

EXPLORE THE SMOKY MOUNTAINS | RIVING ON A BUDGET | SHOP ULTIMATE RV ATTIRE

I ♥ RIVING

SPRING INTO RIVING

+Plus

Eco-Friendly Options
for the Best Green
RVing Experience



THE ULTIMATE
RV BACKUP CAMERAS
AND TOWING GADGETS

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Spring Preview 2024

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Spring Preview

VOLUME 4 / ISSUE 2 / SPRING 2024



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I ♥ RVing

I HEART RVING

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**THANK YOU FOR JOINING US AT THE
I HEART RVING GLOBAL CAMPGROUND.
PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT
EXTINGUISH ALL FIRES
SORRY FOR WHAT I SAID WHEN I
WAS TRYING TO PARK THE RV**

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IN THE NEWS



Bowlus Rivet for Rugged Adventurers

Is it possible to combine high-end materials and upgraded finishes with rugged individualism? Darn right, you can. Especially with the newest Bowlus Rivet. This rig was designed for people looking for adventure off the grid! Redesign your camping experience with an RV that fully embraces freedom and adventure. How? With over-specked

power management. Yacht-quality lithium and solar power generation. A three-inch lift kit for added off-road clearance. All-terrain tires. A self-propelled, self-powered, first-of-its-kind rig that allows you to set up a comfortable, cozy camp in even the most remote locations.

Of course, you'll still enjoy high-end materials that are

made to last and upgraded finishes, including a large separate bedroom (with a king bed to boot) for years of adventure! Plus, your current vehicle likely has enough power to tow the 3500 GVWR. And with the Bowlus Easy Hitch, you can unhitch to explore your surroundings in minutes.

Are you ready for your next adventure?

How Big is RVing?

The RV industry has grown significantly over the past 20 years. The US leads the world in sales and supports nearly 680,000 jobs.



140B

ECONOMIC
IMPACT ON THE
US ECONOMY

62%

RISE IN RV
OWNERSHIP
BETWEEN
2003 & 2023

It's Electric! The Beginning of a New Era?

Thor Industries is once again breaking ground, this time working with Harbinger Automotive to pave the way for an all-electric chassis. (Thor is currently the world's largest manufacturer of RVs.) This innovation signifies the first step in product design exploration for an electrified class A RV, representing their drive for a greener future.

UPCOMING RV EVENTS

PUYALLUP RV SHOW

May 2 - 5, 2024

Washington State Fair Events Center, Puyallup, WA
There's a little something for every RV lover, including a Beer & Wine tent and loads

of family fun. Shop hundreds of RVs and compare options with 20 local dealers, 50 brands, and over 400 models. You're bound to fall in love with RVing with so many new innovations, models, and accessories at this huge event.

Wyoming 10th Annual Outdoor Weekend

May 17 - 18, 2024

Lander Community and Convention Center, Lander, WY

Fun (and free!) family event to kick off the summer, highlighting outdoor recreation with tons of vendors. Topped off with live music, free food, climbing, shooting, archery, and much more for a fun- and adventure-filled weekend.

Overland Expo West, May 17 - 19, 2024

Ft Tuthill County Parks, Flagstaff, AZ
With camping and education and over 400 exhibitors for adventure

travel, outdoor camping, and equipment, thousands of overlanders from around the world gather to Get Outfitted, Trained, and Inspired.

Tampa Bay Summer RV Show

June 6 - 9, 2024

Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa Bay, FL

RV dealers fill the Expo and Entertainment halls with hundreds of RV units on display along with RV products, campground opportunities, resorts, and more, plus loads of fun and entertainment.

Overland Expo West

June 28 - 30, 2024

Deschutes County Expo Center, Redmond, OR
Camp onsite for an entertaining, festive environment. Then, enjoy more than 175 specialized classes and activities to learn new ways to take on your next adventure. With over 300 exhibitors, you'll be able to see the latest gear innovations while spending quality time with thousands of other like-minded overlanders.



MirrorCheck

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE RV NEWS AND COMMUNITY

Stay Limber and Relaxed on the Road

Sure, you can go out for a hike, bike ride, or kayak (with the right gear), but one of the best ways to relax after a long day on the road is with yoga. After all, it takes minimal (or even no) equipment. All you need is your body, a yoga mat, and perhaps a block or two. Yoga is a great way to destress and breathe life back into your tight muscles. It's also a

fantastic way to stretch out if you're feeling hunched over and crunchy from bending over in tighter spaces. It may even help you drift off to sleep faster!

Other benefits of yoga include improved balance and flexibility, decreased anxiety, improved digestion, better mood, increased circulation, and reduced cortisol levels, among others.



THE STOVETOP OVEN

Bake bread, cakes and warm food in Omnia®. A portable oven that takes its heat from the stovetop. Everything that you can do in a regular oven, you can also do on the stovetop. The smart 3-part construction provides heat from above and below.



Lid with ventilation holes

Omnia's design allows warm air to circulate

Bowl shaped bottom



It can be used on all stovetops except induction

LASAGNA

BROWNIES

BAKED BREAD

BISQUITS

FRIES

CINNAMON ROLLS



AM/FM PLAYLIST

*CELEBRATE THE GREAT
SMOKY MOUNTAINS WITH
THIS SPRING PLAYLIST*

IT'S FINALLY TIME TO LOWER THE WINDOWS

AND BLAST SOME TUNES! CHASE AWAY THE WINTER BLUES WITH THIS MIX OF MUSIC FROM THE PARKS PROJECT THAT BLENDS A LITTLE OLD WITH A LITTLE NEW, A LITTLE BLUEGRASS WITH A BIT OF COUNTRY, AND A DASH OF FOLK FROM A MIX OF YOUR FAVORITE ARTISTS THROUGH THE DECADES. ARTISTS LIKE BOB DYLAN, JOHNNY CASH, DOLLY PARTON, JOHN DENVER, CHRIS STAPLETON, ALABAMA, AND MORE WILL KEEP YOUR TOES TAPPING AND YOUR EARS HAPPY.

PLAY ON SPOTIFY

Scrolling the Virtual Campground



@forever_rving

Why We Heart It This couple loves RVing as much as we do! Their enthusiasm and sense of humor are infectious. Plus, they always seem to find the bright side of any situation.

@motorhoming_mayhem

Why We Heart It – it's just fun to see what RVing looks like on the other side of the pond. Follow this fun-loving couple and they travel throughout Europe.





RV QUIZ

Do You Know the Smokies?

THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS IS ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST VISITED NATIONAL PARKS. DO YOU KNOW WHY?

No. 1

What year was the Great Smoky Mountains National Park established?

- A.** 1989
- B.** 1878
- C.** 1934
- D.** 1940

No. 2

Which president officially dedicated the Great Smoky Mountains National Park?

- A.** Theodore Roosevelt
- B.** Franklin D. Roosevelt
- C.** Woodrow Wilson
- D.** Harry S. Truman

No. 3

What famous thru-hike passes through the Great Smoky Mountains National Park?

- A.** Continental Divide Trail
- B.** American Discovery Trail
- C.** John Muir Trail
- D.** Appalachian Trail

No. 4

In which states can you find the Great Smoky Mountains National Park?

- A.** Tennessee and North Carolina
- B.** West Virginia and Kentucky
- C.** Indiana and Ohio
- D.** Virginia and North Carolina

No. 5

How many visitors has the Great Smoky Mountains National Park had since it was first established?

- A.** 250 million
- B.** 500 million
- C.** ½ billion
- D.** 1 billion

▶ **ANSWERS ON THE NEXT PAGE**

Quiz Answers:

No. 1

What year was the Great Smoky Mountains National Park established?

Answer: C. *This amazing park located in the Appalachian Mountain chain was established in 1934; however, it wasn't officially dedicated until 1940.*

No. 2

Which president officially dedicated the Great Smoky Mountains National Park?

Answer: B. *Franklin D. Roosevelt was the president who officially dedicated the park.*

No. 3

What famous thru-hike passes through the Great Smoky Mountains National Park?

Answer: D. *There are many famous hiking trails throughout the U.S., with the Appalachian Trail being one of the most popular.*

No. 4

In which states can you find the Great Smoky Mountains National Park?

Answer: A. *The Appalachian Mountains go through numerous states, including Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. The National Park, however, is found only in Tennessee and North Carolina.*

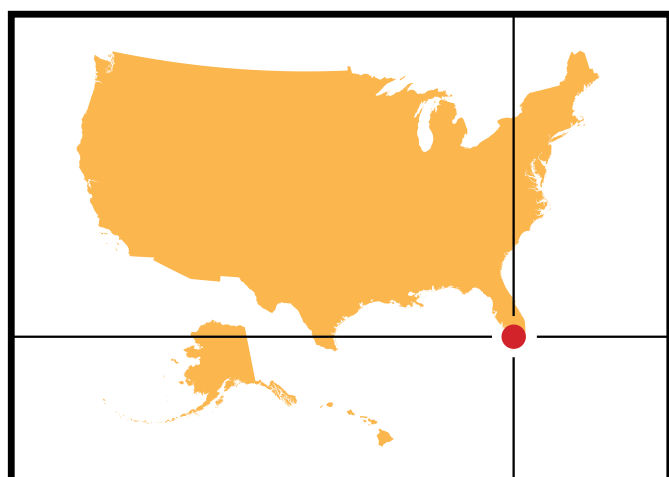
No. 5

How many visitors has the Great Smoky Mountains National Park had since it was first established?

Answer: C. *Since it was established in 1934, there have been more than 1/2 billion visitors to the park, making it the most visited National Park in the United States.*

American

VANTAGE POINTS OF AMERICAN BEAUTY



▶ SMOKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

▶ 35.6131° N, 83.5532° W

▶ TENNESSEE/NORTH CAROLINA

▶ WWW.NPS.GOV/GRSM

Vista



DRIVING INTO THE MAJESTIC BEAUTY OF THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS, you'll quickly discover why it's THE most visited National Park in the U.S. Once in the park, you'll find yourself surrounded by stunning natural beauty within the Appalachian Mountains with over 800 square miles of mountains, old-growth forests, diverse wildlife, rushing streams, and an abundance of wildflowers. It's enough to take your breath away.

