

**Renting an RV** should be an exceptionally fun and rewarding experience. RV travel combines convenience and excitement like no other type of travel can. In order to make your RV rental a great success, there are a few things you should know and think about ahead of time. Things like what type of RV to rent, how to find a campground, and what kind of gas mileage to expect. Here are our Top 10 Tips, plus 11 bonus tips, to help you plan, prepare for the ultimate RV rental experience.

## **1. Book Well in Advance**

We can't stress this one enough. Nothing will put a damper on your vacation plans quicker than finding out there are no RVs to rent during your intended time frame. When it comes to rental RVs, there is more demand than there is supply. You may need to book months, or even up to a year in advance. Keep this in mind especially if you are planning a trip during the summer, holiday season, or winter school breaks. RVshare's streamlined messaging and payment systems make booking an RV rental easy to do quickly. Book as soon as possible to increase your chance of getting the RV you want, when you want it.

## **2. Is Your Payment Secure?**

Putting down a large deposit over the phone or through the mail can be nerve-racking, and rightfully so. Stories abound of scammers swindling renters out of deposits and payments by asking them to send in money through the mail, or give credit card information over the phone. Making sure that your payment is secure should be a top priority. When you pay online through RVshare you can be confident in the security of your payments, as they are backed by our \$10,000 Peace of Mind Guarantee.

## **3. Roadside Assistance**

At RVshare we understand that emergencies like flat tires can happen. That's why if you find yourself in need of a little help on the side of the road we've got you covered. RVshare includes complimentary 24/7 roadside assistance with every rental that is booked through our platform, so you travel the open road with total peace of mind.

## **4. Compare Pricing**

It's a good idea to make inquiries on at least five RVs that interest you in order to best compare prices. RV rental prices will vary by size and type of RV, location, duration and distance of your trip, and time of year. The more RVs that you inquire on, the more pricing options you will have to choose from.

## 5. Learn How to Get Insurance for Your Rental RV

Proper insurance is a must-have when renting an RV. Acquiring it does not need to be a painful or complicated procedure. In most cases it's as easy as calling your existing auto insurance company and obtaining what is called an "Insurance Binder." The binder simply extends your current insurance to cover the RV and driver for the duration of the rental. Be aware that anyone who drives the RV will need their own binder policy from their respective auto insurance company.

## 6. Choose the Best Size & Type of RV for Your Needs

RVs come in all types and sizes. Some are perfect for a couple who want to explore winding country roads, while others are more suited to large families who will drive long distances on the interstate. Before you commit to a rental RV decide what size and type best fits your needs.

The four basic RV types are:

**Class A:** This all-in-one RV usually has a lounge and dining area, kitchen, bathroom with shower, and separate bedroom. Many have slide-outs that increase the inside space. Perfect for large families and other groups travelers who need a lot of room.

**Class B:** Sometimes called a van conversion. A Class B is a full size or extended van with a raised roof. Most are outfitted with basic kitchen appliances, a bed/dinette combo & sometimes a toilet. Best for couples or singles.

**Class C:** This RV built on a truck chassis with an extra cab over the driver's compartment. In most models this space houses the bed. Most Class Cs have a separate dining area, kitchen, and bathroom. Often the dinette converts into a bed for extra space. Great for families who may not want to commit to the larger size of a Class A.

**Travel Trailer** - An RV that you pull with a truck. Travel trailers come in all sizes from tiny 10' compact trailers all the way up to 40' long trailers. Interior features vary widely depending on size. For a mid-size trailer (25-35') you can expect a lounge, dinette, kitchen, bathroom, and separate bedroom. It is vital to make sure that you have a vehicle capable of towing the type of trailer you wish to rent.

## 7. What Comes With the RV? Do You need to Bring my Own Linens & Kitchen Items?

Extra items such as linens, kitchen items, towels, and an outdoor grill may or may not be included in the RV rental. Always be sure to inquire ahead of time exactly what is included and what you will need to bring.

