

# May 2022

Newsletter

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## RV Scenic Drives

Camping is one of the best ways to escape into the wilderness and enjoy the great outdoors. And while tent camping is great for a more rustic and minimalist experience, RV camping creates a whole new level of adventure by combining luxury with nature. Some say that RV camping is superior to tent camping just for the hygiene factor alone! Who actually enjoys sharing a bathroom with complete strangers? Plus, in an RV, you'll eat better, sleep better, you're protected from inclement weather..the list goes on and on.

And fortunately for RV travelers, the United States is home to some of the most famous road trip routes and scenic drives in the world. Many campsites along these routes have outstanding RV sites, and some roll out the red carpet for RV travelers. However, it's important for RV owners and operators to be aware that despite their beauty, some of these famous scenic drives can be hazardous for the inexperienced driver due to high winds, high altitudes, and narrow roads.

Here are a few things you should know if you plan to take an excursion through any of these scenic routes in your RV, plus information about highly rated RV campsites in these areas.

**Trail Ridge Road, Colorado** Trail Ridge Road in Colorado is among the most scenic and rocky in the U.S. With a peak altitude of 12,183 feet, this two-lane highway isn't too narrow or winding, so it shouldn't pose much of a risk in the summer months. The road is closed during the winter but spring snow melt can create icy conditions. Weather conditions in the area change rapidly so you might want to call the Trail Ridge Road recorded phone line to get an update before you start out.

Paradise on the River RV Park has sites along the Big Thompson River where you can fish, go for a hike, or sit back and enjoy the surrounding nature that includes very large, historic pine trees (note that due to the large pine trees, RV sites have a 32 foot limit, with some exceptions).

**The Blue Ridge Parkway** As America's longest and most visited linear park, this gorgeous Appalachian parkway stretches a grand total of 469 snaking miles through both Virginia and North Carolina. As far as the drive itself, it's very curvy and winding in some areas, so make sure your RV's brakes and cooling system are in tip top shape. A list of tunnel heights is available on the parkway's website, so take some time to compare the height of your RV to avoid a potentially dangerous situation.

Chantilly Farm camping and RV park is just minutes from the parkway in Floyd Virginia. The picturesque farmland offers acres of grassy fields, woodlands, abundant wildlife, a local thriving arts and music scene, including an Annual Bluegrass & BBQ Festival.

**Highway 101 Oregon** Thousands of RVs make the drive through this scenic Oregon route year-round. Most of the highway is two lanes, but through some of the coastal towns, it expands to four. It isn't a particularly difficult or treacherous drive, but there are some areas with dips and rough spots as a result of land movement, so you may want to slow down in these areas.

The Sea & Sand RV Park is located on Highway 101, on the central Oregon coastline. It has spectacular ocean views, seven miles of sandy beach, and sightings of migrating grey whales are almost a daily happening in nearby Depoe Bay.

**Going-to-the-Sun Road, Montana** Although there is no set date for the road to open each year, Going-to-the-Sun Road generally opens between late June and early July. With a length of about 50 miles, It offers a wide variety of amenities and activities and takes about two full hours to traverse. At 6,646 feet, its highest point is Logan Pass, which offers spectacular views. There is no entrance fee, and the National Park Service refers to Going-to-the-Sun Road as an 'engineering marvel.' Most visitors have no problem navigating the road with their RVs, but if you have concerns, make sure to take it slow and stay alert.

You don't have travel too far from Glacier National Park to get to Polson RV Resort that offers stunning views of Montana's endless blue sky! The secluded resort is just off the shore of Flathead Lake and is exclusively for RVs.

**Highway 12, Utah** Many visitors rate [Highway 12](#) as the most scenic in Utah. With deep canyons, red rock formations, boulders, mountains, valleys, and cliffs, traversing this road surely offers some breathtaking views. Although it is a bit steep and winding in some areas, the majority makes for a pleasant and exciting drive. If you need to take a break, there are plenty of spots to pull over and enjoy the view.