Because it's a jungle out there.



Florida's Lower Keys are home to two wildlife refuges, epic ocean views, miles of unspoiled wilderness and an array of outdoor accommodations ranging from rustic campsites to lavish RV parks. From Big Pine to Stock Island, you'll never run out of extraordinary places to step off the treadmill and watch the world go by.

fla-keys.com/lowerkeys 1.800.872.3722





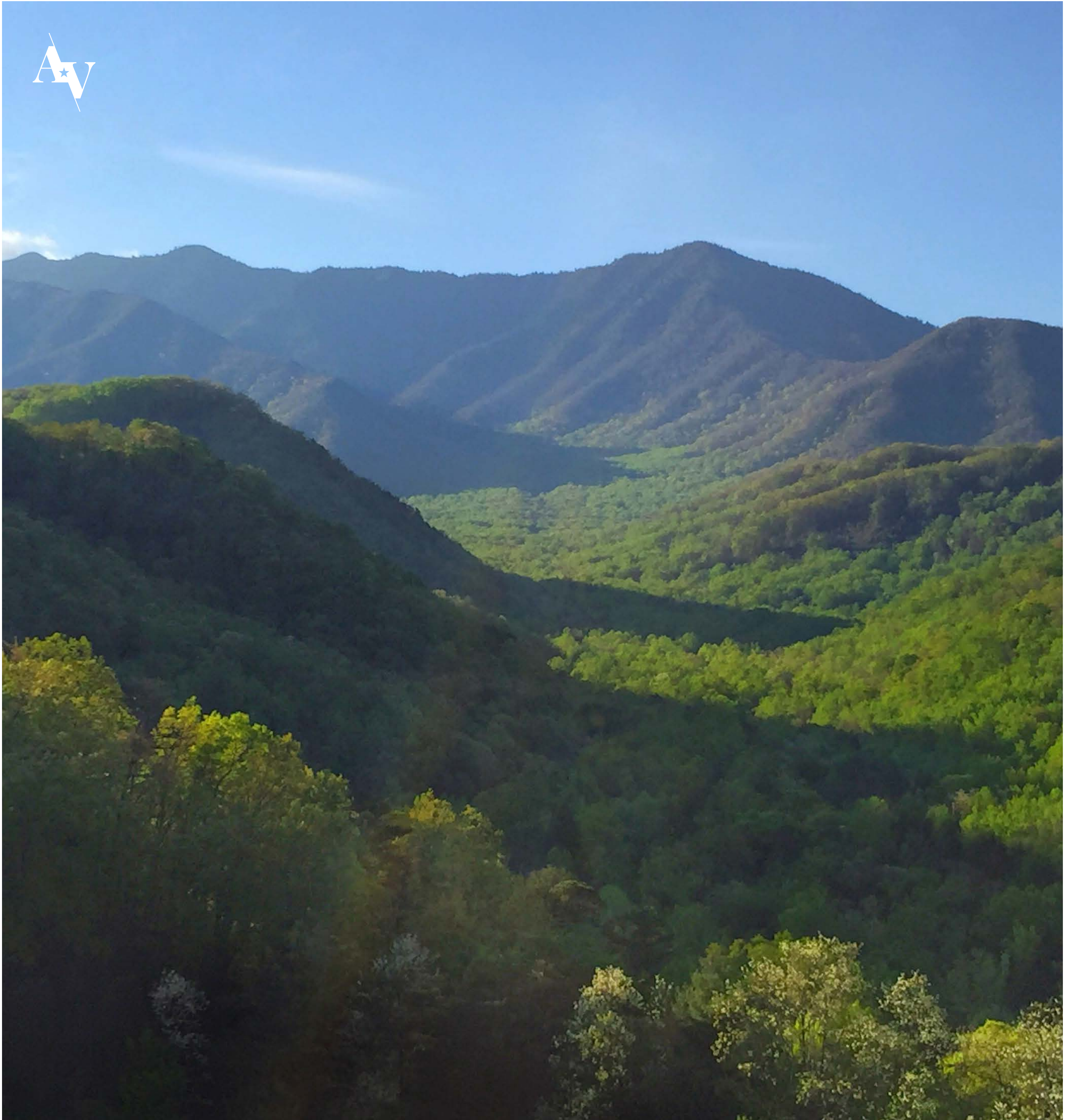
Catawba Rhododendron, a small, native shrub, can be spotted throughout the region, especially along the Blue Ridge Parkway. It is noted for its vibrant pink and purple blooms in late spring through early summer. The plant thrives in the higher elevations of the Appalachian Mountains, where it plays a vital role in the ecosystem. The blooming season for the Catawba Rhododendron is a highlight for many visitors.





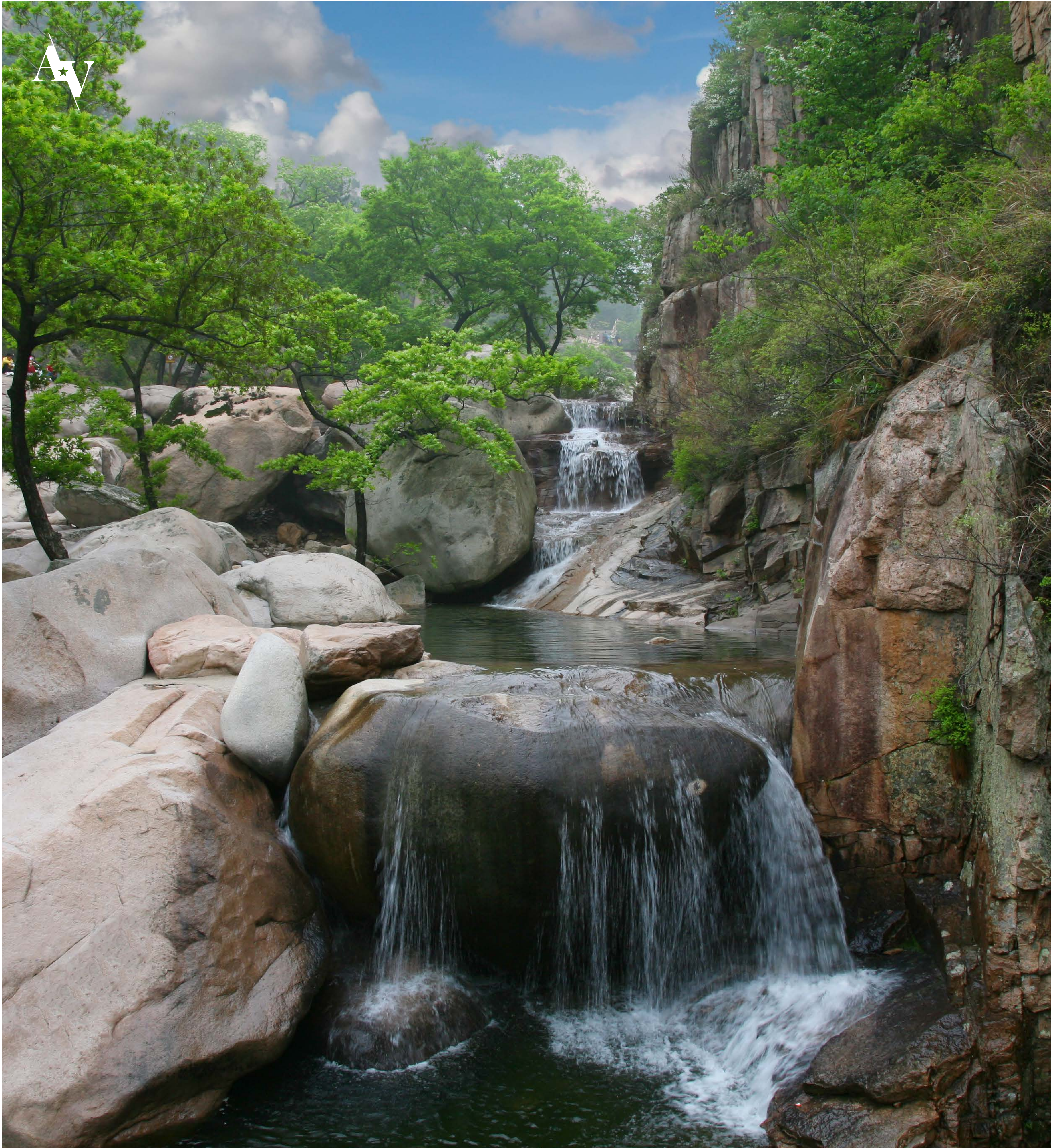
One of the many streams and rivers that winds through the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Abrams Creek flows out of Cades Cove. These waterways are known for their pristine beauty, with clear, cool waters rushing over boulders and surrounded by dense forests and vibrant wildflowers. The serene setting is a perfect place to recharge and find tranquility.





Within the Great Smoky Mountains, you can find hills and valleys filled with astonishing diversity. The park is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an International Biosphere Reserve, as it hosts over 19,000 documented species. Scientists suggest this is just the tip of the iceberg and that tens of thousands are yet to be discovered. Whether your interests are outdoor adventures, exploring cultural and historical sites, or enjoying stunning landscapes, these mountains offer a wealth of options for everyone.





Waterfalls are major attractions throughout the park, including near Cades Cove, Gatlinburg, and Pigeon Forge. Be prepared for a series of hikes through beautiful, serene environments and awe-inspiring views once you arrive. Some of the most popular falls include Abrams, Laurel, Grotto, Rainbow, Ramsey, and Mingo. Each waterfall has its own charm, making them all must-see destinations for serious nature lovers.



