THE SIMPLER WAY RV TRIP PLANNER

YOUR ROADMAP TO STRESS-FREE ADVENTURE



NO ORDINARY HOMESTEAD

QUICKSTART GUIDE: WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU HIT THE ROAD

RV travel brings freedom, but a little preparation goes a long way. Whether you're just get started with towing your first trailer or motorhome or just renting for a weekend, these tips will help you get started right.

☐ PLAN YOUR ROUTE

- Establish a set travel day length that allows you to arrive early and less stressed so you have time to enjoy the evening.
- If you're traveling through mountains or small towns, double-check **height restrictions**, **low bridges**, and **steep grades**.
- Use a **trucker's road atlas** or **RV-specific GPS or Trip Wizard** (not just Google Maps) to avoid surprises.

☐ CHOOSE THE RIGHT CAMPGROUNDS

There are three main types of places to stay:

- **Public parks** — scenic, affordable, often without full hookups (think national/state parks).
- **Private campgrounds** — usually have full hookups, Wi-Fi, laundry, and amenities.
- **Boondocking** — camping without hookups. Great for a night or two if you have power and water reserves.

☐ TOWING TIPS

- Do a quick **walk-around inspection** before every trip: tires, hitch, lights, safety chains, and brake connection.
- Distribute weight evenly and **never exceed your tow rating.**
- Go slow — especially backing up or descending grades.
- Keep your **tire pressure gauge** handy and check before each travel day.

OUR PLANNING RULES

Below are the rules we use to create the simple system we use for every trip, from a long weekend to seven or more months on the road.

In the past, when we were trying to “get it all in” or “create a memorable trip”, we planned trips that felt like a race: see everything, drive every other day, collapse at the end.

But not we take the time to travel and plan more slowly, and it's changed everything. These are our rules but feel free to create your own.

1. **Keep travel days short.** 300–350 miles, or about 5–6 hours, is our max. Arrive rested, set up in daylight, and still enjoy the evening.

2. **Move on weekends.** We work Monday through Friday, so our travel days are usually Saturdays and Sundays. Weekdays are for work, walks, and settling in.

3. When you can, stay **2–4 weeks in one place**. We call these "hubs." Longer stays mean fewer setups, less fuel, and monthly rates that are often far cheaper than nightly ones.

4. **Explore from your hub**. Instead of moving the rig to see everything, take day trips from base. Our favorite: flying the plane or driving 1–2 hours out and back.

5. **Check the overnight lows**. We don't park anywhere nights drop below freezing. It protects your pipes and saves a lot of propane. Follow the weather, not the calendar.

6. **Build in one cushion day.** Weather, repairs, or a slow morning happen. One extra day here and there keeps a hiccup from turning into a stressed-out scramble.

7. **Book the anchors,** leave the rest open. Reserve the stops that matter (holidays, events, popular parks) and you can wait to book the rest of the in-between stops that have more availability.

Simple rules, fewer surprises, more time actually enjoying the trip.

HUB PLANNER

One page per stop. Print as many as you need.

Trip name _____

Hub (town / area) _____

Arrive / Depart _____/_____

Number of nights _____

Campground name & site # _____

Booked? ☐ Yes
Confirmation # _____

Getting there:

- Coming from: _____
- Miles: _____ .
- Drive time: _____ (under 350 miles? □)
- Travel day: □ Sat □ Sun
- Fuel stops / overnight break if needed: _____

Weather check:

- Typical overnight low during my stay: ___° (above freezing? □)

	Nightly	**Weekly**	**Monthly**
Rate	$_____	$_____	$_____
Total for my stay	$_____	$_____	$_____

Staying 3+ weeks? Always ask for the monthly rate, even if it isn't listed.

Day trips from base

□ _____ (___ miles away)
□ _____ (___ miles away)
□ _____ (___ miles away)
□ _____ (___ miles away)
□ _____ (___ miles away)

Local finds: (coffee shop, grocery, diner, farmers market)

- _____
- _____
- _____

Notes / reminders

CAMPGROUND SCOUTING CHECKLIST

What we check before we book, so there are (hopefully) no surprises when we pull in.