The unusual [Shooting Star RV Resort](#) and campground is worth checking out can be found in Escalante. Airstream trailers make up some of the accommodations available. Outdoor movies included at the "drive-in".

**Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive – Michigan** Sleeping Bear Dunes is one of the most picturesque areas in the U.S. Towering at 450 feet over Lake Michigan, it features miles of relaxing beach coastlines and a plethora of wildlife to observe. With plenty of activities for people of any age, this is a place that has something for everyone. However, the [Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive](#) does have some tight curves and steep hills, so the [National Park Service](#) offers a designated area for trailer parking, allowing visitors to take the drive and pick up their trailer once they return.

RV camping is one of the most luxurious and carefree ways to enjoy any vacation and for many folks truly gives new meaning to the phrase, "the journey is the destination."

The above article was submitted by John Beeman, a principal of [Cable Rail Direct Inc.](#), a Decking and Railing company located in scenic American Canyon, CA.

## 5 Reasons to Avoid 5th Wheel RVs in 2022

5th wheel RV trailers have more diverse layouts and usable storage than any other RV type.

There are lots of reasons to own a 5th wheel.

Today, however, we're talking about the reasons you may want to avoid these unique RVs. Keep in mind; no RV is perfect. They will all require a few compromises.

Let's dive in!

**What is a 5th Wheel RV Trailer?** 5th wheels distinctive characteristic is their special in-box hitch called a fifth wheel coupling. This hitching method increases safety while towing.

In fact, it's the same type of connection semi-truck use to connect trailers.

The safety benefits include less sway and better weight distribution on your tow vehicle. Larger 5th wheels will obviously require large trucks, like a 3500 dually. But, some fifth wheels can be towed with 2500 trucks.

Here are the reasons we think 5th wheel RVs should be avoided.

### 5th Wheel Pros & Cons (Before We List Reasons to Avoid)

We're not hating on 5th wheel RVs. In fact, we own (and love) our [Alliance 5th wheel](#).

So let's look at a few pros and cons before we get into the reasons to avoid them.

#### Pros

- Most stable of towable RVs to drive due to the kingpin hitch.
- Most storage space of towable RVs.
- Many varieties of floorplans available for many different tastes.
- It can have multiple bedrooms and bathrooms.
- No engine maintenance.
- It truly feels like a house or apartment on wheels.
- More interior space than a motorhome of the same length because there is no cockpit area.

#### Cons

- Requires a more substantial, heavy-duty truck to pull. This can be cost-prohibitive.

- Difficult to maneuver into tight campsites, takes practice to learn to back up correctly.
- Less MPG when pulling a 5th wheel than a travel trailer.
- More expensive to maintain than a travel trailer because they usually have more moving parts, slides, etc.
- Can't access some remote locations or go down certain roads due to length and height.

## 5 Reason You'll Want to Avoid 5th Wheel Travel Trailers

OK – Don't get mad at us for telling it like it is!

**#1 Expensive – The Truck & the Trailer** Buying a powerful truck to tow your 5th wheel can set you back \$70,000, easily! Additionally, the trailer itself is also expensive.

By the time it's all said and done, you could easily purchase a new Class A Motorhome.

If you already own a heavy-duty truck, a 5th wheel may be an option to consider. However, if you need to purchase both, you may want to consider a drivable RV.

Avoid overspending, buy used! A used 5th wheel is much cheaper than a brand new unit. This rule applies with your tow truck as well.

**#2 Too Big for State & National Park Campgrounds** There are always exceptions to the rule, but overall, 5th wheel RVs will restrict where you can park.

They're tall – making low hanging branches a severe issue. Our 5th wheel friends travel with saws to cut branches in emergencies.

They're also long! Many National Park campgrounds (especially in the East) don't allow them to make reservations.

If you want to explore these public parks, you should consider other RV types.