## 8. Where Will You Sleep?

When deciding what type of RV to rent, sleeping arrangements should be a major consideration. RV rental listings will disclose how many people each RV sleeps. But don't just rent an RV that sleeps four and leave it at that. Often RV beds are hidden or convertible and it's good to know ahead of time how large each bed is, and exactly how to go about converting it. That way poor Uncle Al won't get stuck sleeping on the five-foot converted dinette bed for a week.

## 9. RVs are Fun and Easy to Drive!

Really, they are! Many first time RV drivers are surprised by just how easy it is to drive a rental RV. Here are a few tips that will help make driving yours even easier:

**Practice:** RVs are longer and wider than the average vehicle. Take a few practice loops around an empty parking lot to familiarize yourself with the size of the RV.

**Turning:** Make wider turns. Pull into the intersection before making a turn and use your mirrors to watch the sides and back end.

**Backing Up:** For the majority of new RV drivers this is the most difficult part. Always, always use a spotter when backing up, even if your RV has a back up camera.

**Braking:** Keep a safe distance between you and vehicle in front of you. RVs are heavy and need extra time to stop.

**Slow down!** It's a vacation, not a race. Most RV accidents are caused by excessive speed.

## 10. Trip Planning 101

Once you've found the perfect rental RV, it's time to plan your trip. Maybe you have a specific destination in mind, or maybe a general route and you want to make several stops along the way. In either case one of the best ways to make the most of your vacation is with the [Roadtrippers](#) website.

Simply plug in your start and end locations and let Roadtrippers do all the work. You can overlay your route with attractions, outdoor activities, restaurants, campgrounds, scenic routes, art galleries, and so much more. Each attraction, restaurant, etc. has a description and user reviews. Choose what stops you want to make and Roadtrippers will create a custom trip just for you.

Once you have planned and saved your trip, download the free mobile app and it will automatically sync with your mobile device.

## **Here are 11 More Bonus Tips!**

### **11. Be Aware of the Cancellation Policy**

Unexpected things happen and sometimes you need to cancel or reschedule a vacation. Be sure you know the cancellation policy of your rental RV ahead of time to avoid potentially costly fees.

### **12. What is the Pet Policy?**

If you plan to bring a pet along for your vacation be sure to check the pet policy first. Some RV rentals allow pets, and some don't. For those who do, there may be restrictions on the total number of pets, or an extra deposit or fee. It's also a good idea to check the pet policies of the places where you will be traveling. Many national parks, and even some state parks, do not allow dogs on trails or beaches, which means your furry friend might be spending a lot of time alone in the RV.

### **13. Be Aware of All Potential Fees**

There may be extra fees associated with renting an RV. From fees for extra items, pets or use of the generator. Be sure to inquire about all possible extra fees ahead of time to avoid any unexpected costs.

### **14. How to Securing Items Inside the RV**

When an RV is rumbling down the road the items inside have a tendency to shift and occasionally jump around. Prevent accidents and potential breakage by securing everything firmly in place. Clear off counters and tables, latch cabinets, and make sure any loose items (shoes, books, the dog's water bowl) are safely stowed.

### **15. Does the RV Come With a GPS?**

Some rental RVs come with a GPS and some don't. Always ask first. If it doesn't have a GPS consider bringing your own. Some RVs may be equipped with RV specific GPS units that factor information such as RV friendly gas stations and maximum bridge clearance. If this is the case, be sure you know how to use all the functions.

## 16. What Kind of Gas Milage To Expect

The gas milage of an RV varies greatly depending on the type and size. The RV owner will be able to give you an idea of the gas milage you can expect. Keep in mind that gas mileage can vary depending on terrain and speed.

## 17. Generating Power

RVs are powered in two ways. Either by plugging into a power source, or through the house batteries. When an RV is not plugged in, it will by default draw power from the batteries. Power that will eventually need to be replenished. This is where a generator comes into play. Some rental RVs have a generator, and some don't.

Ask ahead of time if the RV you are renting includes a generator. If it does learn the basics including the location, how to start it, and what kind of fuel it uses. Also ask if there is an extra charge to use the generator.

## 18. What Should I bring?

Packing for an RV trip does not need to be complicated. After you have determined what the RV includes (such as kitchen items or linens), make yourself a list and stick to it. Here is a basic list to get you started.