Will my rig fit?
□ Site length fits our rig (ours: 34 ft) plus the truck or toad
□ Pull-through or back-in? Is the site level?
□ Road into the park works for big rigs (low branches, tight turns, steep grades)

Hookups & power
□ 30 amp or 50 amp?
□ Full hookups, or water + electric only?
□ Dump station on site, if no sewer

Staying connected (we work from the road, so this one's non-negotiable)
□ Cell coverage for our carrier (check a coverage map + recent reviews)
□ Open sky for Starlink (not under heavy tree cover)
□ Campground Wi-Fi as a backup only; don't count on it

What to look for in reviews
□ Read the newest reviews (last 6–12 months), not the average star rating
□ Search reviews for: "noise," "highway," "tight," "flooding," "signal"
□ Look at guest photos of the actual sites, not the brochure shots
□ Monthly guests' reviews are gold; they know the park best

Location
□ Grocery store within [20] minutes
□ Close to the day trips on your Hub Planner
□ Laundry on site with 4+ machines or nearby
□ Pet rules (breed limits, dog park)
□ Small airport nearby (for our flying family, and handy for anyone meeting visitors)
□ Major hub airport for flights to DC, NYC, etc. (if you work travel)

Before you book, ask:
□ Monthly rate? Discounts (Good Sam, military, off-season)?
□ Cancellation policy
□ Mail or Amazon/package delivery accepted?

TRIP BUDGET SHEET

Plan it, then track it. The gap between the two is where you learn the most.

Category	Planned	Actual
Campsites / hub stays	$	$
Fuel (miles ÷ mpg × price per gallon)	$	$
Propane	$	$
Groceries	$	$
Eating out & coffee stops	$	$
Activities, park passes & tours	$	$
Laundry	$	$
Tolls & parking	$	$
Maintenance & repairs	$	$
Just-in-case fund	$	$
Total	**$**	**$**

Total miles ____ ÷ MPG ____ = ____ gallons × $____ per gallon = $____

Pro Tips

- Longer stays cut the two biggest costs: nightly rates and fuel.
- Set aside about 10% for surprises. Something always comes up.
- Fill up on the way out of town. Prices near highway exits often run higher.

PACKING CHECKLIST

You don't need to bring everything; just the right things. Here's a practical packing guide divided into what you'll actually use.

🧩 ESSENTIALS

- [ ] RV registration, insurance, roadside assistance card
- [ ] Fresh water hose & pressure regulator
- [ ] Sewer hose & elbow fitting
- [ ] 30-to-50 amp adapters
- [ ] Surge protector
- [ ] Leveling blocks & wheel chocks
- [ ] Power extension cord
- [ ] Tire gauge & air compressor

TOOLS & MAINTENANCE

- [ ] Tool kit (screwdrivers, wrench, pliers)
- [ ] Duct tape, zip ties, spare fuses
- [ ] Flashlight or headlamp
- [ ] 12+ ton jack
- [ ] Folding ladder (optional)

⚡ BONUS GEAR

- [ ] Starlink or Wi-Fi booster
- [ ] Power bank / inverter
- [ ] Small wet-dry vacuum
- [ ] Binoculars or camera gear
- [ ] Laundry bag & detergent pods

🍳 KITCHEN & COOKING

- [ ] Pots, pans, spatula, tongs
- [ ] Coffee maker or French press
- [ ] Dish soap, scrub brush, drying rack
- [ ] Cutting board & knife
- [ ] Food storage containers & zip bags
- [ ] Aluminum foil, matches/lighter
- [ ] Reusable water bottles

