

June 2022

Newsletter

6/1/22

Vacations that won't break the bank.

RVing is more affordable than you might think

RV vacations cost much less than other types of vacation travel, even when factoring in fuel prices and the cost of RV ownership. Check out how RV travel can be more economical than other types of vacations.

Your gas bill will be higher if you are towing a travel trailer or driving a motorhome. Research by Go RVing and the RV Industry Association shows that when fuel prices are higher, RVers save on fuel costs by driving fewer miles, taking trips closer to home, and staying longer in one destination. For a 2-4 person travel party, fuel prices would still need to rise significantly (from between \$5.50 to more than \$13 per gallon depending on RV type) from current levels for RVing to lose its economic advantage. If gas prices are a significant concern for you, pay close attention to the weight of the rig you are purchasing and plan to take trips closer to home for longer periods of time.

Go RVing On Any Budget Before buying an RV, people want to know just how much their RV vacations will cost. Well, one of the best things about RV travel is that there are options for every single budget. You are in control of so many price points including the type of camper you purchase, how far you travel, and where you stay.

When we bought our first RV, we were teachers with lots of time to travel, but a pretty tight household budget. RV Industry Association estimates that RV vacations cost up to 59% less than other types of vacations. We have found that statistic goes hand in hand with our personal experience. Sure, we love to splurge on RV resorts, special activities, and dinners out when we travel. But if we need to stretch our pennies, RVing lets us control the budget in so many ways.

So, whether you are about to take the trip of a lifetime or you want to plan the most affordable vacation ever, here are five ways you can manage the budget when planning your RV travel.

- **The Cost of the RV** With new RVs costing anywhere from \$6,000 to \$300,000, this is the most important place to manage your costs. If you are financing, divide your total yearly payment by how many nights you plan on traveling. In our opinion, this number should be far lower than what we would personally spend on a hotel room or vacation home. However, some people are willing to spend more because of all the benefits of having a home on wheels.
- **The Cost of Maintenance** - There are definitely annual maintenance costs for your RV, and it is important to be comfortable with them before you commit to a purchase. Price out winterizing and de-winterizing, along with basic service prices at your RV dealership. Remember that the cost of maintaining a motorized unit versus a towable will vary greatly so do your research! You'll also want to price out storage if you can't keep your RV in your sticks and bricks driveway. That cost will vary greatly depending on where you live.
- **The Cost of a Campground** - This is another amazing way that you get to control your budget for RV travel. National and State Park campgrounds start at around \$20 for no hookups. The best resort campgrounds might charge as much as \$90 for waterfront, full-hook up sites. The average private campground with basic amenities will cost you around \$50. How much do you want to spend? You can find a place to fit that price point. We personally do a combination of public and

private campgrounds to control our costs. On average, over the course of a decade, we spend about \$55 per camping night. Your numbers might look very different if you choose to only camp in state parks or only stay in resorts.

- **The Cost of Driving** - Your gas bill will definitely be higher if you are towing a travel trailer or driving a motorhome. If gas prices are a significant concern for you, pay close attention to the weight of the rig you are purchasing. Also consider distance in your vacation planning. Staying close to home will significantly reduce this cost. The more you drive, the more you'll spend, so this is a very easy cost to control when planning your RV trips.
- **The Cost of Food** - This is our absolute favorite way to save money while traveling in an RV. It is so easy to stick to your normal grocery budget, which means you are not spending a dime more on food than you would at home. However, we also like to experience local food culture, so we usually eat out for a lunch and dinner at each vacation stop. Meal plan ahead of time, pick a few special splurges, and you can easily track your spending on food.

You have infinitely more control over how much you spend when traveling by RV than with any other form of travel. Once you figure out a budget for each of the above categories, you can move on to the fun part...taking those trips. If you ask us, an RV vacation is worth every single penny we spend. Every time.

