and user-friendly muscle of gas, portable inverter generators like the **HONDA EU2200I 2200-WATT** (dBA 47 to 58) and the **CHAMPION 2000-WATT ULTRALIGHT** (dBA 53) are great options. Both models measure less than 20 inches in length and weigh less than 47 pounds—which means they're easy to store and easy to carry. Best of all, they have decibel ranges quieter than normal conversation (67 dBA), freeing you to take in the delicate sounds of nature around you.

## SOLAR, THE POWER OF SILENCE

Not everyone is able to strip down their noise signature to nothing, because not everyone has solar. If you're happy to be not everyone, you can power a superlight footprint with portable units like the DuraLite 100-watt Solar Kit from GoPower! Easy to store with a set up that takes minutes, the 10-pound solar kit comes a 30-amp charge controller, cables, and everything you need to charge up your battery. Powered by nature itself, a solar kit frees you to hear nature just as it sounds, to experience it just as it is. Which is, after all, the whole reason you're out there.♥



◀ **Get your AC and fridge on the generator without worrying about starting power.**

Learn more about the Micro-Air EasyStart 364 Soft Starter at [MicroAir.net](http://MicroAir.net).

Photos courtesy of their manufacturers

Photo courtesy of Lavario Washer Corp

# Lavario Portable Clothes Washer

WE GOT OUR HANDS DIRTY TESTING THE PREMIUM PORTABLE WASHER. WE WEREN'T DISAPPOINTED.

BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT:

➔ **THIS PERSON-POWERED PORTABLE WASHER** is a marvel of engineering, cramming a laundromat's worth of cleaning power into a small(ish) package.

FULL REVIEW:

MSRP: \$159.95

For most RVers, the Lavario portable clothes washer means that whoever's doing laundry spends less time at the laundromat. (If you've ever been to a laundromat, you know this is a great thing.) For boondockers, it means that with nothing but some elbow grease and H2O (about 10 gallons is ideal according to the manufacturer, or less if you limit your load size), clean clothes are within reach. It's easy to set up, easy to use, and so long as you follow the installation instructions carefully (there are four plastic locking clips on the basket lid that seem to be a weak point), its otherwise sturdy construction should last you a long time. It's not the cheapest manual washer out there, retailing for a nickel under \$160, but it's the best we've seen, with few flaws and huge upside.

➔ **Get your clothes fresh and clean wherever you are. Buy at [LavarioWasher.com](http://LavarioWasher.com).**



FEATURES WE LOVE:

### Easy Assembly

*There are very few parts and pieces, and you'll have this thing out of the box, up and running in five minutes or less.*

### Gentle on the Back

*Its closest competitor is probably just a bucket, and the Lavario gives a much easier washing mechanism, with less strain.*

### High Capacity

*OK, everything's relative. You can only wash a handful of items at a time, basically an entire outfit in one wash. But that still beats most competitors, most of which can't handle the same capacity.*

### Boondocking-Friendly

*No electricity required. Just water, a sprinkle of detergent (too much makes it a little harder to rinse), and muscle power.*

### Made in the U.S.A.

*The Lavario is American made, BPA-free, and recyclable. The company offers a 30-day return policy; you just pay shipping.*

### Quick and Easy

*Most of your basic loads you'll finish in just a few minutes. For more soiled loads, soaking for an extra 30-60 minutes is going to give you the results you need, but still only a few minutes of actual wash.*

## RV MARKETPLACE

### Major RV Innovation CloZures Shade

Operate without opening the screen or entry door.



Enjoy outside view, control privacy, temp. and light with just a finger slide.

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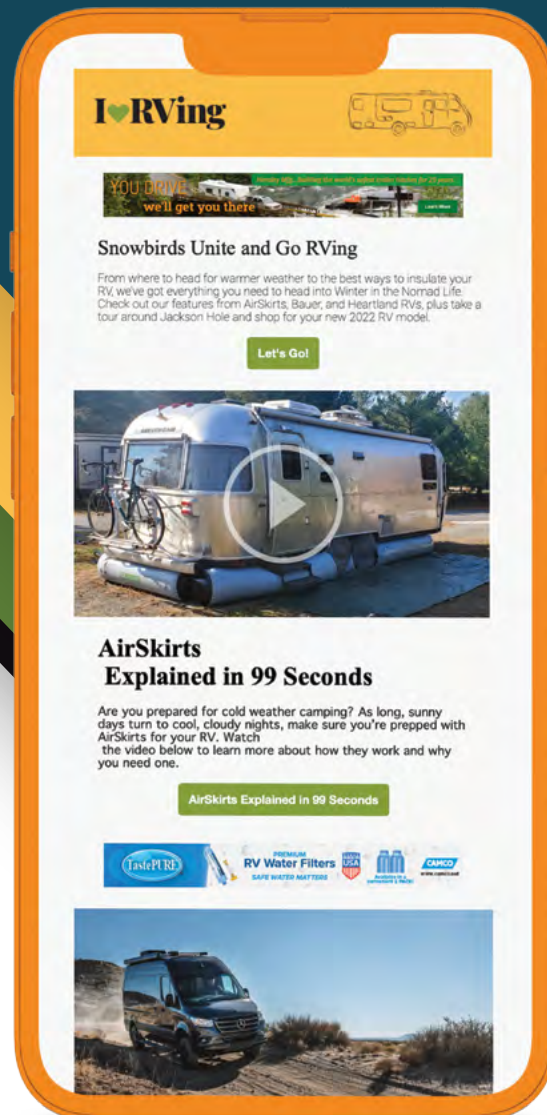
Now you can tout your trailer, pitch your product, or call out your camper in the largest independent RVing magazine in the world.