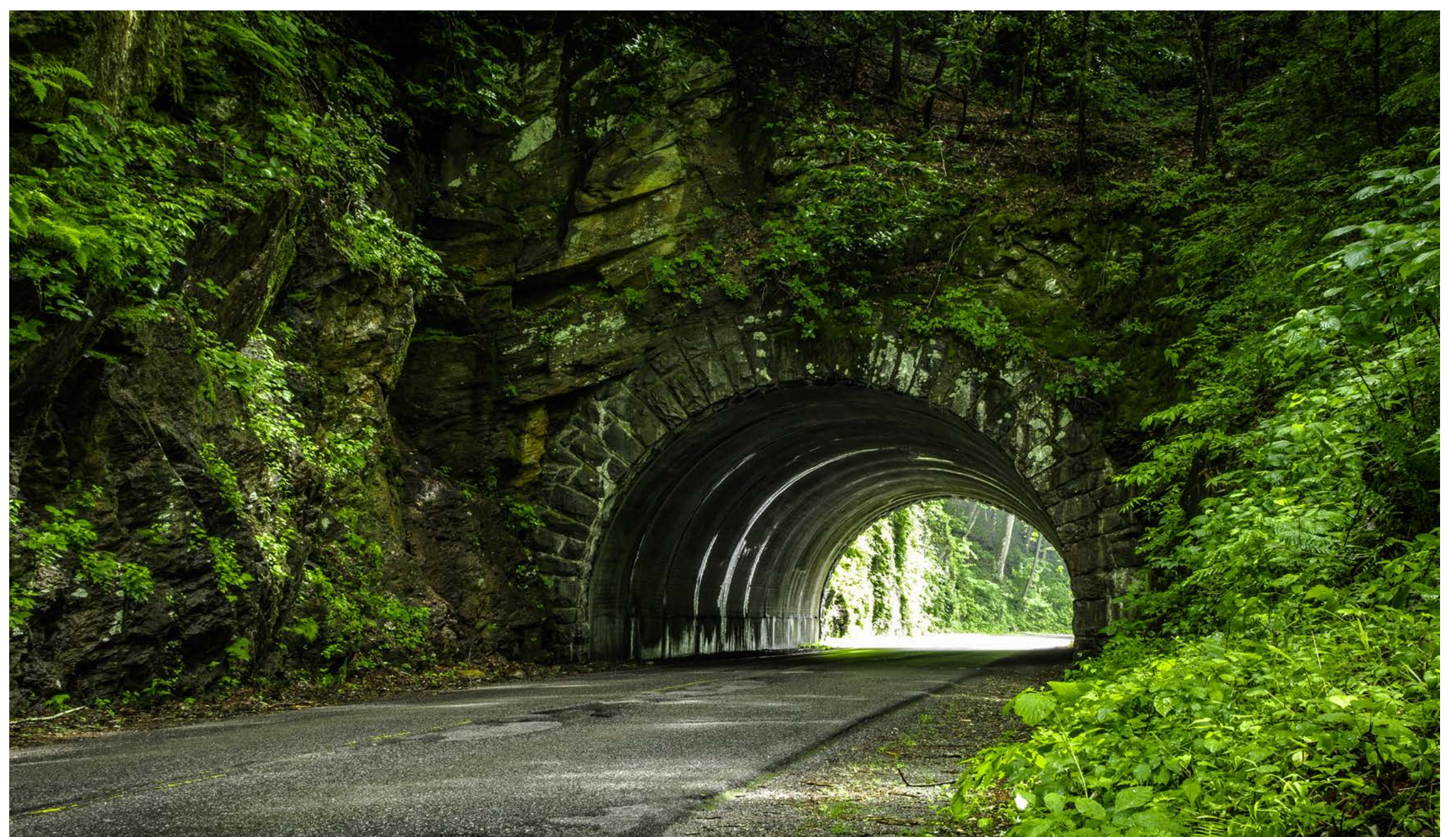


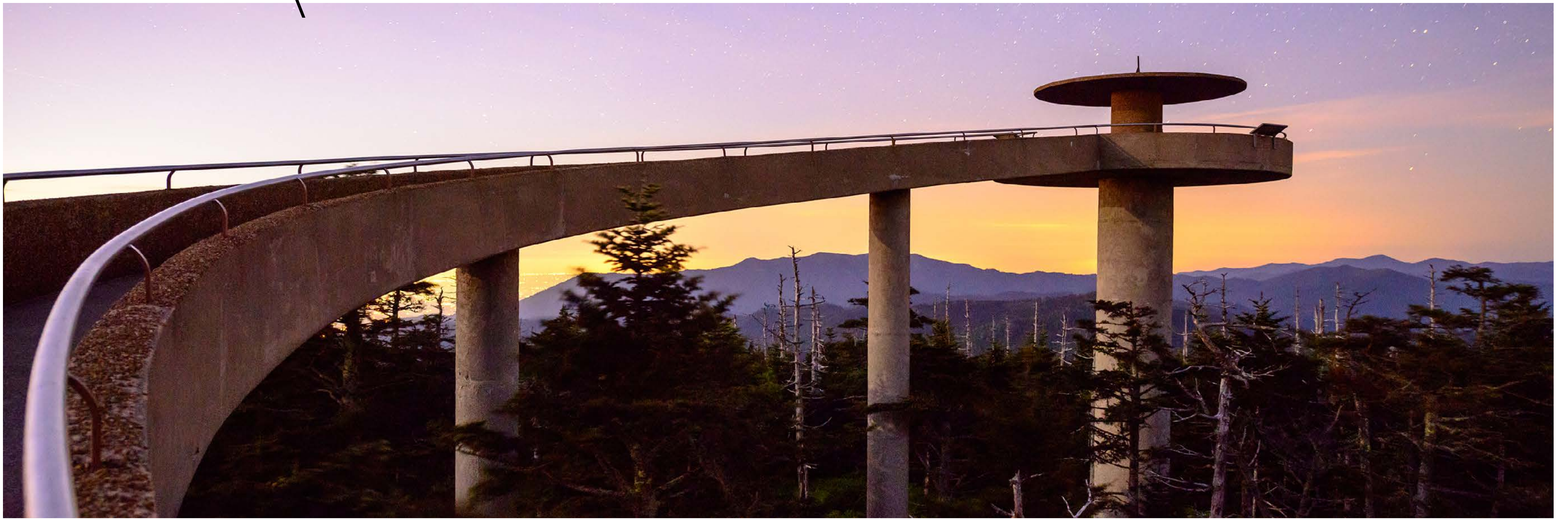
Navigating Through the Great Smoky Mountains

To drink in all the Great Smoky Mountains have to offer, you'll want to choose RV-friendly roads that provide stops with ample parking. One popular gateway into the park is Gatlinburg. You can stock up and perhaps set up a basecamp before continuing your exploration.

A short drive away is the Sugarland Visitor Center, which exhibits wildlife, geology, and some of the park's history. Plus, rangers are available to provide information and resources for current conditions and suggested hikes.

If you drive through the heart of the park on Newfound Gap Road, you'll be rewarded with stunning views and access to miles of trails and impressive overlooks. Before heading out, check for vehicle restrictions to ensure your rig won't run into problems. Once you reach Newfound Gap, you'll find more spectacular views and cross the state line between Tennessee and North Carolina.





One popular destination is Clingmans Dome, the highest point in the park. However, you'll want to check road conditions and access. It's open only seasonally, and parking often exceeds capacity. So, if you don't want to miss it, arrive early or visit during off-peak times.



Next, take some time to visit Cherokee, NC, which offers a rich cultural experience with museums and the Oconaluftee Indian Village. If you have a smaller RV or a separate vehicle for exploration, a drive on Blue Ridge Parkway offers even more breathtaking views, hiking trails, and places to picnic.



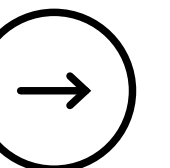
You can then make your way back to Gatlinburg or further explore the area to hike, fish, or enjoy the scenic drives.

Road Abode

IMPROVING LIFE ON THE GO



*INSIDE: Learn the basics
on Eco-Friendly RVing*



OTHERWORLDLY NOISE REDUCTION

THE ONAN QG 4000i ARRIVING THIS SPRING

Advanced, ultra-quiet RV generator technology will be landing soon.



Learn more at cummins.com/generators/onan-qg-4000i



ECO-FRIENDLY

RVing

HOW TO MINIMIZE YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT AS YOU TRANSITION INTO SPRING

One

of our favorite things about traveling by RV is the ability to visit pristine natural environments. We can travel deep into parks and get up close and personal with nature just by opening the door. (Makes you want to take a deep breath, doesn't it?)

Minimizing your environmental footprint, especially as the days begin to warm and delicate blooms come alive,

helps protect unspoiled places for wildlife and future visitors. It also protects scarce resources, which is especially important in drought-prone regions and remote locations. Most importantly, it helps reduce pollution and keeps the air and water clean for healthier people and a healthier planet. (It doesn't hurt that it can cut costs as well.)

In essence, minimizing your environmental impact allows you and future generations to enjoy the beauty and freedom of the great outdoors for years to come.

There are, of course, many ways to make your next trip a bit more eco-friendly. Here are a few of our top tips as we spring into summer.