SpaceX's Starlink Now Offering RV Internet Service

Getting into the Want Starlink Immediately? Meet Starlink RV, Which Has No Waitlist

SpaceX on Monday expanded its Starlink satellite internet service with a new offering called Starlink RV(Opens in a new window), which is available immediately without a waitlist.

As the name suggests, Starlink RV is designed for users who like to take road trips or go camping. But most importantly, if you subscribe, the company will immediately ship out a Starlink dish to your address.

"At this time, there is no waitlist – all orders will be shipped shortly after the order is placed," said SpaceX's support page says. "However, supply is subject to network and equipment availability."

SpaceX is charging Starlink RV subscribers \$599 for the dish and \$135 per month to receive internet via the service. But the catch is that you'll only receive Starlink broadband in areas where SpaceX provides active internet coverage.

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So if you live in an area in the US where Starlink is still listed as "coming soon," subscribing to Starlink RV won't help.

However, the dish will work in areas currently designated as "waitlisted." So if you live in area already full of Starlink users and remain desperate for the service, this is your chance to finally order it. But on the downside, subscribers to Starlink RV will receive downgraded broadband.

"Network resources are always de-prioritized for Starlink for RVs users compared to other Starlink services, resulting in degraded service and slower speeds in congested areas and during peak hours," the company's support page(Opens in a new window) adds. "Service degradation will be most extreme in 'Waitlist' areas on the Starlink Availability Map during peak hours."

Specifically, users can expect download speeds to range from 5Mbps to 100Mbps in high usage waitlist zones, a potentially massive downgrade from the normal 50Mbps to 250Mbps download speeds. To find out which areas currently receive Starlink coverage, you can plug in your address at Starlink.com or check out the company's coverage map.

The other notable limitation is how Starlink RV doesn't officially operate "in motion," although SpaceX is working to add the capability.

Starlink RV arrives weeks after SpaceX introduced a new portability option to the standard Starlink service, which can allow existing subscribers to use their dish in different locations outside their home address. It too costs \$135 per month when the portability option is activated.

The key difference with Starlink RV is how you can pay as you go. "Starlink for RVs provides the ability to pause and un-pause service at any time and is billed in one-month increments, allowing users to customize their service to their individual travel needs," the company's website says.

In contrast, residential Starlink users must pay \$110 per month indefinitely; if they pause service, they risk losing access indefinitely for their coverage area.

Will RV Prices Go Down in 2022?

BYJ ASON & RAE MILLER

FEBRUARY 1, 2022

The RV market exploded during the COVID-19 pandemic. While travel restrictions remained in place, many craved any opportunity to get out of the house. As a result, recreational vehicles provided a glimmer of relief for those seeking safer travel.

The demand for self-sustaining travel kicked the RV market into high gear in 2020, with record numbers of travelers buying or renting an RV. Pandemic-induced shutdowns included the RV industry, which led to supply shortages and price increases.

As a result, the price of RVing was high in 2021. But what about 2022? Will the trend continue? If you gaze with us into the crystal ball, we'll try to demystify a few things.

What Kept RV Prices High in 2021?

As vaccinations ramped up and COVID-19 cases dwindled, restrictions began to lift in 2021. Even as most indicators show that we're emerging from the pandemic, many people remain hesitant to engage in traditional travel.

While 2020 was a banner year for the RV industry, 2021 shattered those records. Many workforces turned to work-from-home modules after seeing how successful it was during the shutdown in early 2020.

These are all just scenarios contributing to the main reasons prices will remain high: low inventory and high demand.

Low Inventory

COVID restrictions dealt RV manufacturers several blows. Employers in the RV industry were forced to send their workers home for a significant period in 2020. When work resumed, productivity was limited thanks to social distancing and other safety measures.

In addition to that, the pandemic disrupted numerous supply chains around the globe. You've probably noticed that Amazon and other shippers haven't been as speedy as they were pre-pandemic. That has carried over to the manufacturing world as well, where delays have slowed the supply of many of the necessary components to ramp up production, leading to low inventory.

