

Subject: June Newsletter from Air Safe Hitches



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Newsletter

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Americans Traveling More This Summer

MAY 21, 2019

by: RV PRO Staff

The largest seasonal surge in gas prices since 2011 isn't slowing down travel plans this summer as more Americans are hitting the road than staying home, according to GasBuddy's 2019 Summer Travel survey.

According to the annual survey, nearly 75% of Americans said they will take a road trip this summer, a 16% increase from last year, while 38% cited high gas prices for impacting their summer travel decisions, nearly the same as 2018's gas price sentiment.

The increase in motorist's desire to hit the road comes as the national average has gently fallen after advancing 67 cents/gallon from New Year's Day to a peak on May 4, the second largest seasonal rise ever behind a 93 cents/gallon surge in 2011 and ahead of last year's 49 cents/gallon rise. Gas prices are expected to fall slightly ahead of the holiday weekend, with GasBuddy predicting the national average at \$2.83 per gallon on Memorial Day, 14-cents lower than Memorial Day last year, helping motorists spend \$287 million less from Thursday to Monday.

GasBuddy's 2019 Summer Travel Survey Highlights:

- **Trips farther from home.** Americans who are taking a road trip this summer are covering more ground. Forty two percent will be driving more than 500 miles round trip, compared to 31% in 2018.
- **More time away.** Seven percent more people plan to take trips longer than one week this summer compared to last year, while weekend trips and day trips are down 7%.
- **Overpaying for gasoline No. 1 road trip fear.** With higher gas prices this summer, the number one road trip fear is overpaying at the pump, followed by the car breaking down and needing to use a restroom but unsure of which gas stations have clean facilities.
- **Convenience, price and curb appeal.** When deciding where to stop, travelers continue to care about convenience and price. The top 3 factors when choosing a pit stop include: (1) convenient location, (2) gas prices and (3) curb appeal.

Study: Industry Impact on Economy Reaches \$114B

Story by RVBusiness

The new RVs Move America Economic Impact Study, released at the annual meeting of the RV Industry Association (RVIA), revealed that the RV industry had an overall economic impact to the U.S. economy of \$114 billion, supporting nearly 600,000 jobs, contributing more than \$32 billion in wages, and paying over \$12 billion in federal, state, and local taxes.

According to a press release, the announcement was made by RVIA Chairman Garry Enyart and director, mobile generator sales and coach care at Onan/Cummins.

“What the study reveals is that RVs are not just the familiar highway scene of an American summer,” said Enyart. “Indeed, RVs are the heart of an industry that has become an American juggernaut, a business that has tripled in size since the Great Recession of 2009.”

The \$114 billion total annual RV industry economic impact includes:

- \$68 billion generated by RV manufacturers and suppliers.
- \$25.6 billion by RV campgrounds and related travel.
- \$20.1 billion by RV sales and service activities.

In 2018, 482,389 RVs were made in the U.S., with towable vehicles accounting for 88% of shipments to dealers, and motorized vehicles the other 12%.

The 25 million Americans who go RVing each year contribute not only to the U.S. economy, but specifically to the outdoor recreation economy, which according to the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Economic Analysis represents 2.2% of the U.S. gross domestic product.

The RVs Move America Economic Impact Study includes all companies involved in the manufacture, sale, rental, repair, storage, and service of recreation vehicles, as well as the aftermarket industry and the financing and insurance of RV purchases and the economic impact of recreation vehicle travel.

Not surprisingly, the greatest economic impact of the RV industry is felt in states with the presence of significant manufacturing facilities and robust RV sales. Indiana – where the RV manufacturing industry was founded – tops the list of states with its more than \$32 billion in total economic activity, followed in order by California, Texas, Oregon, and Ohio. A total of 29 states each accounted for at least \$1 billion in total economic activity.

Popularity Of Camping Continues To Rise

The number of camping households in the United States has reached a new high of 78.8 million, according to the 2019 North American Camping Report, an annual independent study supported by Kampgrounds of America (KOA).

The report said more than 7.2 million households have started camping within the past five years. Also within that time frame, people are camping more frequently than ever before, with 72 percent growth among those who camp three or more times a year.

According to the report, these trends are being driven by factors such as an influx of younger and more diverse campers; millennials (people born from the early 1980s to the early 2000s) having children and taking them camping; and North Americans’ love for the outdoors.

Among the report’s findings:

- RVing is the second-most popular type of camping, with 24 percent of the market. Tent camping is most popular, at 59 percent, while cabin camping ranks third at 16 percent.