**#3 Gas Mileage Is a Sad Story** Sure, no RV gets impressive gas mileage. 5th wheel towing is notoriously awful on the MPGs. On travel days, you'll probably get single-digit MPGs.

Keep this in mind when you're deciding what RV type will be best for your budget.

**#4 Your Daily Driver is Huge** Once you set up camp and get relaxed, a simple drive into town may bring back your anxiety! You'll be driving a huge truck (often a dually) around small-town America.

Tight turns and even tighter parking spots will be a reoccurring pain in the neck.

To make matters worse, your MPGs around town won't be inspiring either.

Some folks are used to driving large trucks and aren't phased by this. However, if you've only driven small vehicles, switching to a dually will be a drastic change.

If you buy the [smallest 5th wheel in the USA](#), this won't be an issue.

**#5 Limited Access on Travel Days** Like all towable RVs, access to your trailer will be limited on travel day.

This is worse with 5th wheel RVs...often, the living space is only accessible when slides are out. Making a quick snack in the kitchen or sleeping at an overnight parking spot can have added challenges.

Before buying a 5th wheel, make sure you test it's functionality when the slides are in.

**5th Wheel RVs Have Many Advantages** 5th wheels are still very beneficial. They have added towing safety and the luxury of living space.

Here are a few reasons we like them:

- Large Tanks (great for boondocking)
- Separation of Spaces (multiple bedrooms and bathrooms)
- Room for Company
- Tons of Exterior Storage

# Basic Precautions For Transporting A Safe And Healthy Horse On Short Or Long Trips

FROM "THE HAWKINS GUIDE: EQUINE EMERGENCIES ON THE ROAD"

BY JAMES HAMILTON, DVM AND NEVA KITTRELL SCHEVE

Each time a horse enters a trailer he is at risk. He may receive minor bumps and bruises just from being loaded onto the trailer. He may injure himself during the trip because he becomes frightened or loses balance. Illness or a trailer accident can create a life threatening situation.

Anytime the horse is loaded into a trailer, whether for a short or long trip, these fundamental measures should be taken:

**TRAINING.** The best defense against injury and illness is good training. Train your horse to load calmly and to accept the trailer as non-threatening. Forceful training will only teach your horse that the trailer is a bad thing and he will never be able to completely trust it.

**MAKE SURE YOUR TRAILER IS SAFE.** Once your horse has been trained to trust you and the trailer, don't let him down. Only use the proper hitch, make sure your brakes and lights are working and that they conform to legal safety standards. Check the trailer floor and frame. Check for sharp edges and potential hazards inside and out.

**DRIVE CAREFULLY.** Remember that you have live cargo in the trailer and drive accordingly. Don't jostle your horse around. Turn corners carefully and give the horse warning by GENTLY braking a few times before you are going to make a turn. Accelerate and decelerate slowly so he can keep his balance.

**INNOCULATIONS.** Current inoculations will protect your horse from exposure to other horses. Have a current health certificate if you are crossing state lines and a current certificate of negative EIA (Coggins)

**WRAP ALL FOUR LEGS.** Just walking onto the trailer can result in injury if the horse scrapes against something, so wrap his legs every time your horse gets on the trailer. Commercial shipping wraps are easy to put on and can guard against a costly vet bill. Properly applied standing bandages give more support if the trailer is bumpy or the trip is long. The pastern and coronet band should be covered. Make sure you know how to wrap correctly because a bad wrap can cause injury or come undone in the trailer. (Note: Some people believe that they should not wrap a horse's legs because commercial shipping companies do not allow the horses to be wrapped for shipping and they believe the shipping company has a reason for it. They do have a reason - the shippers do not want to be held responsible for a wrap that comes undone, or a wrap that is improperly applied and causes injury, not because it is best for the horse.)

**VENTILATION.** Horses are very sensitive to dust and noxious gasses; i.e., ammonia from urine and manure. Open the vents and windows. If you are afraid he will get cold, put a blanket on him that is appropriate for the temperature. Do not let him get too hot. An overheated horse is susceptible to illness such as dehydration which can lead to heat exhaustion and/or colic.

