

RV Living

RV Trader

www.rvtrader.com

OWNER'S GUIDE





RV ADVENTURE CHECKLIST

3



FUN TRAVEL GAMES

5



TOP TRAVEL DESTINATIONS

8



TRAVEL LIKE A LOCAL

11



TIPS FOR STAYING CONNECTED

14



IPHONE & IPAD APP ESSENTIALS

17

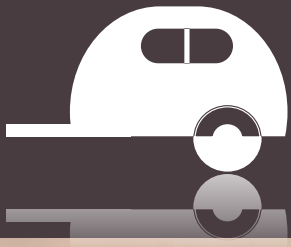


WAYS TO GO GREEN

20

RV Trader
www.rvtrader.com

OWNER'S GUIDE



GREAT RV ADVENTURE CHECKLIST



RV Trader
www.rvtrader.com

OWNER'S GUIDE



YOU CAN ADD TO OR MODIFY THIS CHECKLIST TO FIT YOUR SPECIFIC NEEDS

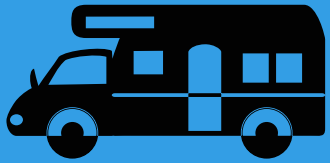
- Passport *(if necessary)*
- Appropriate outdoor clothing for the time of year and activity
- Hiking gear
- Binoculars
- Bicycles
- Fishing gear
- Hunting gear
- Flashlight/lantern
- Sneakers/walking shoes
- Digital camera
- Information on local historical sites
- Guidebooks/Maps for local areas
- Swimming gear
- Good first aid kit
- Portable power bank for charging devices
- Running gear
- Camping supplies (camp stove, tent sleeping bags, freeze dried food)
- Sunglasses
- Sun hat
- Sunscreen
- Whistle
- Daypack/backpack
- Bug spray
- Water bottle
- Extra batteries
- Handheld weather radio
- Handheld GPS
- Toiletries
- Phone & charger
- Music player & charger
- Wristwatch
- Walkie talkies (in case there is no cell signal)
- Fire starter/matches/lighter
- Water purification tablets
- Compass
- Knife
- Boating gear
- Canoe/kayak
- Rock climbing/rappelling equipment
- ATVs/motorcycles
- Scuba gear

[Read this Online](#) ▶

Author: Mark Polk, *RV Education 101*

Bio: Mark Polk owns RV Education 101.com, a North Carolina-based company that produces and sells educational videos, DVD's and e-book on how to use RV's. Mark has more than 30 years of experience in RV maintenance.

He retired from the U.S. Army in 1996 as a Chief Warrant Officer Three, specializing in wheeled and track vehicle fleet maintenance operations. He and his wife, Dawn, started RV Education 101 in 1999.



FUN TRAVEL GAMES FOR THE FAMILY



RV Trader
www.rvtrader.com

OWNER'S GUIDE

Here are some **ROAD-TESTED,**
WINNING GAMES
to keep everyone busy and happy while traveling!

20 QUESTIONS

This game begins with one player thinking of a person, animal, item, etc. The other players then take turns asking questions about what they think the item may be. They will use the answers they receive to collect hints about the item. After 20 questions have been asked, the questioners receive a final opportunity to guess the item. If any player guesses the item correctly, they win the game, but if no one can guess the item after 20 questions, the answerer wins.

ABC GAME

This popular road game can be played while driving with players searching billboards, vehicle tags, and road signs for words that begin with each letter of the alphabet (in order from A to Z). Once a word has been named, no other players can use the word. The first person to complete the entire alphabet wins the game.

ANIMAL GAME

One player must name an animal, such as “horse”. The next player must then think of an animal that begins with the last letter of the previous animal (“e”). The game continues with each player naming an animal that begins with the last letter of the previous animal. When a player cannot name an animal, they are eliminated. The game play continues until only one person is remaining.

BINGO

Before you head out on your big road trip, create “bingo cards” with 5 columns and 5 rows. Mark the center square as a “free space”. Then fill the rest of the squares with items you will see along the road, such as “Burger King”, “Hampton Inn” and “Stop Sign”. Each card should be different from the others. Each player must look for the items listed on their card during the trip. The first player to completely cover a row or column of 5 squares and call out, “Bingo” wins the game.