- Among RV campers, 61 percent own the RV they use most, and 36 percent rent or borrow the RV they use most, a shift from 2017 that now favors ownership. Increases in RV ownership are being driven by Generation Xers (those born between the early 1960s to the early 1980s), who increased ownership rates in 2018.
- 58 percent of Hispanic campers said they would be interested in an RV experience, the highest interest level among all camper groups.
- 96 percent of teen campers say they enjoy camping with family and friends, and 97 percent acknowledge that camping helps the adults in their lives to relax.
- *0 percent of teen campers said they intend to camp as adults, and if they have children, 91 percent intend to bring them camping.
- For the first time since measurement started in 2014, the percentage of new nonwhite campers (51 percent) outpaced the percentage of new white campers (49 percent) in 2018.

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Recreational Vehicle Rental Tips for RV Rookies

Yesterday — By Robert Firpo-Cappiello

Hellen8/Dreamstime

Get your motor runnin': An RV rental is an ideal way to explore national parks like Arches, in Utah.

Whether your summer travel plans involve a national park, road trip, or beach getaway, the accommodations available when you rent a recreational vehicle may be just what you're looking for.

Most of us have dreamed about it. Some of us have already given it a try and loved it. Hitting the open road in a recreational vehicle (RV) can provide a unique combination of comfort, thrills, practicality, and affordability. But, like most of us, you probably have questions before taking that first step into the driver's seat of an RV.

I spoke with Megan Buemi, Sr. Content Marketing Manager at RVShare, the first and largest peer-to-peer RV rental marketplace (sort of like Airbnb for RVs), for her tips for "RV rookies," plus some suggested destinations and itineraries. Our suggestion? Read Megan's tips, then get ready to hit the road!

What's the best way to start planning an RV rental? Choose a route, then an RV? Or vice versa? **Megan Buemi:** When it comes to beginning your RV travel plans it can sometimes feel like what comes first, the chicken or the egg - should you book your RV or your campground first? We like to recommend booking your RV first so that you can find the perfect option for you and your travel companions, whether you need a larger Class C for the whole family, or a small pop up camper for a romantic weekend getaway. Then you can find a campground that will accommodate your RV type, including the right hookups and available amps. We do suggest booking your campground as soon after your RV as possible, especially in the busy spring and summer months or if you plan to visit a popular location, like a national park.

What's the biggest mistake an RV rookie makes in planning a trip?

MB: The biggest mistake you can make when it comes to renting an RV for the first time is being unprepared. This encompasses several things: not having a budget, not having a destination/campground planned, and not learning about the RV or asking the owner questions before you take off. RV trips can be fun and sporadic, but if you don't plan ahead you might miss out on some of the best parts. For example, no one wants to waste time searching for a new campground because the one you arrived at is all booked up! Keep in mind all of the extra costs, such as gas and generator usage, campgrounds, and food. Book your campground in advance and don't hesitate to ask the owner questions and read any user manuals they provide you thoroughly. Being prepared will make it much easier to enjoy your trip stress-free!

Are there any RV models that are especially well-suited to the beginner?

MB: Choosing the model of RV you wish to drive is all about your comfort level. Many people are surprised to learn there is no special license required to drive an RV, even the big Class A's. The most popular option is a Class C. They are spacious and provide the comforts of home, and are easier to maneuver. But if you wish to have your own vehicle on hand and tow a trailer instead, there are also a variety of options there, from a small popup camper that can be towed by ordinary passenger vehicles, to 5th wheels that typically need to be hooked up to a truck. If driving an RV at all makes you uncomfortable, RVshare has many RVs available that can be delivered to your destination, all you have to do is show up!

How much time does it take to learn to drive an RV or trailer RV?

MB: You'll be on the road in no time in your RV or trailer rental. The owner of the vehicle will happily give you a walk through and any advice on driving their vehicle. If you are apprehensive, you can practice a bit in a parking lot, but once you hit the road you'll be surprised that it's not nearly as difficult to drive as you thought.

Do you have any packing advice for an RV trip?

MB: Before you start loading up your suitcase with linens and silverware, read the RV rental's listing closely. Many owners will provide you with some basic items, saving you from having to pack extra. But if they don't, plan on needing bedding, towels, cooking utensils and cutlery, clothes for all weather types (check the weather before you go - part of being prepared), a first aid kit, toiletries, outdoor gear, and food. Cooking on your RV is a major cost saving perk to RV travel!

What advice do you have about hook-ups?