**CARRY AN EMERGENCY FIRST AID KIT.** Keep it in your trailer and make sure it is always ready and up to date. Include a splint and know how to use it. (For more information, read ["Emergency First Aid Kit"](#))

**LEARN PROPER FIRST AID OF TECHNIQUES.** Learn how to bandage wounds in various locations, control blood loss, and learn to recognize signs of dehydration, heat exhaustion, and colic. Your own veterinarian is your best source of information.

**LEARN TO MONITOR VITAL SIGNS IN THE HORSE.** Practice taking his temperature, pulse, and respiration rate when you are both relaxed at home so you know what is normal. If your horse is sick or hurt, you can give the veterinarian the current vital signs when you call. This will help him/her assess the situation and give you good advice on the phone.

**CARRY BACKUP SUPPLIES APPROPRIATE TO THE LENGTH OF THE TRIP.** Water (At least 20 gallons, not only for drinking, but for cleaning wounds, or sponge bathing an overheating horse), plenty of hay and grain, blankets, etc. Having an auxiliary light that plugs into the cigarette lighter and a backup flashlight with working batteries on board is a good idea. Keep in mind that your trip may be longer than planned due to unforeseen circumstances. You may have a mechanical breakdown, get caught in a traffic jam, or you may simply get lost! (For more information, read ["Don't Go on the Road Without it - Emergency check list"](#))

**CARRY MEDICAL ID.** You should always carry durable, visible, medical ID that lists your doctor, your veterinarian, and a contact person. If you are incapacitated in an accident, it can be important to contact someone who knows you and your horses.

For long trips (12 hours or more), you may want to take more specific precautions.

Get to know your horse. His age, condition, temperament, and environmental factors may change the 12 hour rule for taking aggressive precautions to a 6 or 8 hour rule. If, for instance, your horse will not drink water on the trailer you may have to schedule

stops along the way where you can SAFELY take him off the trailer for a rest and a drink.

The following are guidelines, not absolutes. Use them as a starting point for a discussion between you and your veterinarian. Your best source of advice is your own vet. Develop a good relationship with him/her.

**ELECTROLYTES.** Increase 2 to 3 days prior to shipping. This is most important when traveling in warm regions. Some horses may not drink if electrolytes and mineral supplements are added to the water. Adding them to the feed or using a paste formula is a better plan since anything to discourage water consumption is obviously detrimental to the traveling animal. Follow directions on your particular product label for amounts.

**BRAN MASH.** Once a day for 2-3 days prior to shipping.

**VITAMINS.** Add extra for a week prior to shipping.

**MINERAL OIL.** One pint per day may either be added to feed along with bran mash for four days prior, OR given by a veterinarian via stomach tube the day of shipping 4-6 hours before departure. There are differing professional opinions about this, so discuss this with your veterinarian.

**ANTIBIOTICS.** When the trip will be over 12 hours, discuss the administration of antibiotics with your veterinarian.

**BODY CLIP.** When taking your horse from a cold climate to a warm one, a body clip is recommended. However, since clipping is a source of stress for the horse, do it at least a week before departure, and if it's cold, blanket him.

**BLANKET.** The need for a blanket will depend on the temperature en route. You may need to add or remove it along the way. Do not completely close up the trailer to keep the horse warm, especially if the trailer is insulated. Some vents and/or windows should remain open for ventilation.

## Learn How to Pick a Cargo Trailer

If you're thinking about buying a cargo trailer, you need to make sure you do your research to find the very best. There are so many different cargo trailers on the market today. It can be difficult to find the right fit for your needs!

The first thing you need to consider is the type that will work best for you. There are different kinds for a variety of uses. Some people buy cargo trailers to transport livestock, while others need to carry goods. No matter what you need to transport, there is bound to be one out there for you.

Doing an online search will help you find one that will work well for your needs. Once you do that, you will find that many different companies manufacture cargo trailers!