ROAD TRIVIA

To play Road Trivia, one player must choose a letter of the alphabet. The remaining players will then look along the roadside and at other vehicles to spot items that start with that letter. If someone named the letter “p”, players might name, “pine tree”, or “Prius.” The player with the most words wins.

STATES SEARCH

For this game, you will need a map of the United States. Locate your home state and leave it white. Color your state’s border states a new color. Color the states that border those states a different color. Keep coloring each layer of border states a different color until you have filled in the map. Look for license plates from the states and award points for each state. States closest to yours are worth the least points, and states farthest from you are worth the most points.

[Read Article Online](#) ▶

Author: *RV Trader*

RV Trader is the largest online classifieds site for RV buyers and sellers in the U.S. RV Trader is a division of Dominion Enterprises, a leading marketing services and publishing company serving the automotive, recreational and commercial vehicle, real estate, apartment rental, employment, parenting, and travel industries.

Headquartered in Norfolk, Virginia, with 3,300 employees in the United States, Canada, England, Spain and Italy, the company provides a comprehensive suite of technology-based marketing solutions, and more than 45 market leading websites. For more information, visit www.RVTrader.com.



TOP TRAVEL DESTINATIONS



RV Trader
www.rvtrader.com

OWNER'S GUIDE

TOP RV DESTINATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

BIG SUR, CA

Big Sur is one of the most beautiful places I've ever seen. The drive alone - 90 miles of mostly untouched California coast - is worth the trip. I highly recommend Kirk Creek Campground, about halfway between San Simeon and Carmel. Not ideal for larger rigs and there are no hookups, but it's located on a cliff overlooking the Pacific Ocean. To call it "a campsite with a view" would be an understatement. Don't miss the McWay Falls Trail - this short hike ends with the view of a waterfall cascading onto a secluded beach!



BANFF, ALBERTA

This idyllic mountain town is nestled among the Canadian Rockies and is within an hour of the stunning turquoise Lake Louise, multiple hot springs, hiking trails and world-class skiing in the winter. We stayed at Tunnel Mountain Campground, part of Banff National Park, which is surrounded by jagged peaks and just 10 minutes of downtown Banff.

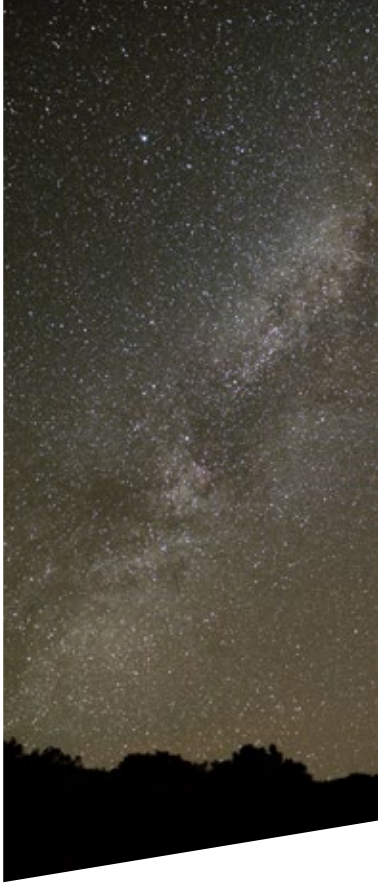
AUSTIN, TX

Austin is one of the most RV-friendly cities we've visited. From vintage trailers-turned-food trucks to Airstreams parked in every other driveway, Austin welcomes our kind in any form. There's tons to see and do in the area: hiking, swimming, live music, exploring the Hill Country and eating some of the best BBQ in Texas. And if you can finagle a spot at Pecan Grove RV Park (smack dab in the middle of Austin), you've got it made.



THE OREGON COAST

I couldn't pick just one spot - you have to see it all! The Oregon coast has all the charm of the sunnier California coast, but it's foggy shores and dramatic sea stacks gives the area a moodier, laid-back vibe. Quaint fishing towns line the coast - our favorite was Yachats, OR. And you never have to go far to find good food, craft beer and friendly folks.



BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK, TX

Although Big Bend is one of the most remote and least visited national parks, it's definitely the most underrated. Going a few hundred miles out of your way is every bit worth it when you see the sparse desert against dramatic mountain ranges and can soak in hot springs right next to the Rio Grande River. Camping in the middle of nowhere also guarantees some incredible stargazing.