MB: The hookups you'll be looking for include water, power, and sewer. These all may or may not be available, depending on what kind of park you're staying at. For example, privately-owned, resort-style campgrounds usually offer the full suite, while public campgrounds may offer some, but not all amenities, or only offer 30 amps of power (as opposed to the 50 amps a large Class A motorhome might draw). With this in mind, it is always a good idea to check with the campground to see what hookups they have available, and most of them will indicate it on their websites as well.

What kinds of destinations are ideal for RV rookies?

MB: Planning your first RV trip is exciting, but many people aren't sure where to go. Luckily there are all kinds of easily accessible places across the country, perfect for your first RV

adventure. A few of our favorites include:

- **National Parks.** We love the national parks so much, we created guides on traveling to them. Many offer RV accommodations but some are not accessible by RV, so do your research first. You can park your RV and enjoy the day hiking, swimming, and exploring, with a campfire and a nice comfy bed to return to once night falls.
- **Southern Charm.** Try connecting a few popular southern cities, each offering its own unique brand of charm: Savannah, Georgia; Charleston, South Carolina; and St. Augustine, Florida. Plus these states offer plenty of RV campgrounds.
- **California's Pacific Coast Highway.** Whether you start in Eureka (way up north) or San Diego (at the border with Mexico), you'll be treated to some of the most beautiful byways in the country — a crashing ocean on one side and majestic redwoods on the other. Potential stops include Los Angeles, San Francisco, Monterey, Carmel-by-the-Sea, San Luis Obispo, and a whole host of others.

5 Perfect U.S. Road Trips

5/27/2019 — By The Budget Travel Editors Maryna Konoplytska/Dreamstime

It's time to hit the great American highway for the kinds of outdoor adventures, great food, and cultural landmarks that only a road trip can deliver. Plus: Some timely tips for getting the most out of your driving experience.

Fire up your GPS and start your engines! Every corner of the U.S. delivers amazing road trip opportunities, from parkland to scenic byways to vibrant towns and cities along the way. Here, we've rounded up five of our favorite epic drives from sea to shining sea. Your only remaining challenge is to pick your favorite trip and hit the road.

BEST OF THE WEST: CALIFORNIA'S HIGHWAY 1

Pick any stretch of Highway 1 along the California coast and you'll be treated to epic views and great stops along the way. But perhaps the most iconic portion of the route is the drive between the San Francisco Bay Area and San Simeon. While the drive can be accomplished in just a few hours, we recommend you plan affordable stops along the way: A motel stay in Santa Cruz, at the top of Monterey puts you walking distance to the beautiful beach and fun-for-the-entire-family boardwalk. A day or two in the city of Monterey gives you time to explore the coastal walking trail with its jaw-dropping views of the gorgeous blue waters of the bay and playful sea otters, a visit to the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and several world-class meals of fresh crab, sourdough bread, and other California favorites. Continue down Highway 1 for the star attraction, the winding drive along the cliffs of Big Sur, towering over the Pacific, and stop at Pfeiffer State Beach or a walk in the mountains just to the east of the highway. Your Highway 1 road trip can end at San Simeon, home to the incredible estate built by William Randolph Hearst with its truly amazing art collection and grounds. Or keep driving south for the delights of coastal communities such as San Luis Obispo, Morro Bay, and the renowned beaches and cities of Southern California!

ROAD TRIP TIP: Before leaving home, make sure you have the appropriate auto insurance policy for your vehicle and needs.

SOUTHERN CHARM: BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY

You don't have to choose between a big-city culture and the natural beauty of a national park. The Blue Ridge Parkway allows road trippers to enjoy Washington, D.C., with its free museums, historical sites, and cultural offerings, then head to Virginia's Skyline Drive along the spine of the Blue Ridge Mountains, which turns into the Blue Ridge Parkway, one of FDR's New Deal projects, linking Virginia's Shenandoah National Park with Great Smoky Mountains National Park, in North Carolina and Tennessee. The parkway's hairpin turns and epic tunnels will delight every family member, and a manageable, affordable national park experience is unforgettable, with ranger-led walks and talks, serene hiking trails, and the opportunity to spot an array of wildlife, including black bears, from a safe distance. More adventurous travelers may want to try rock climbing and whitewater rafting (with guidance from a local outfitter). Cool towns such as Asheville, NC, deliver tasty Southern cuisine, and you can balance the great outdoors experience of Great Smoky Mountains National Park with fun family-friendly activities in Gatlinburg, TN. While camping is always the most affordable way to visit a national park,

reasonable lodging is available a short drive from both Shenandoah and Great Smoky Mountains.

ROAD TRIP TIP: Get your car inspected before embarking on your drive. Proper tire pressure and engine tune-up can save you money on gas mileage and having up-to-date safety and security devices may even reduce your auto insurance rates.