Contact

Kim Whitaker  
[kim@IHeartRVing.com](mailto:kim@IHeartRVing.com)

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# Firesides

FINAL TOASTS AND LAST ROASTS FOR THE ROAD



## One Last Hurrah

TIME TO PACK IT UP. BUT BEFORE WE GO ...

### 1 LAST LAUGH

(A Hilarious Pun)

A comedian drove an RV through the mountains. It was really hill areas.

### 1 FINAL INSPIRATION

(From an Adventure Expert)

"You can't stay in your corner of the Forest waiting for others to come to you. You have to go to them sometimes."

—A.A. Milne, *Winnie the Pooh*

"People say nothing is impossible. But I do nothing every day."

—Yet another from A.A. Milne, *Winnie the Pooh*

I can do this all day!



Photo by Caleb George on Unsplash

### 1 BRIGHT IDEA

(A Tip for First Timers)

Get where you're going before dark. Once you're a seasoned veteran and parking, leveling, and hookup are all a breeze, then a nighttime arrival will be doable. But for your first few arrivals, plan your trip so that daylight can help you see what you're getting yourself into.

### 1 TIP FOR ROAD WARRIORS

(Apps Are Awesome)

Apps have come a long way since the old days and are worth trying out even if you've had a bad experience in the past. Gas Buddy helps you find the cheapest gas on any route, with huge potential savings if you're filling big tanks. The National Parks Service also released a new app this year with camper-friendly features

like info on which campgrounds are open, Wi-Fi availability and more. It's even usable in offline mode for the deep boondockers. And for Harvest Hosts members, their app is a great way to find fantastic parking spots.

### 1 FORMAL INVITATION

(Just for You)

Join us on Facebook at @IHeartRVing

Join us on Instagram at @IHeartRVing

Join our email list at [www.IHeartRVing.com](http://www.IHeartRVing.com)

### 1 CLOSING WORD

(Love Ya Is 2 Words)

We hope you're picking up what we're putting down, which is that this magazine is a labor of love. Like Marc said in his letter from the publisher (Page 7 if you missed it), RV people who are also magazine people are our kind of people. And we sure do love ya. Thanks for joining us on this crazy ride.

## CLASSIFIEDS

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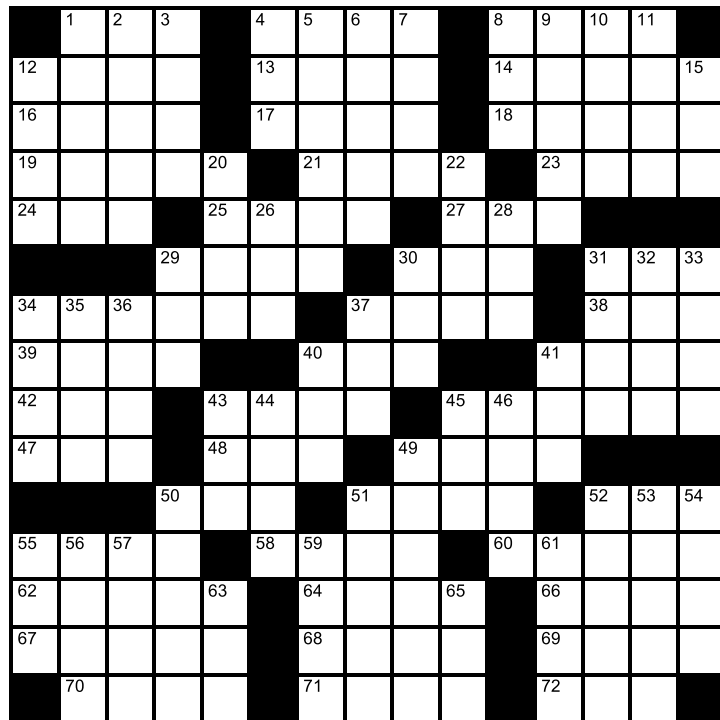
Kim Whitaker  
[kim@IHeartRVing.com](mailto:kim@IHeartRVing.com)