WATER-SAVINGS INNOVATION

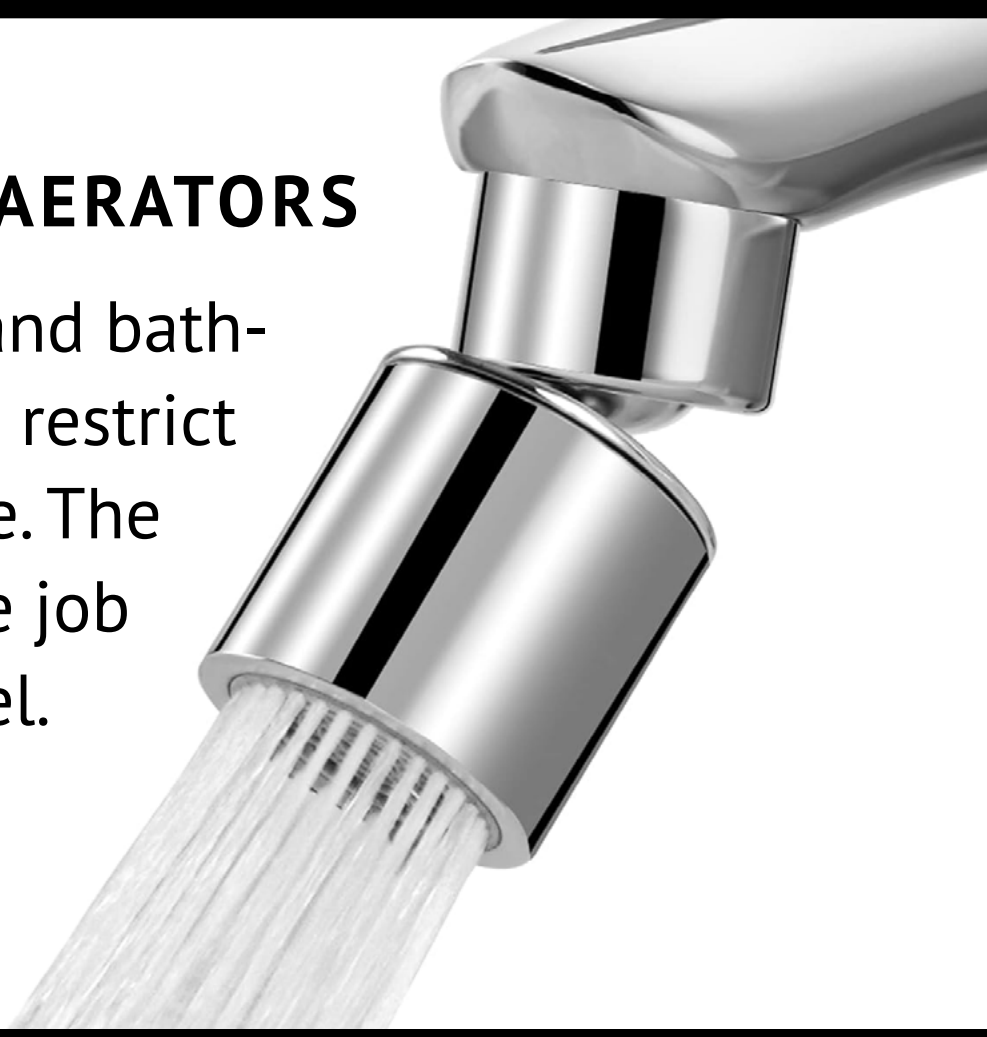
As temperatures rise, water conservation becomes more critical. Being mindful of the water you use pays huge dividends in your comfort and sustainability on the road. Here are some products that can help.



PROMOTE PRESSURE WITH AERATORS

Adding aerators to the kitchen and bathroom sinks is one simple way to restrict water without reducing pressure. The Hibbert Faucet Aerator does the job well and has a convenient swivel.

Buy at Amazon.com



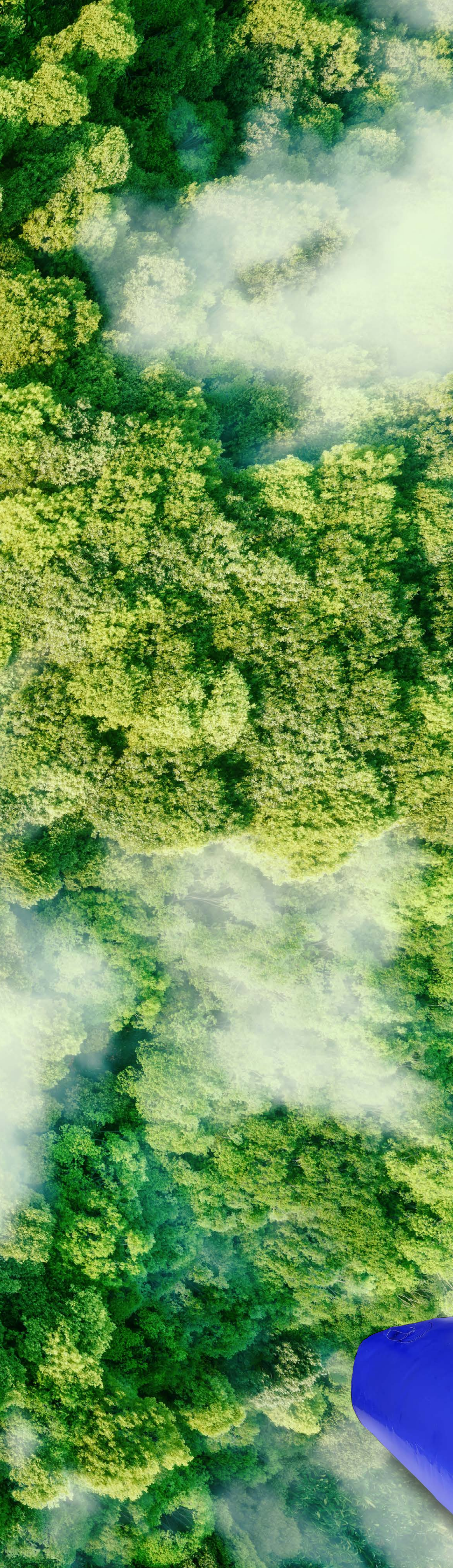
LOW-FLOW SHOWERHEAD

Showerheads are one of the easiest things to change in an RV. Plus, many of the ones that come with standard RVs can be unimpressive to begin with. When replacing your showerhead, especially if you travel to areas where water is harder to come by (hello, breathtaking desert landscapes) or when boondocking, you'll want one that's particularly water savvy.

Look for a showerhead with a pause or stop function to block the flow as you lather up. One popular choice is the Delta Faucet Single-Spray Shower Head. This inexpensive option provides a pretty satisfying shower (using less than a gallon of water).

Buy at Amazon.com





FINETUNE FLUSHING

Toilets are a necessity, but they don't have to use much (or sometimes any) water. For instance, you can install a dual-flush toilet system that allows a low-volume flush for liquids and a standard flush for solids. This can drastically reduce water waste.

Composting toilets separate liquid and solid waste, so the liquids can evaporate and the solids can be composted. Not only does this reduce water, but it can eliminate the need for a black water tank.

Concerned about the smells? We don't blame you! Fortunately, there have been vast improvements in recent years, and composting toilets can be virtually odor-free and easy to use. Check out the Self-Contained Composting Toilet from Nature's Head for one top option.



Buy at Amazon.com



COLLECT IT

Carrying a full load of water for extended boondocking or living off-grid can add a lot of weight to your rig. Depending on your destination, you may be able to collect either greywater (from your sink or shower) or rainwater for non-potable purposes (e.g., flushing toilets or watering plants or gardens). Supplementing your water supply is a great way to reduce your environmental impact. Just remember to filter and purify any rainwater collected if you plan to drink or cook with it.

You can find storage containers for water that are portable, so when you're ready to move on to your next location, you can simply use the water, collapse the tank, pack it up, and take off.

Buy at Amazon.com



OTHER SIMPLE (AND OFTEN FREE) WAYS TO MINIMIZE YOUR FOOTPRINT

TRAVEL LIGHT: One easy way to power down is by lightening the load. It can improve fuel efficiency and significantly reduce carbon emissions.

TRAVEL SLOW: Spending more time in fewer places allows you to explore them more deeply, so you can really appreciate the adventure and the experience each unique location has to offer. It also means you're spending less time on the road, which reduces your overall environmental impact.

AC OFF: The transition seasons are the perfect time to open the windows or turn on fans to circulate air rather than using power-hungry air conditioning units.

REUSE: Staying hydrated as the weather warms is vital. Yet single-use plastic bottles are expensive and wasteful. Instead, carry a reusable water bottle and refill it throughout the day. While you're at it, bring your own snacks and drinks in reusable containers. This not only avoids disposable packaging but makes it easier to keep your RV organized.

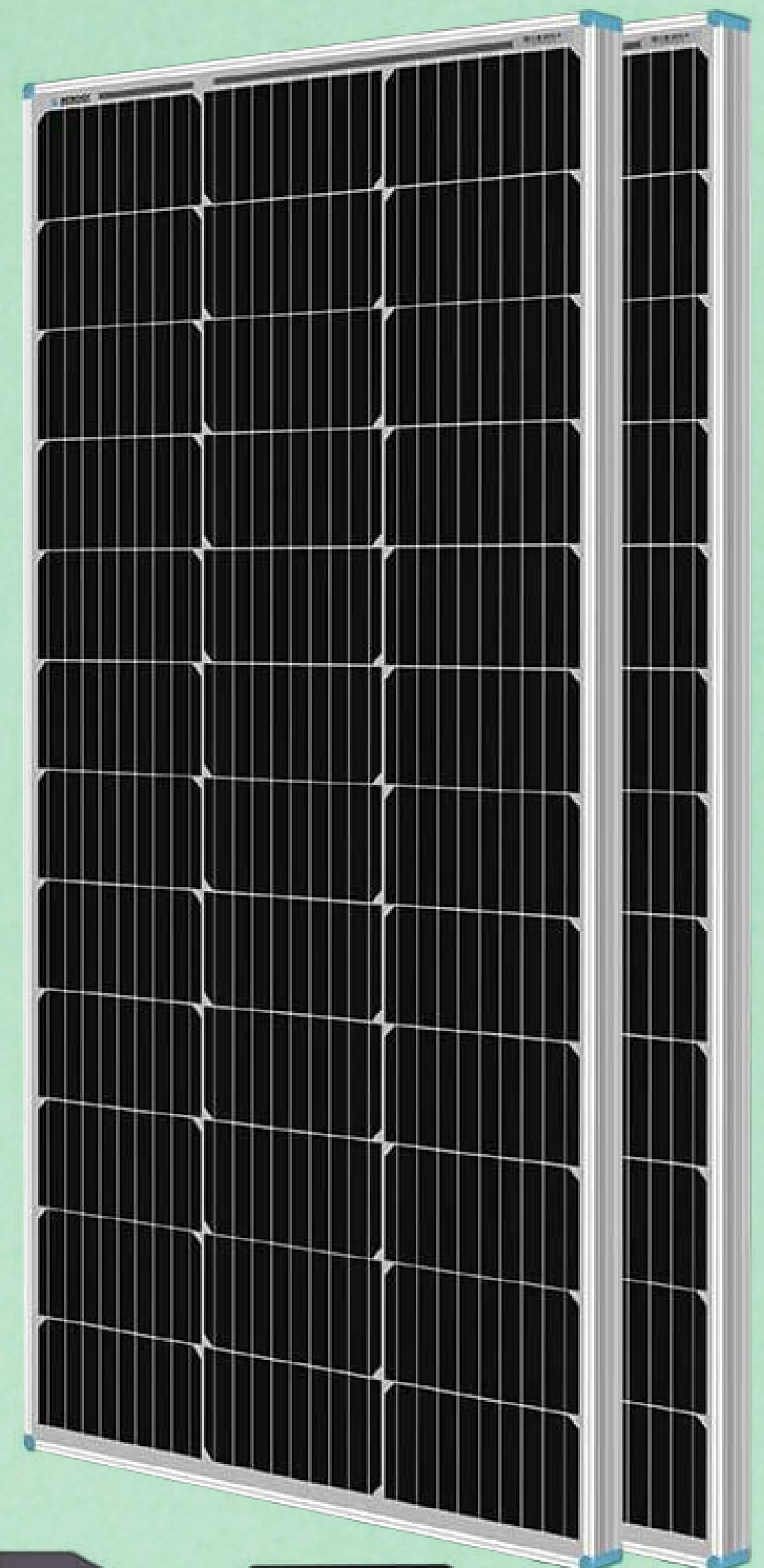


PACK IT OUT: Whether at your campsite, a rest area, or on the road, keep a trash bag handy to dispose of waste properly.