COMFORT & CAMP LIFE

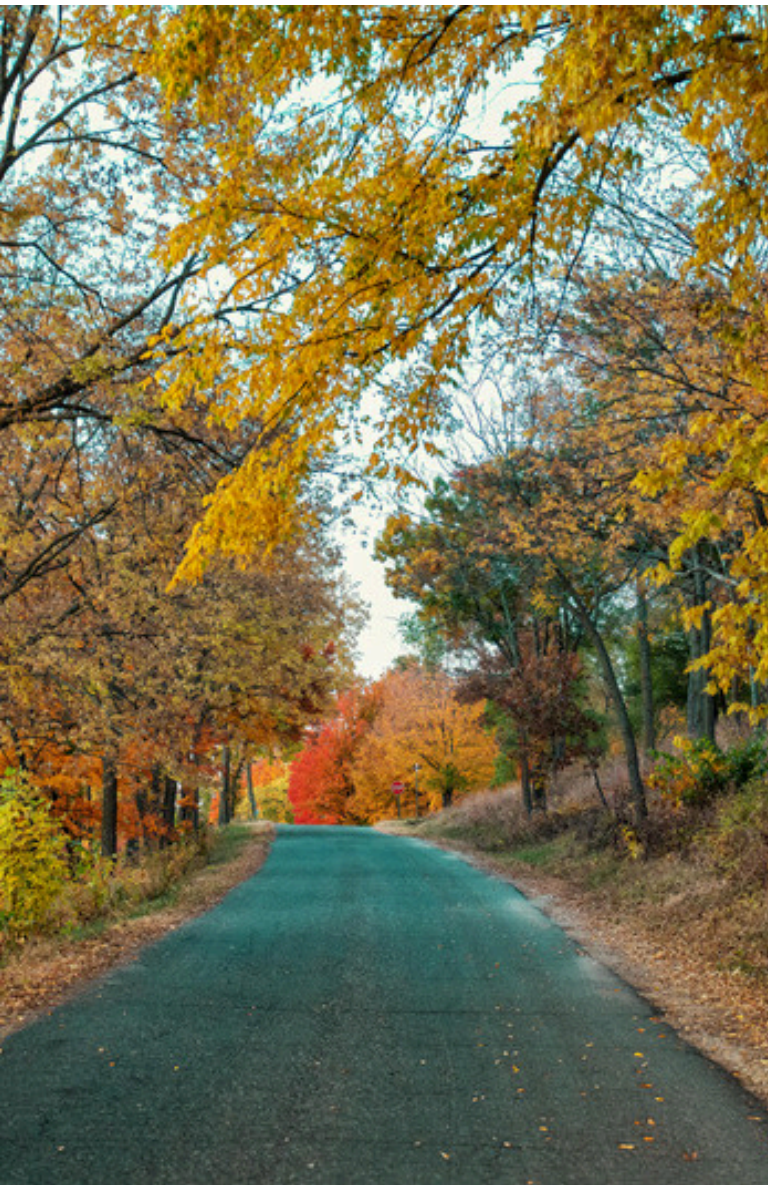
- [ ] Camp chairs & outdoor mat
- [ ] Portable grill
- [ ] Fire pit tools & roasting sticks
- [ ] Sunscreen, bug spray, first aid kit
- [ ] Extra blankets, pillows, and towels
- [ ] Games, books, and s'mores supplies

Pro Tip: Keep your first aid kit, flashlight, and leveling blocks in an easy-to-reach spot, not buried behind the bikes.

TRAVEL DAY CHECKLIST

The best way to avoid mistakes is to follow the same routine every time you move. Here is list of basics to tackle before pulling out of your campsite.

Pro Tip: Download our full version, customize, and make a laminated version of this list to keep in your truck or by the RV door. Also, dry-erase markers make it easy to reuse.



INSIDE

- [ ] Cabinets, fridge, doors, and drawers latched
- [ ] Slides retracted and secured
- [ ] TV and loose items stowed
- [ ] Windows closed and vents down
- [ ] Fridge set to “travel mode”

OUTSIDE

- [ ] Disconnect power, water, and sewer
- [ ] Close tank valves and store hoses
- [ ] Retract stabilizers and awning
- [ ] Stow chocks and leveling blocks
- [ ] Check tire pressure and lug nuts

FINAL CHECK

- [ ] Check hitch, safety chains, and lights
- [ ] GPS route confirmed (avoid “shortcut” roads)
- [ ] Mirrors adjusted
- [ ] Walk around + one more time for good measure
- [ ] Drinks & snacks ready? Let’s roll.

FAVORITE TOOLS & APPS

These are the apps we actually use and recommend — not just the ones everyone lists.

App	What It's Great For
* **RV Life & Trip Wizard**	Plan RV-safe routes, track fuel, and find campgrounds with verified reviews.
Campendium	Honest reviews from real RVers. Great for boondocking and park photos.
AllTrails	Find nearby hikes (filter for dog-friendly!).
OpenRoads	Save big at truck stops – especially good for diesel drivers
GasBuddy	Save money on every fill-up — especially on long drives.
Windy / WeatherBug	Spot storms or wind gusts before travel days.
Google My Maps	Build your own custom map of bucket-list stops.

Pro Tip: Download offline maps before you head into the mountains — not every scenic view comes with cell service.

TRIP NOTES

The things you'll want to remember next time (and the stories you'll want to tell).

- Favorite campground or site number: _____

_____

- Best meal or local find: _____

_____

_____

- Something we'd skip next time: _____

_____

_____

- What we'd pack differently: _____

_____

_____

- A moment we don't want to forget: _____

_____

_____

Other notes & reminders

_____

_____

_____

_____

Stay in Touch

We'd love to hear where the road takes you. Hit reply to any of our emails and tell us about your trip. We read every one.

👉 Blog: noordinaryhomestead.com

👉 Instagram: @noordinaryhomestead

👉 Planning app waitlist: noordinaryhomestead.com/wanderboard