In order to get the best quality, you should purchase from a well-known manufacturer. There are some that have been in the business of making cargo trailers for years and have an established track record of quality merchandise and service. You can check online reviews to make sure.

In addition to type and manufacturer, you have to choose what size that you'll need. They come in a variety of sizes as people have different reasons and needs for using them. Always be sure that they have enough room for your needs. It would be a shame to spend a lot of money and end up needing a different size down the road.

Another decision you'll need to make is whether or not you'll need a closed cargo trailer. Sometimes the cargo you're carrying will need protection from the weather. For other cargo this may not be an issue. If your cargo can handle it, there is a large cost savings for buying an open trailer.

You may also consider buying an open trailer if you are concerned about pulling a lot of weight. These trailers are not as heavy and will allow you to move around more quickly in your vehicle.

However, there are also many reasons to buy a closed trailer. One reason to buy a closed trailer is for added security. You can lock these trailers if you are worried about theft or other damages. You'll also want a closed trailer if weather is a concern for you.

When deciding which cargo trailer to buy, you need to take the weight of your cargo into account. If it is over 3000 lbs you will need to purchase a dual axle trailer. These types should come with brakes in order to prevent accidents.

With a closed trailer you also have an option of doors. Some have double doors and others have a single door. Still others provide a ramp for you to roll your cargo up. If you are transporting vehicles you will need to have a ramp on your trailer.

You won't always want a ramp though. A ramp can be difficult to deal with when you need to get your cargo in and out of your cargo trailer quickly. If you don't need this feature, it's better to leave it off.

If you will be using the cargo trailer quite often and need to be in and out of it, then a ramp can become rather cumbersome. It is much easier to open the doors, step in and get the tool or item you need and then step out and close the door than it is to drop a ramp every time you need access.

The absolute best thing you can do before you buy a cargo trailer is to do your research! When you go to a store, make sure you ask a lot of questions to be sure you're getting the right trailer for your needs. If you do it the right way, your cargo trailer will serve you well.

## **AIRSAFE Webinar** (First Wednesday of Each Month at 4:00 PM EST)

ZOOM Webinar will be held the first Wednesday of each month

Answering your questions?

Lloyd Stegemann will be hosting a monthly series of Zoom Webinar's to answer any questions you may have on our Air Safe Hitches.  
(5th Wheel, Gooseneck, and Receivers)

Time: May 4, 2022 04:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)  
Every month on the First Wed, until Nov 2, 2022, 7 occurrence(s)  
May 4, 2022 04:00 PM  
Jun 1, 2022 04:00 PM  
Jul 6, 2022 04:00 PM  
Aug 3, 2022 04:00 PM  
Sep 7, 2022 04:00 PM  
Oct 5, 2022 04:00 PM  
Nov 2, 2022 04:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly: <https://zoom.us/meeting/tJEtduqtqzpkGtEclWUtNtG45KWyDFKftycJ/ics?icsToken=98tyKuCtrjoPH9GXsxmCRowMAoj4b-wmHpejbd4nxPSNjR9diSiY8l1K5ZZO97E>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95013552305?pwd=S3VLbEZYS0cwRkFsa3c5YW51ZUFWdz09>

Meeting ID: 950 1355 2305

Passcode: Z8EweF

The discussion is open to anyone that's wishes to attend.

If you would like to discuss anything in advance of our meeting, please contact me at (407) 973-2980

or email: [LStegemann@AirSafeHitches.com](mailto:LStegemann@AirSafeHitches.com).

I look forward to meeting and talking to you about Air Safe Hitches and discuss any questions you may have.

## **AirSafeHitches.com**



## Why Use an Air Hitch?

AirSafe is committed to giving you the safest and most comfortable ride possible. We offer the largest selection of air hitches in the industry, including 5th wheel hitches, gooseneck hitches, and receiver hitches for trailer hitches for trucks.