The natural cycle of the economy forces prices to rise when inventory is low. Not only is it a capital opportunity for manufacturers to recoup some of their losses during times of no or low productivity, but it also helps to reduce demand so the supply chain can catch up.

High Demand

Increased demand aggravated production issues because of restrictions and disruptions. Like the rest of us, RV dealers and manufacturers could never have foreseen the pandemic coming, which drove demand for their products to record highs.

As you might remember from your high school economics class, higher demand equals higher prices. The uncertainty in the economy and the continued interest in RVs make it challenging to tell if that demand will drop anytime soon. What Would Make Prices Go Down in 2022?

While RV prices remained high throughout 2021, there's a glimmer on the horizon for hopeful RVers.

More Used RVs

Though many people opted to travel in RVs in 2020 and 2021, some will realize that RVing simply isn't for them, at least not long term.

Traveling in an RV may have been a haven when the pandemic was spreading across the globe, but that doesn't mean it's the preferred method of travel for everyone. Many new RVers will put their RVs on the market once they feel comfortable returning to other forms of travel.

Lower Demand

Mounting concerns about the Delta and Omicron variant and other Covid issues could decrease the demand once again. There may be a lower surge of people wanting to leave the house. As vaccinated individuals have more travel freedoms, the surge of travelers will naturally wane, putting less demand on the RV industry.

Of course, the opposite effect could take place.

Higher Inventory

Returning to normalcy is the driving factor here. As businesses return to full capacity and supply chains begin to clear up, production will return to normal and perhaps even increase beyond typical levels.

When that happens, the number of new RVs available will increase. Coupled with the expectation of an increase in used RVs, inventory should be considerably higher in 2022 than it was in 2020 and 2021. This would naturally drive RV prices down.

In our opinion, 2021 was the worst time to buy an RV. But, there's not a singular answer to this question, as time will reveal much.

It's human nature for things to cycle up and down, but there are many unknowns in the coming year. Travelers adapted during COVID, opting for the choice of RV travel to mitigate safety risks. But many of those folks will give up their RV travels at some point, and manufacturing will return to normal.

Therefore, there could be an uptick in used RVs hitting the market, so you might luck out with a higher inventory in the used RV department.

AIRSAFE Webinar (Next date: June 1, 2022)

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: June 1, 2022 04:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the First Wed, until Nov 2, 2022, 7 occurrence(s)

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/tJEtdugtqzkpGtEclWUtNtG45KWYDFKftycJ/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.

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.](#)

What's in store for RVers in 2022?

We break down all the variables and decide what they mean

By Mike Gast

I know we've just arrived in December 2021, but with the weirdness of the past 12 months, it's not too early to roll out the crystal ball and try to start making educated guesses as to what may be in store for RVers in 2022.

What got me thinking along those lines was the grand opening of a new RV park in Avila, California. It looks like a beautiful place,

especially its spectacular ocean views. But we heard from at least one RVTravel.com reader who wasn't too happy with the rates the new park was charging. There are, of course, a lot of factors in their rates, but they appear to be in the \$98- to \$135-a-night range. That doesn't seem out of line with the rest of the parks in that region, but it sure seemed high to at least one reader.

The new 115-site Flying Flags Avila Beach RV Resort is just one of the first of what will likely soon be a flood of new and expanded RV parks in coming years. New campgrounds and new park owners will likely bring new rate structures along for the ride.

But rates are only part of the picture as we approach 2022. Here's a look at a few things to consider for the future. It's likely not a totally comprehensive list, and my predictions could be way off base. I'd like to hear what you have to say, so be sure to give us your thoughts in the comments section at the end of the story.

RV manufacturing The RV Industry Association is doing cartwheels over its new RV shipment predictions for 2021 and 2022. RV manufacturers are now expecting to cross the 600,000-units-shipped mark before the end of this year and then create another 630,000 new rigs in 2022. The RV industry has seemingly overcome every obstacle put in its path the past two years, including supply chain woes, staffing issues, and even questionable quality. They just keep cranking out the RVs, and new buyers are waiting in a long line for the privilege of buying them.