MIDWEST SPLENDOR: DOOR COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Can you keep a secret? Door County's Coastal Byway, a Wisconsin Scenic Byway, delivers an amazing, lesser-known Midwestern vacation experience that keeps families coming back year after year. Stretching over 66 miles around the Door Peninsula (nicknamed the "Cape Cod of the Midwest"), this scenic byway and the stops along the way add up to a relaxing and delicious getaway. Situated between Lake Michigan and Green Bay, the Door Peninsula can be explored in a weekend, or you can stretch out your experience (which we heartily recommend) over several days with stays in the region's beautiful towns. Ephraim, on the shores of Eagle Harbor, boasts beaches and harbor views you may associate only with New England, and a stop at Wilson's for ice cream is a must. Peninsula State Park is one of those "hidden gems" just waiting to be discovered, with acres of forest, shoreline, and camping facilities. You'll find great food in the town of Sister Bay, and some pleasant opportunities for quiet family time on the eastern side of the peninsula in Bailey's Harbor and Jacksonsport.

ROAD TRIP TIP: Pack a cooler with fruits and veggies, whole grains, grab-and-go protein like cheese sticks, and plenty of water (when visiting a wilder space such as a national park, a gallon of water per passenger per day is recommended).

SOUTHWESTERN PARKS: UTAH'S 'MIGHTY FIVE'

Did you know that Utah packs five incredible national parks into one state? Whether you hit two, three, four, or all of the "Mighty Five" (Capitol Reef, Bryce Canyon, Zion, Arches, and Canyonlands), a scenic drive into Utah's wild spaces is perhaps the ultimate road trip experience. While your GPS may recommend major highways along the way, give yourself permission to explore Scenic Byways such as State Route 12, the 120-mile drive from Capitol Reef to Bryce Canyon, and return home with brag-worthy photographs you can't snap on the Interstate. Once you enter one of Utah's national parks, hiking will likely be the "main event," and each park deserves at least a day or two, whether you take ranger-led walks or strike out on your own. Consider trying something new, like a guided horseback tour in Bryce Canyon, and remember that Bryce and Zion both offer exceptional public transportation to get you from site to site. Camping is an affordable way to bunk down in Utah's parks, but be sure to reserve your spot several months in advance, especially if you'll be visiting during the summer high season.

ROAD TRIP TIP: Don't count on GPS as your only source of driving directions, especially if you're visiting a national park or other wild space. Pick up printed maps that cover your road trip and plan out each day's driving in advance using both GPS and your map - you'll thank us when your smartphone suddenly says, "No Service."

ULTIMATE NEW ENGLAND: VERMONT & WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

The Green Mountains of Vermont and the Berkshire Mountains of Massachusetts deliver one of the Northeast's finest driving experiences, easily reachable from New York, Boston, and other cities. Start in Bennington, VT, where you'll soon discover that a New England road trip can combine world-class art and culture with natural beauty right outside your car window. The Bennington Museum offers a permanent art collection plus exhibits devoted to contemporary work, and the Grandma Moses gallery lets visitors not only enjoy the work of the iconic American folk artist but also to recognize the nearby Green Mountains as the backdrop of many of her most iconic paintings. Outside Bennington there are ample opportunities for canoeing, hiking, and chowing down on comfort food (and, yes, they serve classic New England clam chowder even as far inland as Vermont). Head to Williamstown, MA, for another incredible art collection, the Clark, and a truly charming small town experience with a vibrant downtown, great shopping, and more. Then it's off to North Adams, MA, for the Norman Rockwell Museum and the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art and the endless opportunities for exploring the nearby Berkshire Mountains. You can keep busy in western Massachusetts for days, and it's also a relatively short drive to the beaches of Gloucester, the New Hampshire seacoast, and even the stretch of Maine near the New Hampshire border, but that's a road trip for another day!

ROAD TRIP TIP: No matter what time of year you're taking your road trip, there are a few packing essentials: Sunscreen (yes, even in winter), sun-protective clothing, plenty of drinking

water, layers of clothing (T-shirts, sweatshirts, jackets), and comfortable walking or hiking shoes.

Traveling with Your Horse:

How to have a happy, healthy horse when you arrive By: Dr. Lydia Gray, SmartPak Medical Director/Staff Veterinarian

Fall is a busy time of year for horse people. For competitors, it's time to head to regional championships in a variety of disciplines. For trail riders, it's time to enjoy the beautiful changing trees in the most relaxing way possible. Get the most out of these last warm months with your horse by using these helpful hints from *Guidelines for Horse Transport by Road and Air* edited by Catherine W. Kohn.

