

Subject:

September 2022 Newsletter from Air Safe Hitches

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Newsletter

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How They Got Their Name – The Fifth Wheel Hitch

Fifth wheels use a U-shaped hitch coupling that's bolted or welded to the frame of your tow vehicle—usually a pickup truck—through the truck bed. The connection point, also known as a pin box, places the trailer's weight directly over your tow vehicle's rear axle.

While hitch technology has come a long way, this basic design is responsible for the fifth wheel name. Old carriages in the 1800s had a horizontal '5th wheel' that allowed the front axle to pivot. The name's use was continued with the modern-day design for the 5th wheel truck hitch.

It's similar to the type of hitch used on semi-trucks, which means it's safe, sturdy, and rated for heavy loads. At the front of the 5th wheel, there's a "king pin" that locks into the U-shaped pin box in the bed of your truck, allowing you to safely pull the trailer.

What are the Pros and Cons of Fifth Wheels?

Whether you're looking for the perfect RV for weekend trips or full-time RV life, 5th wheels can't be ignored. Let's look at their advantages and disadvantages to help you find the best RV for your lifestyle.

The Advantages of 5th Wheel RVs

Fifth wheels come with several upsides, starting with more stability when towing. Fifth wheel hitches reduce trailer sway because the hitch weight is over the rear axle (the drive axle) of the tow vehicle, meaning the weight of the trailer is better distributed.

The hitch design also provides a more secure connection than a typical ball hitch. This stronger connection and high level of stability mean most 5th wheel trailers can be built with strong, sturdy, heavier, and often more luxurious materials and features.

If you want a towable RV with luxury amenities, a fifth wheel is an excellent option. Many models come with solid wood cabinetry, king-size beds, and full-size appliances. These amenities are not included in standard travel trailers, often because of weight.

For those of you that bring a lot of toys and recreation gear on your adventures, a 5th wheel toy hauler may be your best choice. **Toy haulers are the perfect RVs for outdoor lovers** because they are a home and a garage on wheels. You'll have room for ATVs, dirt bikes, kayaks, or anything else that you like to haul on your adventures.

The Downsides of Fifth Wheel Trailers

The first downside is size. Fifth wheels are large and heavy, and someone who's not used to towing could feel overwhelmed. But their hitch design still makes them easier to handle than a travel trailer of the same size with a typical ball hitch. Still, 5th wheel RVs are a great family option because they generally offer a large living area and plenty of sleeping space.

Just remember that longer trailers have a slightly harder time finding campgrounds. You'll need to be aware of campground length restrictions when booking sites for your RV road trip. This is the sacrifice you'll make to get a trailer with more living space and storage capacity than most.

The other big downside is that you need a full-size or heavy-duty pickup truck to tow the trailer. Because 5th wheel campers are often larger and heavier than a typical travel trailer, they require a more powerful truck. This also translates to a higher-priced truck, which can put fifth wheels out of reach for many RVers.

Weighing 5th Wheel Pros and Cons

So, how do you balance the need for an RV with ample living space with the desire for maneuverability? A lot comes down to personal preference, but asking yourself these questions will help you decide if a 5th wheel is right for you:

How many people will you travel with? Traveling with four or more people requires the kind of living space and sleeping capacity that only larger **5th wheels with bunkhouse floor plans** can provide. How comfortable are you towing? While they're generally more stable than traditional travel trailers, 5th wheels still require care when towing. There are plenty of resources to help you learn **how to safely tow a trailer**, but you need to ask yourself whether you're comfortable navigating this type of RV before buying or renting a 5th wheel. How often will you relocate? 5th wheels are great for establishing a basecamp for longer stays. You'll retain your tow vehicle for supply runs and to explore nearby attractions, but smaller **class B RVs** are better if you're constantly on the move. How much gear do you pack? One final benefit of 5th wheel trailers is a healthy amount of storage space. Even if you don't opt for a toy hauler model, most 5th wheels boast a generous pass-through compartment for gear storage.

It's important to match the trailer to the truck you own. If you're shopping for both an RV and a tow vehicle, learn **how to find the right vehicle to tow your RV** before you pick a fifth wheel RV. If you already have a truck, use a **Towing Guide** to determine how much weight you can safely tow.