NASHVILLE, TN

There is truly something for everyone in and around Nashville: culture, music, nature, history, and food. There are a handful of lakeside Corps of Engineers campgrounds (some of the best we've stayed at) that are close enough to explore downtown Nashville, but far enough that we could spend the day hiking at a nearby state park. And just two hours in every direction, there are amazing waterfalls, lakes and rivers, not to mention top-notch distillery and winery tours.



MOAB, UT

If you consider yourself an outdoor enthusiast, Moab is the place for you. Massive red rock formations paired with the mighty Colorado River provides an outdoor playground for white-water rafting, off-roading, rock-climbing, mountain biking and hiking. And with Arches and Canyonlands National Park just outside of town, there's plenty to see and do. Just try and avoid going in the summer - temps are regularly 100+.

DESTIN & SEASIDE, FL

Often referred to as "The Emerald Coast", this stretch of north Florida coastline is every bit as beautiful as The Keys, but less touristy, pricey and crowded. Pastel-colored beach towns dot the coast - our favorite was Seaside, a picture-perfect coastal town with a fleet of Airstream food trucks lining the main square.

[Read Article Online](#) ▶

Author: *John Ellis and Laura Preston*

Bio: John Ellis and Laura Preston own TheDemocrat-icTravelers.com, and have been living (and working) on the road full-time, exploring the United States of America based on the suggestions and votes of strangers on the internet. They were honored to be selected as two of National Geographic's Travelers of the Year in 2013.



HOW TO TRAVEL LIKE A LOCAL



RV Trader
www.rvtrader.com

OWNER'S GUIDE

WE ALL YEARN FOR AUTHENTIC AND UNIQUE EXPERIENCES,

but we don't always know how to best set ourselves up for them. Over the years of fulltime RV travel we've had our fair share of hits and misses, which has taught us a lot.

So now we like to say, we travel like locals. For us, this means seeing and experiencing a town as if it was our own. Sure, sometimes we hit tourist attractions too (they're touristy for a reason right) but we like to dig a little deeper into each town. It takes some investigating to find out what makes a place tick, what makes it unique and what the local culture is all about; but it's easy enough when you know where to begin. Traveling like a local is a fun mission to take on, and for us, we start with these three simple tricks.



ONE

GO TO THE VISITOR'S CENTER

Some visitor's centers are filled with knowledgeable and helpful locals who are happy to tell you what to hit and what to skip. They can guide you to tasty dives, let you know where the best live music is and even tell you which vendors to check out at the farmers market. Other times you'll get the super touristy visitors center where the employees are told not to give personal opinions, but don't give up! It's all about asking the right questions. This is where you have to get specific on what types of experiences you want. They may not be allowed to tell you which coffee shop is the best but they can tell you which coffee shop roasts their own coffee and bakes their own scones. A few of our "go-to" questions are: Where is the best hike with a good view? Are there any free concert series or outdoor theatre projects going on during our stay? Where's the best spot for people watching?

TWO

NEVER EAT ALONE

Dining, coffee, tea, or cocktails; whatever it is you like to do, always do it with company. With bar seating and family style dining tables, it's becoming easier than ever to put yourself in a communal environment. Some of the best local tips and invitations we have ever received come from baristas, bartenders or the random person sitting next to us. So the next time you walk in and the host asks you "inside or out", ask them if the full menu is served at the bar or if they have a communal table in the dining area.



THREE

AVOID CHAINS

It's easy to stick within your comfort zone with the places that ensure that you get the same thing every time, but that's the problem; you get the same thing every time. Sure, it may take a little more effort to search out the local taco shack vs. heading to the nearby taco chain, but we've found that more often than not, we are rewarded for our extra efforts. Local joints are usually filled with local culture, daily specials and plenty of locals to chat up about where to head to next. Plus, you get that warm fuzzy feeling from supporting small, local businesses.

So now you know a few of our tips and tricks on how to travel like a local, what are some of yours?

Author: *Gone with the Wynns*

Bio: Jason and Nikki Wynn own GoneWithTheWynns.com, and refer to themselves as "a couple of perpetual travelers, RV'ers (for now) and modern day documentarians".