SOLAR POWER: With longer daylight hours, solar power makes more sense. Solar panels allow greater freedom as you aren't tethered to electric hookups. They can charge your devices, keep the lights on, run small appliances, and even warm your water for a quick shower.

If you're more adventurous, solar energy can even provide enough power to keep you comfortable when you're off-grid for extended periods. Plus, a full setup like this one from Renology can be surprisingly affordable.

Buy at Amazon



Cost to Coast

CREATING A
REALISTIC
FULL-TIME
RV BUDGET



Most of us are looking for some good ways to save a little dough, no matter the economic conditions. And when times get tighter or costs increase faster than expected, the wallet can really feel restrictive.

If you're living in your RV full-time to

minimize your impact and save up for the future, you're probably well aware of your budget constraints. But even if your bank account is quite healthy, thank you, it's still a good idea to have a budget and know what's going out regularly to prepare for a financially stable future.

Why Budget?

There are numerous reasons it's important to set up a budget when RVing. For one, it's important to live within your means. Many RVers embrace this lifestyle for its simplicity and the freedom it offers compared to our nearly impossible to satisfy, consumer-driven society.

A budget can allow you to travel more or longer, extending your adventures without straining your wallet. It can also help reduce fuel costs, one of the biggest expenses of living in your RV. Even if you have a brand-new RV, occasional maintenance and unexpected repairs are inevitable. You don't want such issues to become roadblocks.

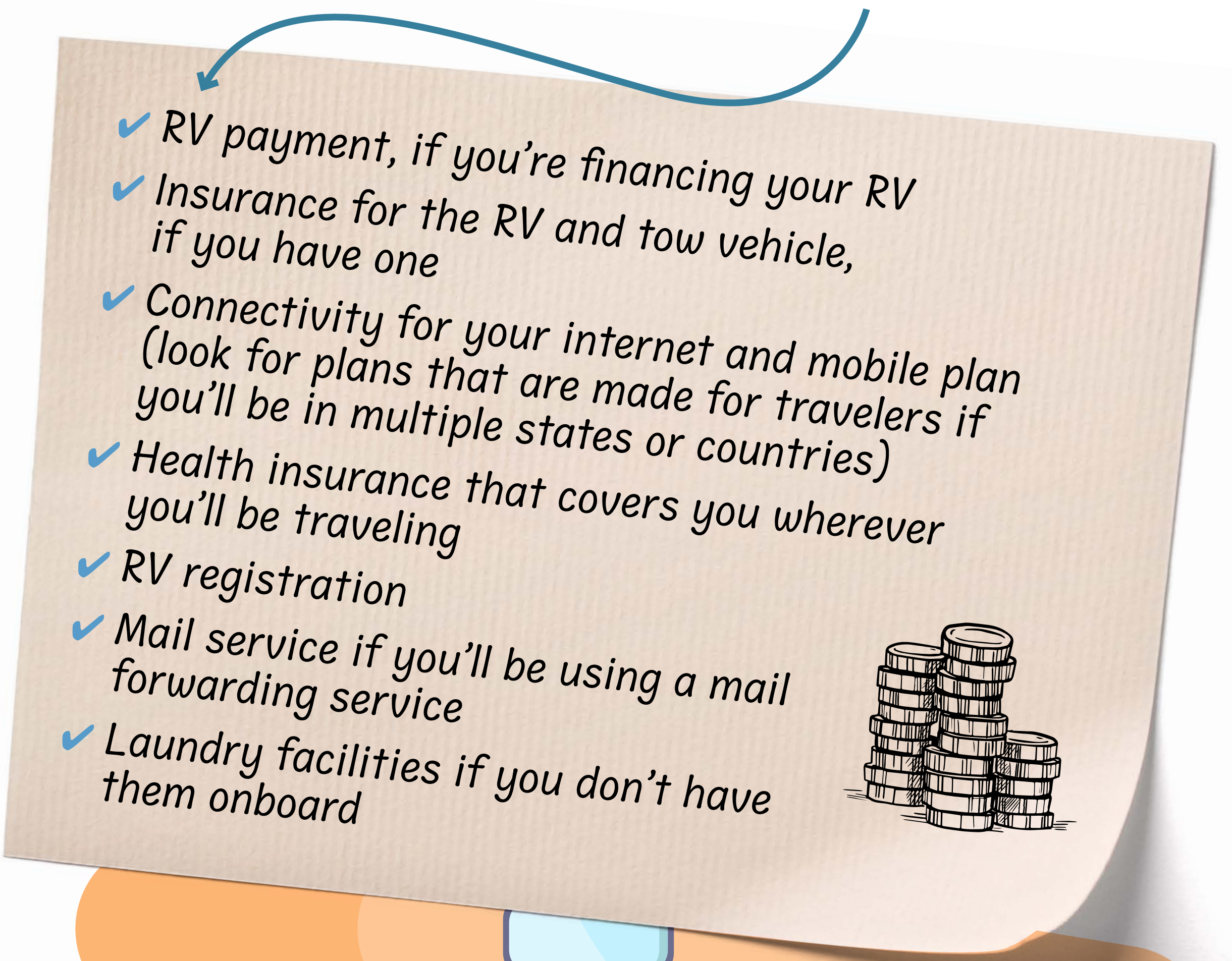
“MANY RVERS EMBRACE THIS LIFESTYLE FOR ITS SIMPLICITY AND THE FREEDOM IT OFFERS”

Finally, having a budget allows for greater flexibility if and when you come across unplanned opportunities.

For instance, perhaps you want to experience a local festival, find a hidden gem a few miles off your chosen route, or love an area so much you want to spend some extra time exploring. A budget can allow you to embrace those experiences without financial worry.

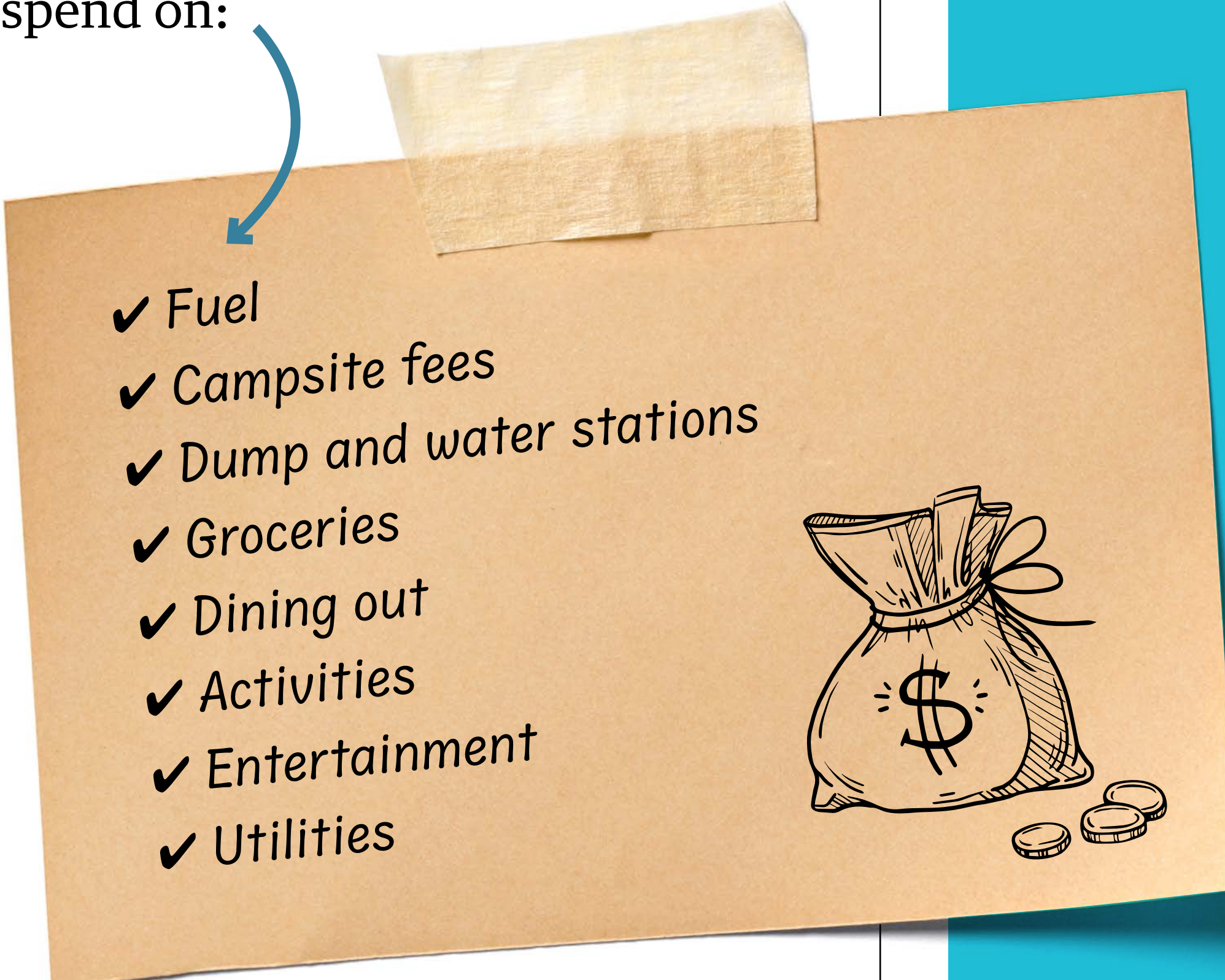

How to Set Up Your RV Budget

Setting up your RV budget is much like setting up a home and car budget at the same time. If you've done either in the past, many of the categories should seem familiar. Start by putting together your fixed expenses, such as:

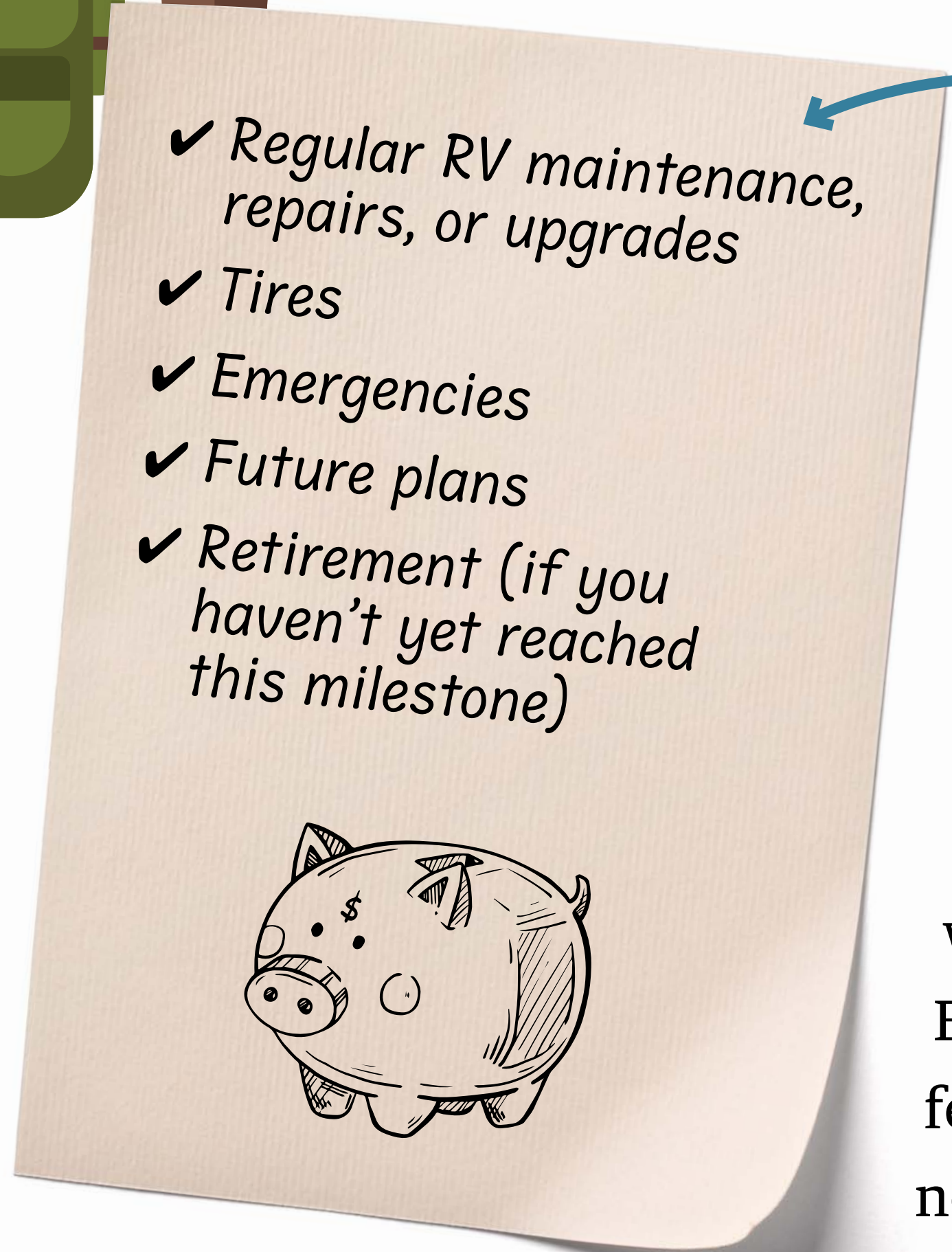



Next, consider your variable expenses, which can change depending on your RV, travel style, destinations, and personal habits.

For instance, you'll need to have a good grasp of how much you'll spend on:

- 
- ✓ Fuel
 - ✓ Campsite fees
 - ✓ Dump and water stations
 - ✓ Groceries
 - ✓ Dining out
 - ✓ Activities
 - ✓ Entertainment
 - ✓ Utilities
- 

Saving is also important as unexpected expenses are inevitable. Budget for:

- 
- ✓ Regular RV maintenance, repairs, or upgrades
 - ✓ Tires
 - ✓ Emergencies
 - ✓ Future plans
 - ✓ Retirement (if you haven't yet reached this milestone)
- 

Once you've created your budget, you'll want to compare your current living expenses to the budget and adjust as needed. The first budget or spending plan you make will serve as a baseline. Especially over the first few months, you'll likely need to tweak it as you better understand the true costs of living on the road.

“
 YOU'LL
 LIKELY NEED
 TO TWEAK
 IT AS YOU
 UNDERSTAND
 THE TRUE
 COSTS OF
 LIVING ON
 THE ROAD
 ”

Some costs may decrease over time. Others will increase. So, tracking your budget meticulously (daily, weekly, or monthly, depending on your financial habits and goals) can help you stay on track or adjust as needed.

How to Save Even More with Your RV Budget

You can often dial back on your spending without depriving yourself of experiences and fun. For example, planning your route and stops can minimize unnecessary driving, saving greatly on fuel costs. You may be able to find more efficient routes or low-cost or even free camping sites, especially if you are boondocking in more natural settings.

Luxury RV camping sites can cost upwards of \$100 each night, which can add up quickly. For more affordable options, explore national forests, BLM lands, or even some parking lots when you need to overnight in a city. Use a website or app like freecampsites.net to find options from other RVers.

You can save on your campsite fees if you can do without a full or partial hookup. The less expensive campsites, however, likely will not have luxury amenities like larger sites, pools, onsite restaurants, or entertainment.

Another way to save is by signing up with Good Sam. Memberships start at \$39 per year, and they offer 10% discounts on campgrounds throughout the U.S. They also come with other attractive benefits for



RVers, such as fuel savings, free dump station privileges, retail discounts, and more.

Fuel can be one of the biggest expenses when living full-time in an RV. You may be able to improve fuel efficiency, and thus fuel costs, by driving at consistent, moderate speeds. Decreasing your load by pairing down to only the necessities can also cut fuel costs. Ensuring your RV is well-maintained is another way to conserve fuel.



“YOU MAY BE ABLE TO IMPROVE FUEL EFFICIENCY, AND THUS FUEL COSTS, BY DRIVING AT CONSISTENT, MODERATE SPEEDS”

Staying in one place for longer can not only save fuel, but many campgrounds have discounted rates for longer stays, such as weekly or monthly. You can also often save greatly by traveling off-season. As a bonus, you'll likely find popular destinations have smaller crowds if you prefer more peaceful settings.

While it's certainly enjoyable to eat out from time to time, it's also a way to quickly burn through your budget. Most RVs have a place to prepare and cook meals. Planning your meals and snacks ahead of time, cooking recipes that require just a few ingredients, and shopping locally and seasonally are great ways to better manage your food budget.

In addition, choosing versatile ingredients that can be used in multiple recipes can help save space and costs. For instance, one rotisserie chicken can be used to make salads, soups, sandwiches, or a casserole. This can also help reduce food waste while keeping your dietary choices interesting and satisfying.

Dried and canned goods can be cost-effective and take up minimal space. Plus, they're versatile enough to make a surprising assortment of meals. When choosing snacks, look for more filling and nutritious ones, like nuts, seeds, and granola, which are more cost-effective, healthier, and easier to store than processed snack options.

A good filtration system in

your RV can also ensure you have plenty of good quality drinking water and won't need to buy bottled water. This is both more cost-effective and environmentally friendly for people on the road.

The cost of RV living varies significantly based on the type of RV, your travel style, how often you move around, and more. Some people can live very comfortably on a minimal budget. Others want to have extra cash to enjoy luxuries and experiences. The key to living full-time on your RV budget is knowing your lifestyle and goals and ensuring your budget is in alignment. ❤️

Maximize Adventure, Minimize Costs: Affordable RV Tires for Every Explorer!





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Toyo M144 or **M154**
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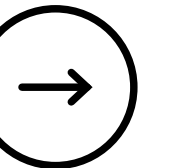
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INSIDE: The best backups camera to keep you between the lines



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START YOUR TG JOURNEY TODAY.

Looking Back



RV & TOWING DIY REARVIEW OR BACKUP CAMERA

“Keep your eyes on a swivel.” That’s good advice for any driver. Especially when careening down the highway at over 70 miles per hour, you want to make sure you and the other drivers sharing that road are safe and sound.

But if you’re in an RV, it’s not always easy to see every direction—especially behind you. Your rearview mirror may only have access to the cabin behind you. Side mirrors, while vital, can only show so much. Enter the rearview or backup camera.

The benefits of a more expansive view

Rearview cameras can significantly enhance safety and convenience when you’re driving or pulling an RV. One of the biggest benefits is the upgraded visibility. Due to their size, RVs naturally have larger blind spots than typical vehicles. Rearview and side cameras can provide real-time visual assistance so drivers can see areas that are out of sight with standard mirrors. This increased view makes changing lanes, making turns, and navigating tight spaces significantly safer.