Our hitches utilize the most innovative engineering and design available on the market today. With a fully height adjustable design, AirSafe hitches are easy to use and don't cause any headaches.

Air Safe Hitches also delivers the ultimate in safety.

With only 10% trailer inertia, our hitches make your vehicles sway a lot less. By evenly distributing the weight between the trailer and the tow vehicle, you will have more ability to brake and steer safely.

AirSafe Hitches are the safest way to tow anything, and they provide the most comfort of any ride. If that isn't enough to convince you, these hitches are also affordable. With AirSafe Hitches, you get safety, comfort, and savings all in one.

[5th Wheel Hitches](#) - Omni-Directional 4 air bag vs competitor 2 air bag system. A four-air bag hitch is designed to allow the hitch head to move on the air bags in any direction based on articulation from the trailer itself. The result of such continuous motion results in a smooth ride and decrease chucking and surging forces from the trailer on the truck. In addition to the movement from the trailer, the 4-airbag hitch support 100% of the pin weight, increasing the effectiveness of the air springs. This results in a smooth and controlled motion for the trailer on the truck.

[Receiver Hitches](#) – If you want a smoother ride and the ultimate in control, then you need the advantage provided by Air Safe Hitches with the Receiver Hitch by AirSafe™. With an Air Safe Receiver Hitch you will get a 90% smoother ride than with a traditional hitch, which can save you money. Glide across the highways and roads avoiding the constant bouncing, which leads to a decrease in gas mileage and early wear and tear on your tires. Our Air Safe Receiver Hitches also reduce stress on your truck and trailer suspension and help eliminate breakages inside the trailer. Our design allows total air ride vs the Shocker Hitch with the hinged approach.

[Gooseneck Hitches](#) – Air Safe offers the industry's largest selection of air hitches. Innovation and engineering insures you receive the safest and smoothest ride. "Enjoy the ride, arrive alive." With AIRSAFE™ you stop the flow of shock flow between the tow vehicle to the trailer and greatly reduce the explosion of energy when these two forces meet. The patented AIRSAFE™ hitches are engineered so the connection to the trailer is separated from the connection to the tow vehicle by an industrial strength airbag. Air Safe Gooseneck Hitches by AIRSAFE™ are simply the best air product money can buy. They are engineered with you and your precious cargo in mind. Simply remove your existing gooseneck tube and coupler and replace it with the AIRSAFE™ system. Available in round and square necks.

[Click to check out the benefits of an air hitch vs a rigid hitch.](#)

# The Unfortunate Truth About RV Solar Power

Like most things, RV solar power has pros and cons. RVers will need to carefully consider all the factors before buying expensive panels for the roof.

RV solar power is much quieter and more eco-friendly than [using a generator](#). It is also a great option for boondockers looking to go camping off-the-grid. But there are still some unfortunate truths about RV solar power that many people are not aware of.

## The high cost of RV solar power

Quality RV solar panel kits are not cheap. Prices have gotten a bit more reasonable in recent years. However, a system can still get pretty pricey if you want a good RV solar power setup.

A few 100-watt panels can add up fast. Add on some deep-cycle solar batteries to store power and a charge controller to keep them from overcharging. Don't forget an inverter to turn the DC power into usable AC power. When it's all over, you may be looking at a \$1500+ investment.

Off-grid RV power is a little complicated

Setting up your RV solar power is a little more complicated than pulling in to a campsite and hooking up to shore power. Before you even buy anything, you will need to know about how much power you use on a daily basis. That lets you figure out how much power

your solar panels need to generate.

### **You'll need a battery bank**

With shore power, you never really need to worry about backup power. Once you're hooked up at the campsite, you can just plug in your laptop or coffee maker like you would at home. The weather or time of day doesn't affect your life at all.

On the other hand, if you have solar panels, you'll need a battery bank. This provides power for nighttime, cloudy days and when you want to park out of the sun. [Lithium-ion batteries](#), though more expensive, are a better option for solar energy storage than lead-acid batteries. They're lighter, more compact, and have a longer lifespan.