Once you have a reliable tow vehicle, browse Camping World's selection of fifth wheel travel trailers – both **new and used**.

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.

With all the said, we're excited to see the new Tesla Cybertruck & 5th Wheel combo (pictured below).

#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, swithing 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

WEBINAR

Aug 31, 4:00PM EST

Do you own an AirSafe Hitch?

We are having a WEBINAR session to discuss the different hitches and the any maintenance that may be needed. We will discuss what replacement parts are available and when you may need to replace these parts.

- How to find any air leaks you may have
- Warranty and life expectancy of different parts of the hitch
- How to set the correct air pressure
- Would you like to upgrade and trade in your older hitch?

To Join Zoom Meeting click:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85988390184?pwd=WEEyM1p1QVZXWTRkamgrQjRYRHN2QT09>

Meeting ID: 859 8839 0184

Passcode: 380398

Upcoming WEBINAR's

Click airsafehitches.com/webinar/

To see sign in procedure and informaion about the WEBINAR

Sept 7, 4:00PM EST

Are you looking for an Air Hitch?

We will discuss the benefits of the
5th Wheel, Gooseneck, and Receiver air hitches

and questions you may have.

Things to consider before buying a hitch

Will the size hitch selected effect the ride?
How to set the correct air pressure
Consider type of trailer
Cost to consider without Air Hitch
Extend life of the trailer
Warranty and life expectancy of different parts of the hitch
Open Discussion

Lloyd Stegemann is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: New Customers

Time: Sep 7, 2022 04:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/95013552305?pwd=S3VLbEZYS0cwRkFsa3c5YW51ZUFWdz09>

Meeting ID: 950 1355 2305

Passcode: Z8EweF

This is what your RV says about you

By **RV Travel** August 26, 2022

By **Liz Wilcox**

So you travel in an RV... but have you ever thought about what your RV says about you? Like, what's the impression you give when you pull up to the campground?

Well, look no further, my friend. I'm here to tell you all about how people are judging you from their camping chairs.

Luxury motorhome

You want to go camping – you just want to do it in style. And who's to say you can't watch TV and listen to the beautiful sounds of nature at the same time? Just because you live in an RV doesn't mean you have to be one of those tiny homes hippies!

Class B

Can we all just agree to call this a van? So you RV in a van, but yes, we'll admit it's a sweet van. It's got a name and you're never gonna sell it, no way. Would people stop asking?! (Man, that's annoying!

Class B+

You're old and you want a simple life, but you'd also like some room for your Shih Tzu.

Class C

You're either a family with small kids on vacation or a couple looking for your next great hiking adventure. This RV isn't for everybody, and you'll admit the storage sucks, but man is it easy to just pull over.

Truck camper

You're a rugged mountain man with a sordid past just passing through town. At least that's what people think when you pull up, until you step out and look like the shortstop for Average Joe's.

Not much is known about your kind, and you like it that way. Adds a little comical mystery. The truth? You're just easy to please.

Airstream

You're in a league all your own. You're cute. You're hip. You either had a lot of money to buy new or you had some money stashed away for a renovation. We're all very happy for you.

Standard travel trailer

You're logical. Practical. You ain't spending a ton of money. This RV suits all your needs and nothing more. You got the one with just enough storage and space to fit you, your kids and your pets. You want to spend as much time outside as possible, and this trailer is gonna make that happen for you, dang it.

Like the rest of the RVing community, you're just looking for your little slice of freedom. Respectable, really.

Teardrop

Does a bear relieve himself in the woods? So do you. Seriously though, you're just really into the simple life.

Fifth wheel

You want to RV with all the comforts of home but you can't afford a luxury motorhome. BINGO! Fifth wheel! You brag about your RV kitchen every chance you get—and who can blame you? After all, you've got an island, a respectable fridge, and room for the Sam's Club peanut butter in your pantry.

Toy hauler

You're super into nature, and tearin' it up. There's nothing like taking the quad out in Moab and gettin' it done, yanawimsayin? Then head on down to the motocross competition to watch your boy take those ruts like a champ. Or maybe you're the motorcycle type and got the toy hauler to hold your pride and joy.