[Read Article Online](#) ▶



TIPS FOR STAYING CONNECTED WHILE RV'ING



RV Trader
www.rvtrader.com

OWNER'S GUIDE

WHETHER YOU'RE A FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME RV'ER,

having some kind of connection to the internet while you're out having fun is a real bonus. Between cozy campfires, relaxing hikes and RV happy hours, what better way to share the joy than logging in and posting a little teaser pic on Facebook? Or sending a few e-mails to friends? For some of you, having internet might even be a "must-have" especially if you need to work on the road.

LUCKILY IN THIS DAY AND AGE THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED.

Which way you choose depends on how much internet you need plus where and how often you travel. There are masses of options and the "perfect" solution may well be different for each person, so I'll just cover a few.



Author: *Nina Fussing*

Bio: Nina Fussing is a blogger, writer of tales, animal lover, outdoor enthusiast and photographer. Together with her hubby they both left stressful jobs in the semiconductor industry for the dream of becoming full-time RVers and leading an alternative life. Join them in their travels with RV tips and tales at Wheelingit.us.

Here are four easy tips to get you started

1. PARK WIFI

Anyone who's traveled extensively by RV knows that Park WiFi can be hit or miss. Most private parks offer at least some kind of connectivity, sometimes for free, sometimes for a small fee (e.g. through Tingo). Most of the time it's usable for e-mail and Facebook, but sometimes it's so poor it can become frustrating, especially in the evening when everyone logs onto the system. If you travel part-time and don't mind working around this, then using Park WiFi can usually suffice. However, if internet is a "must-have" it's really not a reliable source.



2. HOT STOPS OR TETHERING YOUR SMARTPHONE

If you own a smartphone with a data plan, more than likely your phone will have a feature that allows you to turn on a "hotspot" so that you can share that data plan with your other devices. By turning on this feature, your phone becomes a WiFi source which your computer and other devices can connect to. Not all cell phone providers offer this (e.g. Straight Talk doesn't allow "tethering" as they call it), and some require a fee (e.g. Sprint), so you'll have to call and check with your provider. But if your phone can do it, it's a great, easy way to get some connectivity without having to buy any additional devices. The other nice thing about this method is that you can turn it off when you don't need it.

(Note/ Hotspot is included for free in all Verizon & AT&T "shared" data plans).

3. MOBILE HOTSPOTS & MIFI'S

Another way to get data on the road is to buy a device called a mobile hotspot, or MiFi. These little portable devices, often no bigger than a stack of cards, create a WiFi source that you can take anywhere and share between multiple devices (*usually between 5-10 devices, depending on which one you get*).

Almost every major carrier offers something like this, plus a bunch of third-party guys do too. Before you buy, make sure to check that the carrier you're choosing covers the major areas you plan to travel. Verizon has the broadest nationwide coverage, followed by AT&T with the other

carriers far behind. Typically you'll have to buy the device followed by a data plan and costs will vary depending on how much data you want and what carrier it's riding on. For light or part-time users, Walmart offers their "Straight Talk WiFi HotSpot" (*runs on Verizon 3G*) where you can buy buckets of data (*e.g. \$15 for 1GB*) as you need them. Verizon and AT&T offers both contract and pre-paid options with various-sized data buckets, and may make the most sense if you already have a contract with them. For heavy users, Millenicom has one of the best deals around, offering a 20GB/mo plan for \$89.99 (*runs on Verizon*).

4. FREE WIFI

If you're just looking for WiFi every now and then, grabbing onto a free signal, say at a Starbucks, or a local library might be just the ticket. For those with smartphones, FreeZone (for Android) and Free WiFi Finder (for iOS) are great little apps to help you find the nearest free WiFi source in your area. On the desktop, WeFi offers a similar database. Even if you don't use this method all the time, it's great to have as a backup.

These are just a few, short ideas covering the easiest and most inexpensive ways to stay on-line while on the road. There are many other options out there including satellite (for those that really need connectivity everywhere) and cell phone signal boosters (which help enhance your signal), but hopefully this list plus some of my extra links below will get you started. Now, go and post that campfire pic, won't you? :)

OTHER RESOURCES

CHECKING THE SIGNAL

You can't connect if there's no cell phone signal. Coverage? (for iOS) is a great little app which can show you what the signal might be like at your next destination. It has interactive maps for Verizon, AT&T, T-Mobile & Sprint. We use it all the time.