### **Parking in the shade can be tricky**

On a hot summer day, you're probably dreaming of parking the RV in a nicely shaded campsite out of the blistering hot sun. However, if you have installed solar panels on your roof, they won't generate nearly as much power if they are not getting direct sunlight.

[Portable solar power](#) units might give you the best of both worlds IF you don't need tons of power. It's often easier to set up since it doesn't require drilling holes in your roof. Quality portable solar electric systems are made by [Renogy](#), [Acopower](#), and [Eco-worthy](#). Goal Zero also makes [portable power stations](#), to use with their [solar panels](#). What's nice is they have a built-in inverter and outlets for your electronics. Do you already own rooftop panels? Check out this [easy mod from Do It Yourself RV](#) on how to make them portable.

### **Is solar power worth it?**

Don't get me wrong, RV solar power has some downsides, but it is absolutely worth the investment. While it is a hefty cost upfront, it gives you the ability to go [boondocking on public land](#) rather than having to stay in a crowded RV park with hookups.

From what you'll save on camping fees as well as on electricity costs, it will make up for the expensive initial investment. Solar power is also completely silent unlike a generator, and maintaining your RV solar panels is easy once everything is set up.

## **Best RV Accessories & Gadgets In 2022**

Nowadays, travelling in RV has become a trend that many travelers are following. It gives the feeling of moving home and offers all the facilities that are available at home. Although travelling in an RV can be memorable, you can make it more comfortable and convenient by adding some of the latest RV accessories.

If you wish to explore the newest RV accessories and gadgets, you can visit [Yourcamperlife](#) as they provide in-depth guides about them. Here you will come across some of the most useful RV accessories you must have on your long RV trip. These accessories not only become helpful on a road trip but also add a stylish appearance to the RV.

**GPS** You might rent several essential gadgets for your RV, but one of the most prominent is the GPS. Most of the time, you will stay on the road, and thus, it is important to have GPS that helps you track your route's destination. Moreover, RV's come in different types such as varying length, size and width, which make it necessary to find a suitable GPS for your RV.

Once you find a perfect GPS for your RV, you will need to add the dimension details to find the best route according to your RV's size. It will lead to a comfortable and safe journey in case of smaller or strange roads. Most of the normal GPS shows you directions that are suitable for regular cars, but the RV specific GPS shows you roads with proper width suitable for your RV. This feature ensures that you don't get stuck with your RV on smaller roads.

**WiFi Repeater and Booster** Regardless of where you are, you will always need a good internet connection as it a necessity for current times. Thus, the next essential gadget that you must-have for your RV is a WiFi booster and repeater. This device serves as a saviour in hard times by providing you signals even after being far away from a WiFi tower. Besides, it turns out to be useful, especially when you are enjoying your RV trip in a remote area and not getting the required signal for surfing the internet.

This device helps you catch signals from nearby WiFi towers and allows you to access the internet easily. Thus, if you have a WiFi repeater and booster, you won't need to struggle with catching signals on your RV trip.

**Electrical Management System** While going on a long trip, keeping the RV and yourself safe from sudden voltage fluctuations is of utmost importance. That is when you need to [install an EMS](#) that protects the RV from high and low voltage fluctuations. It ultimately saves your trip from getting spoiled. You can obtain the same functionality by using surge protectors as they are cheaper and provide the same results.

Although EMS is costly, it is worth buying because it provides the best protection from electrical damage caused by overload. Besides, you don't need to fret about voltage fluctuations while parking the RV in campgrounds with poorly installed electrical outlets.

**Tire pressure checking system** While planning a long RV trip, you need to take all the safety precautions because a single mistake can create many serious troubles for you. One thing that you need to take care of on an RV trip is the tire's pressure. When

you drive for long distances without any halt, then the tire pressure will increase. If the tire doesn't get enough time to cool down, it can burst on the road. That is when you will need a [tire pressure monitoring system](#) as it is one of the essential RV gadgets.