For instance, if you are unable to see pedestrians, cyclists, or other vehicles traveling in the RV’s blind spots, you may inadvertently pull out in front of someone. Cameras can be particularly beneficial when backing up or changing lanes.

With a larger vehicle, maneuvering can also be a challenge, especially if you aren't yet an experienced RVer. Yet RVs often have to move through tighter spaces like campgrounds, parking lots, and even narrow streets through urban landscapes. The camera can provide a live feed to help the driver better judge distances and avoid obstacles. This makes moving through these spaces easier and far less stressful. Phew.

Another invaluable benefit of these types of cameras is that they help monitor the towing setup for people who are towing a trailer or fifth wheel. You can keep an eye on your rig to ensure everything is secure even as you travel down the road. What's more, they can also provide a clear view of the hitch and surrounding areas, which can assist when you're hitching or unhitching from your tow vehicle.

In addition, cameras offer security. Cameras aren't just for when you're moving down the road. Drivers can monitor the surroundings of their RVs when parked, which can be reassuring if you're parking in a new or isolated location. In other words, rearview cameras don't just provide confidence when you're driving, they can also help

reduce your stress when you're parked. No matter where you are, you'll have a better view around you.

Choosing a review camera system

As RVs continue to become more and more popular, camera technology is improving. And it's becoming a standard and expected piece of equipment on new models. If your RV doesn't have a camera system, or if the one you have doesn't provide full visibility, you can add it.

The Brandmotion System is a popular option that provides enhanced visibility and safety through advanced technology



and convenient design elements. The system offers wireless technology, DVR capabilities, and can upgrade to a touchscreen mirror monitor for a wide range of vehicle types and uses. Some of the most attractive benefits of this system include:

- Enhanced monitoring and safety with the AHDS-7810V2 Wireless Observation System.

This setup is designed to remove blind spots. It also includes an adapter for easy integration with pre-wired trailers and can support up to 210 hours of DVR recordings, making it one of the top solutions to monitor your vehicle's surroundings.

- Wireless convenience and clarity due to the wireless backup camera system, featuring a seven-inch HD monitor that provides a clear, stable wireless connection. This connection offers near-zero lag between actual movement and the image displayed. Plus, it's expandable to up to four cameras, ensuring broad coverage around the vehicle. This backup camera is also highly durable.
- FullVUE Mirror upgrade, enhancing your vehicle's rearview to a live, high-definition video screen with a crisp, clear 170-degree view behind your RV. The seamless, universal fit means the

system isn't vehicle-specific, so it works on a wide range of RVs. You can even use the system to take pictures and record videos as you drive, which is not only convenient but can increase your safety. The full touchscreen allows for easy adjustments, and the anti-glare tempered glass ensures you can see under various lighting conditions.



How to install a backup camera system

For many DIY enthusiasts, with the right tools, a little knowledge, and some patience, it's something you can install yourself.

Installing the Brandmotion AHDS-7810 system involves mounting the monitor and camera and then connecting them to a power supply. The monitor can be mounted using a suction cup placed on the dash or windshield.

YOU CAN EVEN USE THE SYSTEM TO TAKE PICTURES AND RECORD VIDEOS AS YOU DRIVE



For the cameras, you'll want to carefully select the locations to maximize visibility and minimize blind spots. You will need to connect to power with either a direct wire to an accessory power circuit or a 12v power point in the RV.

The cameras will need to be mounted in stable locations that provide a clear field of view, connected to a 12V power source, and grounded. Finally, the system is completed when the camera and monitor are paired for seamless observation.

For a more detailed installation guide, including the needed tools and step-by-step instructions, refer to the user manual provided when purchasing the Brandmotion system.

Maintaining your backup camera

Once your camera is installed, paired, and running, you'll want to create a regular maintenance schedule to ensure it remains in good working order. For instance, you'll need to keep the camera lens clean and check for wear and tear with any connections.

Ongoing maintenance is vital for any system to function effectively. And that includes the backup camera to ensure



it provides the safety and convenience it was designed to deliver.

Enhanced safety, convenience, and security

Adding or upgrading your rearview or backup camera with the Brandmotion System represents a top-tier option due to its wireless technology, DVR capabilities, and expansive visibility. Together, this leads to a safer, more enjoyable RV experience, making every journey smoother and worry-free. ❤️



**ECCO BASIC
INFRARED
BACKUP
CAMERA**

EDGE OF THE MAP

FROM THE HIGHWAY TO THE CAMPGROUND



*INSIDE: Most important thing—
keeping a roof over your head* →



Raising the Roof

RVing raises the roof on your adventures. It takes you into nature and provides an entirely new outlook on what it means to see the world around you. Yet it still provides all (or at least most) of the comforts of home—especially a roof over your

head. Keeping that roof in good repair is vital to your comfort and safety wherever your travels take you. That's why RV roof repair is so important: it prevents costly water leaks, damage, or bringing the roof over your head down.

Fortunately, with a little forethought, you can protect your roof's integrity and continue enjoying your adventure. With the right materials, you may even end up with a better roof.





RV Roof Repair: What to Watch For

Look up. Do you see any changes in the coloring? Are there cracks? Wrinkles? How does the caulk look?

If you want to avoid having to raise a new roof, you'll need to catch potential roof issues before they become problems. Regular inspections (such as before and after trips or at the start of each new season) can help you catch problems early.

A healthy roof looks smooth and flat with no cracks or tears in the roofing material. If you have an EPDM (ethylene propylene diene monomer) rubber roof, you want it to remain white. The roof material itself has a black underlayment and is covered in white. If the white wears away due to UV exposure or time, the black can start to show through. This is a clear sign that you need to invest in RV roof repair or possibly replacement.

Other common RV roofing materials include TPO (thermoplastic polyolefin) and vinyl. Watch out for any wrinkles, as they can indicate water has seeped into your roof. If the cotton backing gets wet, it can hold in the water, which can then cause the wood to rot. Some wrinkles are common in both these types of roofs. However, they are typically in a straight line along the plywood.

Fiberglass is another

material often used in RV construction. When inspecting your RV, watch for white streaks and small spider cracks. Fiberglass is covered with a protective gel coat. As this material deteriorates, the fiberglass is exposed and can start to streak and crack.

To ensure the long-term health of your RV, you'll also need to watch for holes or tears in the rubber. This layer is important for protecting your roof and maintaining the integrity of your home on the road.

The biggest offender that leads to potentially costly RV roof repairs is old or damaged caulking (or a subpar caulking job to begin with). So, job #1 is to inspect the caulk on the roof (and anywhere else) and ensure there are no cracks and it isn't becoming discolored. Once the caulk dries out and cracks, a leak becomes inevitable.

THE BIGGEST OFFENDER THAT LEADS TO POTENTIALLY COSTLY RV ROOF REPAIRS IS OLD OR DAMAGED CAULKING



Fortunately, self-leveling sealant (the most common one is made by Dicor, which is compatible with EPDM) is a fairly easy fix—as long as you catch it before damage is done. This product stays soft and supple and is easy to use.

Remember, regular inspection is your best way to find and address problems early before they result in costly repairs.



How Bad Is Your RV Roof Repair?

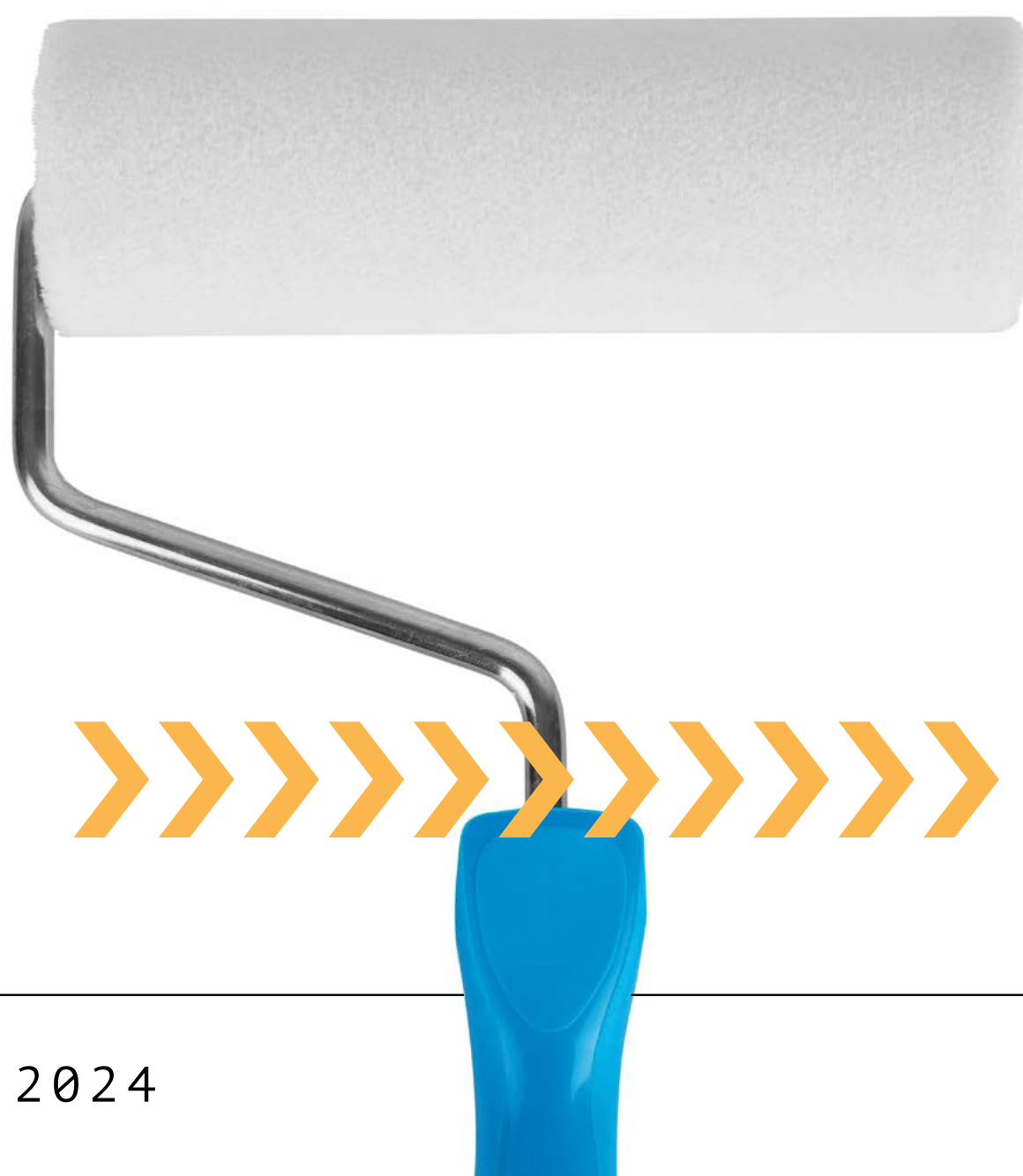
If you find cracks, wrinkles, or other telltale signs of wear after you've inspected your roof, you'll want to determine the extent of the damage. For instance, does the overall condition of the roof look good? But there's some wear in the caulking? If so, a rubber conditioner or silicon coating can be an effective fix to help prolong your roof's lifespan.