**ACROSS**

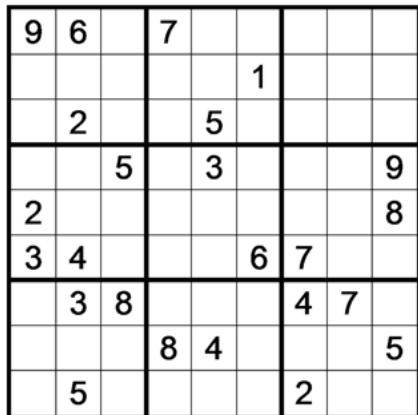
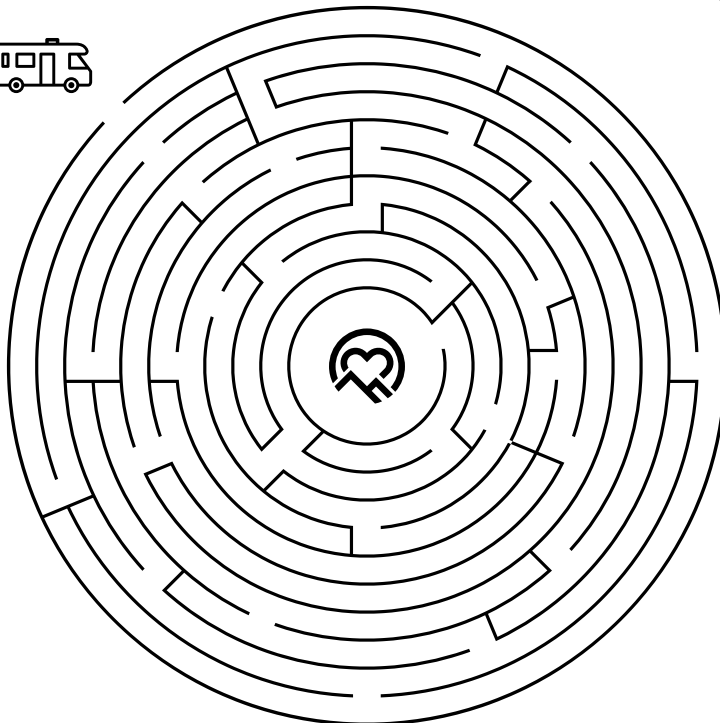
1. Big jerk
4. Alpine transport
8. Back talk
12. Big tippler
13. Daughter of Zeus
14. Basket material
16. Cut, maybe
17. "zoic" things
18. Grammar topic
19. Big name in stationery
21. \_\_\_\_\_ Spumante
23. Book after Joel
24. Carry on
25. "@#%!", e.g.
27. Arid
29. Advantage
30. Artful
31. Ceiling
34. Dorm room staple
37. Pay as you earn, for short
38. "A Chorus Line" number
39. Flimsy, as an excuse
40. "\_\_\_\_\_ lost!"
41. "High" time
42. \_\_\_\_\_-Wan Kenobi
43. Comprehend
45. High land
47. "C" \_\_\_\_\_ la vie!"
48. A hand
49. Exec
50. High school class
51. "Charlotte's Web" girl
52. Gangster's gun
55. "\_\_\_\_\_er up!"
58. "Laugh-In" segment
60. Hammer's partner
62. "Farewell, mon ami"
64. Fish schooper (alternate spelling)
66. Legal prefix
67. The speaker's platform in ancient Athens
68. Sundae topper, perhaps
69. Addict
70. Bang-up
71. Apprentice
72. "\_\_\_\_\_ Cried" (1962 hit)

**DOWN**

1. Kind of wave
2. Accord
3. Attend
4. Not just "a"
5. Dress down
6. Discompose
7. Medical advice, often
8. Former French coin
9. Test, as ore
10. Thailand, once
11. \_\_\_\_\_ lily
12. Blubber
15. \_\_\_\_\_ judicata
20. Central point
22. Sans purpose
26. "Give it \_\_\_\_\_!"
28. Bar order
29. "... \_\_\_\_\_ he drove out of sight"
30. Cal. col.
31. Codger
32. A small buffalo from Celebes
33. \_\_\_\_\_ Station
34. \_\_\_\_\_-eyed
35. Checks
36. Give off, as light
37. Nave bench
40. Pan, e.g.
41. Cashew, e.g.
43. Mary \_\_\_\_\_ cosmetics
44. Pilfer (Archaic)
45. Sticker
46. Clue
49. Irish dog
50. Collect slowly
51. Passionate
52. Grind, as teeth
53. Acquiesce
54. Boris Godunov, for one
55. Marvelous, in slang
56. "I had no \_\_\_\_\_!"
57. Airport pickup
59. Bow
61. Sonata, e.g.
63. "It's no \_\_\_\_\_!"
65. "\_\_\_\_\_ bad!"



Feeling pretty good about your answers, huh? Well, we'll see. Scan the QR code to know for sure.



# QUALITY IS NOT AN OPTION... IT'S A HABIT.



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