It will monitor your tire's temperature and pressure throughout the trip and send an alert if there's an issue. This tire pressure monitoring system also informs you if the tires are getting too hot or if the pressure is lower than the usual safe limit. Apart from monitoring the pressure, it will ensure that your tire's rims are safe and prevent them from damaging during the journey.

**Temperature monitor for pet safety** If you are taking your pet on the RV trip, then having a temperature monitor is essential for you. This device makes sure that your RV's temperature is suitable for your pet while you leave them alone in the RV. For monitoring the temperature, you need to set a specific temperature on the device and link it with your phone. If the temperature goes beyond the limit, it will send you an alert on your phone regarding the change so that you can quickly head towards the RV and take care of your pet.

**Portable Solar Panels** A portable solar panel becomes useful while travelling for a longer duration. You will also find the fixed solar panels for [your RV](#), but the portable ones are more useful and offer great benefits. For instance, if the temperature is higher and you want to park in the shade, then you can do it and charge your solar panels by moving them in the sun's direction. So, parking in the shade will keep your RV cool, while repositioning the panels will help them charge in the sun.

**Drinking water hose** As a traveller, you can survive without food for some time but not without water. You cannot resist the urge to drink water for a longer time. That is when having a drinking water hose in your RV becomes important. Once you install the drinking water hose, you will need to find a water source in your proximity. Moreover, remember to fill your tanks before you start driving as you can use this water in case of no water source.

**Weight Distribution Hitch** A weight distribution hitch becomes helpful while towing a vehicle or a travel trailer. It ensures safe towing by preventing the towed vehicle from moving off-road at a higher speed. Moreover, it evenly redistributes the weight of the trailer and towing vehicle, which makes space for a levelled towing. While choosing a weight-distribution hitch for your RV, make sure that it is suitable for your RV size and the vehicle you are towing.

**Conclusion** Having these essential accessories will always be beneficial for a comfortable journey, regardless of your RV trip's duration.

## Camping Outlook Remains Healthy

[RV PRO Staff](#) April 20, 2022

The [KOA](#) Monthly Research Report – April Edition indicates that 38 percent of campers who have not traveled for a year or more plan to take at least one camping trip in 2022. However, increasing gas prices are a consideration for campers, with 71 percent saying fluctuations in fuel costs will impact their camping decisions to some degree.

Those are two of the findings from KOA's monthly research report, prefacing KOA's more detailed annual North American Camping Report, which will be released later this month.

Campers report that, for the most part, they plan to keep hitting the road even if increasing gas prices alter their plans. The largest group of respondents said they plan to keep camping trips closer to home (32 percent). Some campers also indicate they will take fewer trips but stay longer at their destinations (25 percent) or take fewer trips overall (24 percent). However, 29 percent of campers report changing gas prices will not change their camping plans.

"It's encouraging that even with gas prices reaching record highs, many campers are still planning to get out and explore," said Whitney Scott, chief marketing officer of Kampgrounds of America. "The flexibility of camping is a real advantage to travelers; by choosing destinations nearby or altering road trip stops a camping trip can mitigate fuel costs in ways other types of travel cannot."

While rising fuel costs also affect RVing, 46 percent of respondents said they are very or somewhat likely to purchase a new rig in 2022. However, it is notable that 1-in-10 RV owners would consider selling their RV if gas prices remain high.

Another factor impacting camping this year is increased travel demand stemming from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. While camping experienced a rise in popularity as a safe way to travel over the last two years, a portion of the population still did not travel due to COVID-19 concerns. In fact, 38 percent of campers say they plan to take at least one camping trip after not doing so for a year or more. The same percentage said they would travel or camp this year even if gas prices increase.

"Fuel prices are a big consideration, but we can't underestimate the desire to travel," Scott said. "Between those who have not traveled due to the pandemic and avid campers making plans regardless of gas prices, travelers are eager. We're not just seeing this in our research, but in our reservation data."

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