Unfortunately, if you are already seeing signs of water damage, you'll need to act quickly to prevent further damage and potentially need to replace rather than

repair your RV roof. Luckily, there are several options to consider when dealing with RV roof repair.

RV Roof Repair Products

For minor issues (especially if you are a do-it-yourselfer), a rolled-on silicon or rubber coating can safely preserve the existing material. Liquid Rubber, Hengs, and other rolled-on



options can be found at your local RV store or online.

Before patching even small membrane holes, though, with products like EternaBond tape, make sure the wood underneath is dry.

Unfortunately, larger holes or soft spots could call for roof replacement rather than RV roof repair. You'll want to address the problem properly to prevent larger (and more costly) issues down the road.

When it comes to replacing the roof membrane, the common approach is swapping it with the same

type at any RV service center or dealership. This method may not fully correct all concerns, though. Another option is aftermarket installations, which are usually done more carefully than factory installs.

The biggest issue is that they can take time, which keeps you off the road. The costs can also add up, especially if you're far from your home base or RVing full-time.

That's why it's so important to regularly inspect your RV, including the roof.

A More Permanent Solution: Replacement

There's only so much you can do with regular maintenance. Eventually, you may need to find a more permanent fix. One of the simplest solutions is a sprayed-on RV roof.

Spray-on products like FlexArmor can address common RV roof issues. They're designed to remove caulking seams, provide greater durability, enhance



insulation, and protect your RV roof for years. FlexArmor RV roofs reportedly create a strong seal that lasts a lifetime. (In fact, FlexArmor guarantees no more leaks, no maintenance, and no worries.)

RV Roof Repair or Replacement Takeaways

Regularly inspecting and keeping your RV roof in good repair is vital to your comfort and safety. It prevents costly water leaks, damage, and prematurely detouring your travels as you wait for repairs.

Yet, with a little forethought and the right quality products, you can help protect your RV roof. You may even end up with a better roof that will protect you over miles and miles of adventures! ❤️



RVX

INSIDE: Closet space on an RV is limited. Discover the must-haves for RV living.



CAMPING, ADVENTURE, AND THE RV EXPERIENCE





DRESS FOR ADVENTURE

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR SPACE

WHEN IT COMES to packing and storing your clothing, RV closet space comes with unique challenges and considerations. Those start with space and weight limitations. In addition, if you'll be living in your RV for months or years, you'll need to pack for different seasons and weather conditions. You'll want to be prepared when it's steamy hot, mild, chilly, and downright cold.

“

*YOU'LL WANT TO
CHOOSE TIMELESS
ITEMS, FOCUSING
ON QUALITY OVER
QUANTITY.*

“





KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF A CAPSULE WARDROBE FOR YOUR **RV CLOSET**

Most capsule wardrobes include a limited number of essential items, often between 30 and 50. However, this doesn't include underwear or sleepwear. It also may not include workout or special occasion outfits. Pick clothing that coordinates well with a cohesive color palette and style, so you'll have multiple outfits to choose from, even with a smaller RV closet. If you aren't living in your RV year-round, you may be able to have separate wardrobes for each season. If you are a full-time RVer, aim for pieces you can wear year-round. Either way, you'll need different outfits that will work for changing weather conditions.

TIPS AND TRICKS TO KEEP YOU ORGANIZED

There's only so much storage available in an RV. And in addition to clothing, you will need to pack food, gear, and other essentials. You'll also want to ensure your clothing and other gear are distributed evenly (by weight) to avoid overloading any single axle.

A minimalist wardrobe that focuses on essentials (with maybe just a piece or two that's more

luxurious) fits into RV living well. For instance, a capsule wardrobe is specifically put together so every piece is versatile enough to fit into several different outfits. In general, you'll want to choose timeless items, focusing on quality over quantity. That said, while you may be limited to the amount of clothing that fits into your RV closet, that doesn't mean you have to give up your personal style and wear only basics.



BENEFITS OF A CAPSULE WARDROBE FOR YOUR **RV CLOSET**

The biggest benefit of a capsule wardrobe for your RV closet is that it saves space. Other benefits include:

Simplified decision making—

which reduces the time and stress of choosing what to wear each day.

Greater sustainability—

as there's less consumption and waste for a smaller wardrobe.

Money savings—

you won't need to buy as much clothing, especially if you choose high-quality items that can be worn season after season and year after year.

Style clarity—

you'll always wear the clothing you truly love, as that's all that's found in your RV closet.

CREATING YOUR FULL-TIME RV PACKING LIST

IF YOU HAVEN'T begun pairing down your wardrobe to fit into your RV, now is the time to start. Again, you'll want to focus on quality, durable, versatile, and comfortable pieces that can be layered and adapted to the climates and activities you'll be exposed to. Here's a quick checklist of essential items for your full-time RV packing list that provide warmth, practicality, and occasional outings:

01

4 to 6 long and short-sleeved T-shirts, choose either neutral or coordinated colors that work well with the rest of your wardrobe.

02

3 to 4 tank tops are a useful base layer when the weather cools or as a standalone top when it gets warmer.

03

3 to 6 sweatshirts, hoodies, or sweaters (depending on your personal style and temperature), which can be added over a T-shirt or tank on cooler evenings or as a mid-layer for cold days

04

2 to 3 pairs of jeans as they're so versatile and can be worn multiple times between washes

05

1 to 2 pairs of hiking or cargo pants if you enjoy getting outdoors.



THESE ARE JUST STARTING NUMBERS. YOU WILL WANT TO ADJUST BASED ON YOUR LIFESTYLE, LOCATION, AND SPACE LIMITATIONS.

06

2 to 3 pairs of leggings or joggers, so you have some clothing that's comfortable and easy to move in

07

2 to 4 pairs of shorts depending on the anticipated climate and the types of outdoor activities you enjoy

08

1 pair of waterproof boots for rainy or snowy weather and more rugged outdoor activities.

09

1 pair of sneakers for everyday wear and walks.

10

1 pair of sandals for warm weather and for showering if you'll be rinsing off outdoors or making use of campground facilities.



“
CHOOSE CLOTHING THAT
FEELS COMFORTABLE
AND THAT MAKES YOU
FEEL CONFIDENT
”

8

SPECIALTY ITEMS OF CLOTHING IN YOUR RV CLOSET



AS YOU PUT

your full-time

RV packing list together, consider items that serve more than one purpose—such as a dress that can be worn as a coverup or a shirt that pairs well with jeans, shorts, and leggings. What’s most important when it comes to an all-season RV closet is choosing clothing that can be layered to adapt to any changing weather or climate.

You also want to choose clothing that feels comfortable and that makes you feel confident. Choosing clothing that’s easy to launder and able to stand up to numerous washes is also a good idea, as you’ll wear each item more often than you might with a roomier closet.

Even with a minimalist wardrobe in your RV closet, you can look and feel confident and comfortable throughout the changing seasons.

YOU’LL NEED SPECIALTY CLOTHING IN YOUR RV CLOSET

- 01** A waterproof jacket that’s lightweight and easy to pack
- 02** An insulated jacket for colder weather
- 03** A vest as an extra layer to keep you warm
- 04** Gloves and scarves for added warmth and style
- 05** Swimwear for beach days,
- 06** campgrounds with pools, or hot tubs
- 07** Thermal underwear for a warm base layer
- 08** Hats, including a sun hat for sunny days and a warm beanie for when the temperatures drop



The BEAR Truth

SPOTTING THE ICONIC *URSUS AMERICANUS*

FEW ANIMALS CAPTURE the imagination of the Great Smoky Mountains like the American black bear, an iconic species that's found in forested regions. This animal holds significant value for wildlife enthusiasts, representing wilderness and untouched natural beauty.

WHERE TO GO

Black Bears are generally solitary animals, with the exceptions of mother bears with cubs or during the mating season. And, spotting a black bear is far from guaranteed. If you are one of the lucky ones, seeing one of these animals in the wild is a memorable experience. Bears tend to be found in the regions around Cades Cove and Cataloochee Valley, likely because of the abundant food sources found in these mixed forest settings. You're also more likely to see a bear if you're out hiking. Remember, to keep both visitors and bears safe, there are strict regulations in the Park. This includes keeping food and garbage stored in bear-proof containers.

If you do see a bear, keep at a safe distance of at least 50 yards. To safely observe bears, consider bringing your binoculars with you. Never approach a bear. And be aware of your surroundings so you don't accidentally get too close, especially if you are hiking or camping in more remote areas.

WHEN TO GO

You're most likely to see black bears in the early morning and late evening hours, especially during the spring and summer months when they're most active and foraging for food. You may also be able to spot bears in the fall as they prepare for their winter hibernation and are actively seeking food to build up fat reserves for the long winter's nap.



I Heart Conservation

The Smoky Mountains are home to a stable and healthy population of black bears. This is due to successful conservation efforts, including efforts to manage human-bear interactions and educating the public on proper food storage and disposal while in bear habitats.



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