My guess is that they will easily make at least 625,000 new rigs and demand won't begin to dip until the last quarter of 2022. High demand, of course, brings higher prices. Don't look for any deals on new or slightly used rigs until spring 2023.

RV dealer inventories The dealer lot numbers have been a mixed bag all year. Most dealers are claiming that lot inventories are still 40 percent or so below normal. Keep in mind that the "Big Three" manufacturers all have billions of dollars in backorders waiting to be built.

My slightly educated guess here is that you may see more of the "common" brands and models hitting the lots, but your model and floorplan options may be limited through most of 2022 if you don't have a unit already on order and are planning to buy from what you see on the lots.

Campground crowding With more than a million new RV units produced in just the past two years and 600,000-plus more on the way in 2022, you can count on a continuation of crowding at your favorite campgrounds. My friend Nanci Dixon is the real expert in this area, and I highly recommend that you keep an eye on her column on Campground Crowding that appears in RVTravel.com every Sunday.

We have already seen campground owners extend their booking calendars out a year or more. I'm hearing from several owners who say they are likely to extend their reservation calendars up to a year-and-a-half to two years out. Imagine planning your camping trips 24 months in advance. It's a sad fact now that sites on most campgrounds – especially popular public parks – are booked online within seconds of becoming available. That problem can only get worse as more campers pulling more new RVs enter the lifestyle.

Campground site rates The campground business – just like other hospitality-based industries – has always been a perfect example of free enterprise at work. Rates are set by supply and demand. If demand is low, rates typically go down. If demand is high, rates follow. Of course, there are many other factors at play including worker salaries, insurance and materials costs, land purchases, taxes, and fees. It's a long list. But at their core, rates are driven by demand.

In my two decades in the franchised camping business, I was always amazed when owners told stories of campers willing to make a scene at a front desk when quoted a rate they didn't like. I can't imagine that same camper losing their cool when presented their tab at a Holiday Inn or trying to negotiate the price of their steak at Texas Roadhouse. In America's economy, prices are set by what the market demands and consumers will tolerate. That's just business. If you think a campground's rates are out of line, you're always free to seek out more affordable options.

In 2022, I'd expect to see demand drive camping prices even higher. If you take a pass on an open site, there are likely several dozen folks waiting online to snap it up. Dynamic online pricing will exacerbate things, giving owners the ability to use complex algorithms to set rates according to time of week, time of day, type of site, your personal buying history, and a host of other factors. Playing the best-rate game is going to get more difficult as owners try to maximize what they can get for the products and services they provide. Way down the road (certainly not in 2022) that demand dynamic may turn back in the RVer's favor. But I don't see that on the horizon yet.

New RV parks As I mentioned at the top of this essay, the new park in Avila, California, is just one of many new RV parks and campgrounds on the way. Camping is hot, and investor funding always follows a hot trend.

There are dozens of new parks in the works, but the process is agonizingly slow and cumbersome, so don't expect a plethora of new locations in 2022. Campground developers need to negotiate a maze of local and state permits, zoning boards and anxious neighbors before they can ever turn a shovelful of dirt.

The physics of the camping industry dictates that it takes a lot longer to build a new campsite than it does the RV that's waiting to fill it, so don't expect rapid growth in available campground inventory in 2022. Also keep in mind that, in general, a new RV site excluding land costs with limited amenities can cost anywhere from \$48,000 to \$58,000 per site to construct.

Many of these new parks won't be of the "mom-and-pop" variety that has been the standard for decades. Big-money investors want big, fancy parks that can show a rapid rate of return on their money. You can also expect to see a lot fewer mom-and-pop, family-run parks as the years go on since it's easier for big investors to purchase an existing park that has extra land available for additional development than it is to start from scratch. We're going to see a lot of smaller park owners taking this opportunity to cash out and sell.

As an example of what's happening on the construction side of the equation, Kampgrounds of America recently announced they've added nearly 4,000 campsites to KOA parks in 2021, and currently have 20 new parks under construction.