Before travel

Your best chance of having a happy, healthy horse when you arrive at your destination is to start with one. If you know your horse is sick or unsound, chances are he's not going to improve with a trip to a new place, with a new schedule, around new horses. Stay home until he's back to his old self.

Horses that are hale and hearty may still need a veterinary examination before traveling. Talk to your veterinarian and find out exactly what vaccinations, blood tests and paperwork you will need for your trip—different states have different rules. Then make sure the horse's health record goes with him, whether you're driving or you've hired a driver. Also bring a first aid kit as well as the phone numbers of veterinarians along the way. Of course, if your horse is on any medications or supplements, bring those along too, with all the hay and grain needed for the entire trip.

Next, accustom your horse to loading, riding in a trailer and wearing protective gear well before the actual trip. If your horse is not used to being in a stall and where you are going requires him to be stabled, you may want to get him used to confinement as well. While laxatives such as mineral oil or bran mashes are probably unnecessary, electrolytes, antioxidants and certain vitamins may help horses recover more quickly from long-distance transport. Also, begin reducing the amount of grain your horse receives in his last few meals before the trip.

During travel

Generally speaking, while trips over three hours are considered "long-distance" and require more planning, "short-distance" trips under three hours should still be well-thought out to keep your horse's stress at a minimum. Stress during transport can lead to such problems as colic, diarrhea, dehydration and "shipping fever," or, respiratory disease.

During a long-distance trip, check the horses and offer water every four hours. But try not to spend more than 15 to 30 minutes doing this, as horses only really "rest" when they are unloaded and for some, the stress of stopping—let alone being loaded and unloaded—is more than the stress of the trailer ride. Experts recommend that horses not be trailered more than 12 hours in one day. If the entire trip is longer than this, then horses should be unloaded and allowed 8 hours of rest and recovery before continuing. Research has shown that riding in a trailer is real work for a horse, using as many calories as walking and twice as many as resting.

It seems that horse owners are always debating whether or not to tie horses in trailers! The design of some trailers means you have to tie your horse for safety reasons, but if possible, transport horses in box stalls that allow them to face the direction they prefer and, more importantly, put their heads down. Not only does this help them balance, it also helps them clear their airways of debris, bacteria and viruses, and discharge which could lead to respiratory disease. You can help reduce the amount of dust, molds and other allergens floating in the air by wetting the hay they will be eating in transit and using the most dust-free bedding possible.

After travel

Upon arrival, first check your horse from head to hoof to make sure he's healthy and sound. Look for any injuries that may have occurred during loading, traveling or unloading and make sure he's bright, alert and responsive. Next, help him unwind with 30 minutes of hand walking or turnout in a paddock if available, along with the opportunity for a drink and bite of hay or

grass. If your trip was less than six hours, this may be all the recovery your horse needs!

For trips longer than six hours however, your horse may need a whole day before he's ready to go to work. And horses that have traveled more than 12 hours may need two or three days before they can be expected to perform. During this time, continue to observe him for signs of disease or illness while gradually increasing his grain ration back to the regular amount.

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Air Safe Hitches and its patented [Gooseneck Hitch by AirSafe™](#) will improve your ride by 90%. This Hitch will save you many repairs to your trailer down the road, repairs that would cost much more than the hitch.

(Customer comment: I now realize how bad our roads are! We had to pull our 45' Bloomer from San Antonio, Tx to Shelbyville, Tn at a speed well below any posted limit. Our pull truck is a Ford F-450, and the trucks springs responded and reacted to each of the roads rough spots and at times the occupants (my wife & I) literally were bounced off the seat and up to the ceiling of the truck!! The ride comparison of with and without the air ride hitch is like sleeping on a pillow-top mattress or trying to sleep on a trampoline while the kids are bouncing on it! Without a doubt, we will NEVER pull this horse trailer again with a standard hitch. The Air-Ride comfort, stability, safety and Indeed the lessening of fatigue while driving makes this the number one piece of equipment that should be standard on all large/heavy trailers. Kenneth Chapline)

Animals riding in trailers has always been a dangerous situation. The horse has to stand spread almost spread eagle in the trailer when in motion to keep from falling. The bounce and jerk of the trailer also places undue stress on the horse's leg muscles and joints, making the horse stressed out, tired, and jumpy by the time the trailer stops, especially on long rides. The drive always seems to take a little longer too, because the driver has to stop and let the horses rest every four to six hours.

Using an Air Ride Hitch will give you a smoother ride for you and your horses, other animals, and cargo. The hitch will reduce the repairs and maintenance on your truck and trailer therefore saving you time and money.

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