- Bed linens & pillows
- Towels
- Toiletries
- Cleaning supplies: sponges, dish towels, trash bags
- Toilet paper and paper towels
- Broom & dustpan
- Clothing for a variety of weather
- Extra socks
- Laundry basket
- Basic first aid kit
- Paper plates, bowls & cups (useful even if the RV comes outfitted with dishes)
- Can opener
- Cooking utensils
- Cutlery
- Plastic wrap, tin foil, & zip lock bags
- Folding chairs
- Portable grill
- Bikes or other outdoor recreation items
- Lantern & flashlight
- Sunscreen & insect repellent

- Cards & travel sized board games
- Camera and battery charger

## 19. The Best RV Apps to Enhance Your Trip

Use your mobile devices to make your RV trip easier and more enjoyable. Here are a few apps that are sure to enhance your vacation. All of these apps are available from both the Apple and Google Play store.

**Gas Buddy:** A simple app that compares fuel prices to help you find the cheapest place to fill up. Free to download.

**Yelp:** An app that most people probably already know and use, but it's worth a mention as a handy RV travel tool. With a giant database of restaurants, campgrounds, services, and entertainment venues - along with extensive user reviews, this app is a must have for navigating a new area. Free to download.

**AllStays:** A massive, all in one RV guide for finding not only campgrounds, but other RV services and overnight stops. Allstays has a database of RV friendly Walmarts, truck stops with propane fills and dump stations, and so much more. \$10 to download.

**RV Checklist:** Did you remember to put the TV antenna down, crank up the stabilizers, and latch all the cabinets? Never forget these things again with the RV Checklist app. With a fully customizable list, and user intuitive features for checking off items off and viewing progress, this app is a game changer. Free from the Goggle Play store / \$0.99 from the Apple store.

**National Parks:** If you are like the thousands of RVers who plan to visit a national park while on vacation, then this app is a must have. Featuring recommendations, photo tips, park secrets, point-of-interest with GPS coordinates, interactive maps, and much more. Free to download.

**Weather Underground:** Keep track of weather on the go. View the weather in your location including hazardous weather alerts and hourly forecasts. Add your next location and track the weather before you arrive. Free to download.

## 20. How and Where Do You Dump the Tanks?

The task of dumping the RV waste tanks can be intimidating. It doesn't need to be. Here are 8 simple steps to follow.

1. Pull up to the dump station with the dump valve as close to the drain as possible.
2. Put on latex gloves and get out your sewer hose.
3. Securely clamp the hose to the holding tank drain outlet and insert the other end in

the dump station hole.

4. When you are sure everything is secure, pull open the black water tank first. You will hear an initial rush through the hose, then it will slow to a trickle. Close the valve.
5. Open the grey tank valve and allow it to drain. Close the valve.
6. Double check that both valves are closed before disconnecting the hose from the RV dump valve.
7. Hold the hose above the dump station hole and let it drain. If there is a non-potable water hose available, run water through the hose to rinse it out. Remove the sewer hose from the hole and rinse the outside and the area around the hole.
8. Don't forget to replace the cap on the holding tank drain.

Finding a place to dump your tanks is simple. Most campgrounds have an on-site dump station. If they don't, go to [sanidumps.com](http://sanidumps.com) (or download their mobile app) and search your area for the nearest dump station. Both free and paid dump stations are listed.

## 21. Finding a Campground

You've got your rental RV, you planned a route, and you made a packing list. All that's left now is to find a campground. Fortunately, the Internet is full of helpful websites to help you with this task.

Before you start looking and get overwhelmed by all the options, decide what kind of campground you prefer. Do you value amenities such as full hook-ups (power/sewer/water/cable) and a heated swimming pool? Then you should stick to private RV Parks. Or do you crave a great view, some privacy, and access to hiking trails? Then public campgrounds are more your style.

Here are the three best websites offering a comprehensive list of campgrounds around the U.S. Be sure to narrow your search results by filtering for items such as location, price, and amenities.

**Allstays:** Offers a massive database of campgrounds

**Campendium:** A large database of campgrounds plus user reviews

**US Campgrounds:** All public campgrounds