Fuel prices This one is anybody's guess. The pandemic seems to have negated all the regular seasonal ebbs and flows of the fuel price markets. If COVID-19 variants again cause stay-at-home orders next year and travel is curtailed, prices will likely drop. If all is well and travel demand climbs next spring and summer while OPEC restricts production, prices will follow suit.

The bottom line I wish my admittedly flawed crystal ball had more good news for longtime RVers. If you're someone who got into RVing because you could "go where you want, when you want," you likely aren't going to like many of the changes you see next year.

Yet, there's always hope. Things should settle into a more familiar pattern on the RV manufacturing side and maybe potential buyers will get wise and demand builders pay more attention to cost and quality. And as more and more new RV parks come online and existing campgrounds expand, site demand and crowding will eventually ease.

Maybe 2023 will have to be our year. What do you think?

The Hottest 10 camping trends coming your way in 2022

With the aggressive growth of camping since the pandemic, a new perspective of camping trends is going to inspire your next trip. We have seen a new generation of campers spawn in and make a big influence on the camping world. If you're planning your next camping trip, take a look at our predictions for 10 camping trends in 2022 for inspiration...

1. **Glamping goes mainstream** - "Glamping" short for glamorous camping, is one of the main camping trends in 2021 and will remain huge in 2022. It is particularly appealing to campers who want to experience the outdoors with upgraded comfort.
2. **More Younger Campers** - Due to more alternative and interesting new ways to camp, younger Americans who may not be interested in traditional camping have joined the big camping world. More specifically, Millennials are interested in experiencing both back-country camping and glamping, while Gen X seeks more unique accommodations.
3. **More Camping families** - The good news is that most first-time family campers who tried camping due to COVID-19 are likely to continue camping in the future. In turn, this will see a rise in accommodation that caters to larger groups.
4. **Camper's high interest in trying a new camping experience** - Campers are craving unique ways to get outdoors in 2022, especially an RVing experience or glamping. More and more millennials are being drawn to the idea that RV living could be just the right fit for them.
5. **All-electric powered RVs** - Driven by the increasing demands of millennial campers, the use of RVs as a primary way to camp has grown steadily. RV owners also have an increased interest in upgrading their RV. One of the most talked-about RV camping trends of 2022 is the imminent arrival of all-electric powered RVs.
6. **Remote work during long term travel** - With many able to work remotely, remote work will become a hot topic for 2022 camping. Many campers indicate that their ability to work remotely will be a "key consideration" in how they travel in 2022. Reports sat that new campers and millennial campers are the most likely to work while camping.
7. **Tech-driven accessories** - Similar to our daily lives, new tech is here to stay and become an integral part of our camping routines. Younger campers love bringing high-tech gadgets to the outdoors to make their experience more enjoyable. This is a step away from essential camping tips of just bringing a tent, a knife, and some food.
8. **Local camping** - One of the more surprising camping trends is the shift towards local camping. More campers are choosing to stay domestically and travel smaller distances. Start looking at exciting destinations local to you, or better yet, hop in your car or campervan, pack some essentials and see where the road takes you!
9. **Sport and travel** - Hiking/backpacking and fishing are the most popular recreation types among campers which remain virtually unchanged since 2014. However, as a new generation of campers makes their way outdoors, some physically active and extreme pursuits such as mountain biking, rock climbing, and motorsports amongst the youngsters are becoming popular.
10. **Eco-Friendly camping** - As society moves towards new methods to help conserve the environment, campers have become more eco-friendly as well. Accessories such as fully disposable solar-powered compact grills and lanterns are

increasingly in high demand, as campers are making a conscious effort to limit polluting campgrounds and help preserve our planet.

Ready to pack?

As more people continue to explore nature and experience the joys of camping, more trends will continue to emerge. No matter how you prefer to camp, the biggest trend in the outdoor world right now is just to get out there and try.

With Insane Gas Prices, Can RVers Afford To Travel This Season?