BOOSTING THE SIGNAL

This free page written by full-time RV'er Jack Mayer has excellent info on cell phone-based boosters. Well worth the read.

COVERING ALL THE OPTIONS

The Mobile Internet Handbook, written by another set of full-time RV'ers, has detailed info on all the options out there including satellite, HAM, cable, boosting, managing bandwidth and more. If you want deeper info, this is definitely the book to get.



IPHONE & IPAD

APP ESSENTIALS



RV Trader
www.rvtrader.com[™]

OWNER'S GUIDE

APPS FOR FINDING RV PARKS & CAMPGROUNDS

A. Camp & RV by Allstays – \$9.99

Helps you find and filter places and services with or without internet access including; tents, RV resorts, parking lots, fuel, rest areas, repairs, low bridges, inclines and much more!

B. RV Park by RVParking.com – Free

Automatically finds RV park locations near you, search by location or browse by state and city. You can find detailed information about each park including power, showers, and Wi-Fi access.

C. Passport America – Free

Find locations near you or search anywhere with discounts in over 1,800 locations for members to save on camping while in the U.S., Canada & Mexico.

NAVIGATING TO GET THERE

D. Google Maps by Google – Free

Navigate yourself anywhere in the world with updated interactive maps where you can search for any destination and receive multiple route suggestions.

E. Rand McNally GPS RV – \$99.99

Get all of the high quality features and detail that you would expect from a paper map on your mobile device for dependable navigation anywhere in the U.S.

STUFF ALONG THE WAY THERE

F. GasBuddy by GasBuddy – Free

Displays gas prices across the country all in one convenient location specific stream. Compare competing gas prices from any location and save by finding the best deal.

G. RoadTrip by Darren Stone – \$4.99

Offers the fastest way to keep track of your vehicle's fuel economy, maintenance schedule, and expenses all in one easy to use tool.

H. Roadside America by This Exit – \$2.99

Offers over 9,500 attractions across the United States. From famous statues to crazy museums this app lets you search attractions by region so you never miss an opportunity for fun along the highway.



STUFF ONCE YOU'RE "THERE"

I. Dark Sky by Jackadam – \$3.99

Offering a beautiful weather animation, this app can tell you up to the hour the weather forecast for your region, so you know exactly how much time you have for whatever outdoors activity you want to plan.

J. TideTrac by Rivolu Pte – \$2.99

Lets you easily access data on current tide trends, as well as the ability to view and track tide data for future months with up to date graphs and geo location.

K. Everplaces – Free

Easy to use memory tool that lets you save and track any location including restaurants, hotel and attractions across the country and share them with friends anytime, anywhere.

L. Yelp – Free

Gives you the ability to search for any business and view thousands of customer reviews so that you can choose the right place to eat, shop, drink, relax and play from any location.

M. Coverage? by Two Steps Beyond – \$2.99

Allows you to directly compare cellular carrier coverage areas by map overlay so you know where you're covered anywhere in the U.S.

N. State Lines by Two Steps Beyond – \$3.99

This app tracks over 55 pieces of travel information concerning laws and safety regulations for all 50 states including cell phone and texting bans, seatbelt and child safety laws, vehicle regulations, camping fees, speed limits and much more.

BONUS APPS

O. RedBox – Free

Lets you locate the nearest Redbox to you and view what movies and games are currently available for rental, as well as reserve the discs for quick and easy pick-up.

P. Find My Friends by Apple – Free

Allows you to easily find your friends by following their location. After a request is sent, you can follow your friends virtually anywhere, as well as share places and events and set alerts to let you know when they arrive at specific locations.

Author: Chris Dunphy and Cherie Ve Ard

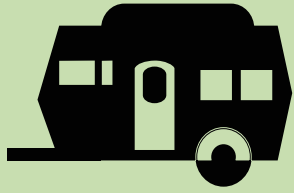
Bio: Chris Dunphy and Cherie Ve Ard have been traveling full time since 2006, while working remotely as software developers and technology consultants. They blog about their life on the road and share their lessons learned at www.technomadia.com.

RV Trader Recommends...