It's no secret that fuel prices are rising, and are projected to rise higher in the coming weeks. As we turn the corner from winter to spring, there's a question looming over RVers, the RV industry, and related businesses such as campgrounds & RV parks: ***Will RVers be able to afford to drive their rigs this season?***

Let's take a look at the situation to help us all better understand what's at stake, and exactly how much RVing we're likely to be able to enjoy.

What's Going On At the Fuel Pumps? We drive a Class A diesel pusher, and as we write this post, the U.S. national average price for a gallon of diesel fuel is a record-breaking \$4.88. Prices have risen more than 75 cents per gallon in a just week's time.

In terms of a previous high for diesel, in July of 2008, we were paying at most \$4.84 for diesel fuel, which would be just about \$6.19 in today's inflation-adjusted dollars.

As for gasoline, to provide some perspective, at the end of April 2020, the average price per gallon of regular unleaded gasoline was \$1.77. As we write this post just under two years later, the average price per gallon of regular unleaded gasoline is \$4.25.

Of course, a "national average" means that some areas are far more expensive than others. Many stations in and around Los Angeles, CA are charging between \$6.69 and \$6.99 per gallon... for regular gas! Even though cheaper gas can still be found in the area, it's almost impossible to find anything below about \$5.50/gallon right now.

As far as diesel in the Los Angeles area, you'd be hard-pressed to find anything below about \$6.00/gallon right now. Some stations around the state are even charging well over \$7/gallon! And as long as crude oil prices climb, consumers can expect prices at the pumps to rise, too, with the national average for a gallon of regular unleaded gas projected to top \$5.

All of this begs the question, how much can we all afford to drive? And one industry that's likely to be hit particularly hard is the RV industry. For lots of reasons.

What Is the Impact of Gas Prices on RVers?

We all understand that, in general, the more of a fuel-guzzler we drive, the more it's going to cost us to get from point A to point B. It's no secret that RVs cost more money to drive than your average automobile, due to size, weight, and a few other factors.

Let's take a look at the various classes of RVs and how the owners of each class might feel the pinch this season.

Class A RV *Owners of Class A RVs are going to feel the pinch at the fuel pumps this summer, but there are ways to compensate for that pinch!*

We've got considerable experience with this class since we've lived in a Class A RV for nearly two decades now. As we noted in our post on the typical fuel economy of a Class A motorhome, depending on size, weight, and several other variables (wind, hills, poor weather, weight of your towed vehicle, etc.), large gasoline-powered Class A motorhomes typically get somewhere between 6-10 miles per gallon in ideal conditions.

Diesel pushers like ours do a little better, with a typical average of 7-12 mpg, again mostly depending on size and weight (including the weight of everything you store onboard).

Class B RV *Many Class B RVers will be happy to be living small this summer with fuel prices up.*

Class B RVs vary in size and type as well and tend to typically get anywhere between 10 and 25 miles per gallon, (with 25 being on the rare high side).

Bear in mind that some Class B rigs can get as little as 6-7 mpg. As with the Class A (and every class of RV), towing a vehicle or a trailer behind the rig will also have an impact on fuel mileage.

Class C *Class C RVs vary dramatically in size and weight within the class. Obviously, the smaller and lighter the RV, the less high prices at the pumps will hurt.*

A Class C RV sits squarely between A & B in terms of RV classes (which seems like nobody was looking at the alphabet when they named them). But the term “Class C RV” typically refers to a rig that’s anywhere from about 21 to 41 feet long. That length, and the corresponding weight of the rig, will obviously have an impact. With that said, the average fuel mileage of a gas Class C RV is typically somewhere around 8 to 10 mpg.

Travel Trailers (Including 5th Wheels & Toy Haulers) *Travel trailers of all types also vary widely in weight and length. RVers who tow smaller, lighter weight travel trailers won’t feel the pinch the driver of this F-350 hauling a 5th wheel will feel.*

Travel trailers vary substantially in size, weight, and aerodynamics, so it’s difficult to offer a real average in terms of how these rigs impact fuel mileage. In addition, the tow vehicle being used factors in as well.

With all of that in mind, it’s said that towing a mid-size travel trailer can decrease the mpg of a truck by around 7 miles per gallon. So, a truck that typically gets 15 mpg, would more likely get somewhere around 8 mpg while towing a travel trailer. Again, this depends on the tow vehicle as well as the camper being towed. So, your mileage may vary, literally and figuratively.

How Will Fuel Prices Impact RV Travel This Season? According to the RVIA (RV Industry Association), the average RVer travels around 4,500 miles in a year. The RVIA also projects that an RVer could spend 30% more on gas this year compared to 2021.

But if history is any indication, RVers aren’t likely to park their rigs and stay home. They may cut their fuel costs a bit by traveling shorter distances on average than they typically would, but RVers love to hit the road and camp. That is after all, why most of us bought our rigs in the first place. Most want to continue to vacation, enjoying nature and all the recreational activities available to us.

Some RVers who, in past years, may have driven across numerous state lines during summer vacation, might this year be more likely to limit their travels to their home state or nearby states. They may spend more nights in one place and fewer days on the road, or they may travel for two weeks instead of three. But RV owners are still likely to hit the road.

What Can RVers Do to Make Up for Higher Prices at the Pumps? In addition to cutting back on how far (or how frequently) they travel, RVers can use several other options to try and help offset the high price of fuel this year. These include, but aren’t limited to, the following:

Boondocking One way to save a substantial amount of money, that you can then use to put fuel in your tank, is to do more boondocking! We highly encourage boondocking because it’s our favorite way to camp, and we want other travelers to find the same joy in the boonies that we do.

If you’ve never done any boondocking and you find the idea intimidating, you can start by checking out our YouTube video for a guide to “cutting the cord” and getting started as a boondocker. You’ll be a pro in no time!

We’ve also got a post with 27 fantastic boondocking tips, and another with the 11 best ways to find RV boondocking spots!

There are also lots of free apps available to help you to find great boondocking spots, and you can check those out in our post on the 7 best free camping apps for the avid boondocker.

What? You haven’t equipped your rig with a roof-full of solar and a massive lithium battery bank yet? No problem! How about considering a portable power system?

If one of the above options doesn’t fit the bill for you, there are lots more choices available, too!

Free Overnight Parking If you’re traveling to a particular destination and would like to stop for the night to have dinner, relax, and catch some zzzz’s before moving on the following morning, you may want to have our post on free overnight RV parking handy.

And if you’re wondering if you can camp in Walmart parking lots, we’ve got you covered there!

Get The Best Gas Price You Can Regardless of what the prices are at the pump, knowing how to find the best price for fuel in any area you’re in can make a big difference. Especially if your tow vehicle or RV has a large fuel tank (ours is 150 gallons). Saving even just a few cents per gallon can add up when you’re putting 100 gallons into the tank!

Luckily, there are apps for that! Check out our post on the 5 Best Apps to Find Cheap Gas for Your RV & Car so you can make sure you get the cheapest price you can (even if the price itself isn’t actually cheap).

Save Money on Campgrounds There are also lots of ways to save money on campgrounds, including some fantastic and unique opportunities that can be found by using The Dyrtr App.

And finally, as you're planning your RV travels this coming season, be sure to check out our 5 best RV trip planner apps!

Will High Prices at the Pump Affect Your RV Travel Plans This Year? Even with the many ways for RVers to save money to make up for the temporary rise in fuel prices, we know that the price at the pump is still going to give people pause. Are you planning to let it affect your RV trip planning this year? Or are you going to ignore it and get out there and enjoy? Leave us a comment and let us know how fuel prices are affecting your travel plans this year!

Geek Out with Us Every Week Join our newsletter to learn about all things RV-related. Every week we offer free tips, tricks, product reviews, and more to our online community of RVers. So, whether this is your first time on the road or you're a seasoned expert, we'd love for you to geek out with us!

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