Oh, Ranger! ParkFinder - Free

This Android app will direct you to popular national parks, state parks or national forests based on your location and activity preferences. After you enter your desired zip code or city, select your favorite activities, such as hiking or bird watching, and let this app guide you to the perfect destination to suit your needs.






FIVE WAYS TO GO GREEN



RV Trader
www.rvtrader.com[™]

OWNER'S GUIDE



Here are five great tips to help you conserve energy, save money, and reduce your carbon footprint while having fun on the road with a more environmentally friendly RV lifestyle.

#1 STAY IN TUNE

The first thing to do in order to reduce carbon emissions and conserve energy (while saving money on gasoline and diesel) is to maintain your RV and any other vehicles you take out on the road in tip-top mechanical condition. Tires that are over or under inflated, engines that need a tune-up, and air or fuel filters that are due for a replacement are just some of the simple things that can cause a vehicle to perform poorly. Poor performance leads to less fuel efficiency and more pollution, so one of the easiest ways to live greener on the road is to ensure that vehicles stay properly maintained and serviced.

#2 REST IN SHADE

Installing shades and awnings on your RV (or even parking in campsites that are protected by a shade tree canopy during the day) cuts down on the amount of air conditioning you use in hot climates, while it also reduces the amount of fuel burned when running a generator. You can use an inside-mounted windshield cover to reflect heat and block as much as 94 percent of solar heat to keep coach interiors cool. Take advantage of awning shades, too, to further deflect sunlight and keep you comfortable.



#3 IMPROVE YOUR CIRCULATION

By strategically using fans and ventilation, it is possible to get more from heating and air conditioning systems. When the weather is cold, use your ceiling fans to keep warm air moving through your RV, rather than letting it heat just one room or rise up and accumulate close to the ceiling where you don't feel it. On those warmer days when air conditioning is not absolutely necessary, just turn it off, open some windows, and use a fan as a 'cool' way to conserve energy and save money on fuel.

#4 CHANGE THE LIGHTBULBS

Energy-saving fluorescent bulbs are widely available at chain stores like Wal-Mart and Home Depot, and although they cost more than conventional bulbs they last 10 times longer while using 75 percent less energy. While you're at it, consider using rechargeable batteries in gadgets like flashlights and automatic timers and dimmers to reduce your overall use of electrical juice. Also, remember to unplug accessories like cell phone and iPod chargers and computers, because they also contribute to the energy drain.

#5 RECYCLE ON THE ROAD

Recycling is still one of the most fundamental ways to adhere to a greener lifestyle, so maintain a system on your RV for storing and separating those items that can be recycled. The key to recycling successfully on the road, however, is to offload recycling bins frequently. Use campgrounds, rest areas, and other stops that provide bins for recycling so that you don't have to tote those used cans and bottles around with you. This is an easy way to make space for storing recyclables on board and more convenient to adopt good recycling habits.

[Read Article Online](#) ▶

Author: *RV Trader*

Bio: RV Trader is the largest online classifieds site for RV buyers and sellers in the U.S. RV Trader is a division of Dominion Enterprises, a leading marketing services and publishing company serving the automotive, recreational and commercial vehicle, real estate, apartment rental, employment, parenting, and travel industries.

Headquartered in Norfolk, Virginia, with 3,300 employees in the United States, Canada, England, Spain and Italy, the company provides a comprehensive suite of technology-based marketing solutions, and more than 45 market leading websites. For more information, visit www.RVTrader.com.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Now that you're a proud RV owner, it's time to stop stressing and start making memories!

RV Trader wants to be there for you every step of the way, and we've done the research so that you don't have to. Whether you're new to RV'ing or an avid enthusiast, take advantage of this resource and get the very most out of your RV and your adventures to come!

ABOUT US

RVTRADER.COM

As the #1 RV Classified site on the web, RV Trader provides the widest selection of classified ads with over 100,000 recreational vehicles to choose from. From invaluable resources to useful tips from RV Experts, RV Trader makes buying, selling and owning an RV easier than ever. Our number one goal is to provide the best service possible for our users.

We are also looking for ways to make RV Trader a better site and encourage you to contact us with any comments or suggestions. RV Trader hopes to make your RV purchase a positive one.

Find the RV you're looking for on RVTrader.com!



RV Trader
www.rvtrader.com™

OWNER'S GUIDE