You head to campgrounds close to scenic highways. You love a good bonfire with some friends, good ol' American beer, and nothing but the Classics blastin' on the stereo in the background.

Skoolie

You're tired of these money-hungry RV manufacturers with their shoddy craftsmanship—if you can even call it that. In fact, you're pretty tired of a lot of things. No longer will you live by everyone's standards except your own!

That's why you decided to get the bus: the bus to freedom. It's dependable, sturdy and full of possibility. Just like you. Maybe you'll get plumbing for it, maybe you won't. All you know is the open road is calling your name and you must go.

45 tips for foolproof fall Camping

The weather may be cooler, but don't let that dampen your enthusiasm for fall camping.

Camping in the fall is great way to extend your outdoor adventures into the cooler months, while enjoying some gorgeous fall scenery. Too cold, you say? Don't fret. With a little extra preparation, you can secure plenty more star-filled nights well into the autumn season.

To help you get out there, we've put together 45 tips for making your fall camping trips a success. So bundle up, and get out there!

PREP TIME

1. Locate an awesome destination.

Whether you live in New England or near other popular camping spots, visit recreation.gov to find a place near you with all the fall recreation opportunities you are looking for. Many of the great places we're working to conserve also provide ample opportunity for fall camping adventures.

2. Target reduced fee camp sites.

One advantage of camping in autumn is that public lands like state parks and national forests may have reduced entrance fees after Labor Day. Check with individual forests and campgrounds to find out.

3. Plan with peak fall colors in mind.

One of the most compelling reasons to camp in fall is the stunning fall foliage. Depending on your latitude, fall foliage is usually most stunning from September through October, but can linger into November.

4. Watch the weather.

Fall weather fluctuates quickly. Always check the forecasts ahead of time specific to the parks or campgrounds you plan to visit. Remember that warm weather can quickly turn. Depending on where you're going, you should always be prepared for the chance of snow, rain, or other severe weather.

5. Make a check list.

As with any camping trip, be sure to make a check list of all the things you'll need to stay safe and warm, then go through it before walking out the door.

THE RIGHT GEAR

1. Pack a cold-weather sleeping bag.

Always bring a sleeping bag that protects against temperatures lower than you expect, for example one labeled for 0-30 degrees F. There's nothing worse than freezing through the night, so bring two sleeping bags if you get cold easily. Mummy sleeping bags are best for keeping warm because they cling closer to your body. Most of them come with a hood that surrounds your head to capture heat that would otherwise escape.

2. Test your equipment.

Set up your tent in the backyard to make sure it's functioning properly. Be sure to test all the zippers as well. Also test any other gear that you'll be bringing.

3. Invest in a good tent.

Consider buying a good three-season tent. You'll want one that has a full rain fly to keep moisture out. Always bring a tarp or tent footprint to place underneath your tent to protect from moisture seeping in. Also, consider bringing an extra tarp to set up over the top of your rainfly.

4. Sleeping pads, sleeping pads, sleeping pads.

These are critical to insulating your body from the cold earth. Get a good closed-cell pad and double it up with another foam pad if needed. In terms of heat retention, this is one of the most important things you can do to stay warm at night.

5. Bring a mix of clothing for layering.

Layering is the key to staying comfortable while camping in fall. Pack layers of breathable, water-resistant clothing. Wool, fleece and synthetic materials will help keep you warm and dry. Avoid cotton clothing. If you're backpacking, just be aware that extra clothes add additional weight. Some essential items include:

- thermal underwear, or base layers with moisture wicking properties
- fleece jacket, wool shirt/sweater or other synthetic layer for warmth
- wind and water resistant outer jacket
- winter cap -- for daytime use and for sleeping
- gloves/mittens, plus an extra pair in case first pair gets wet
- winter jacket (even if the weather is predicted to be warm)
- sturdy boots, with waterproof membrane
- extra shoes and plenty of extra dry socks
- rain poncho and rain pants
- plenty of changes of clothing so that you can dry out damp clothing when needed

Other items to consider: Balaclava (face stocking) and down booties.

6. Try mittens instead of gloves.

It is often said that mittens will keep your hands warmer than gloves because they give your fingers a chance to keep each other warm.

7. Don't get bit or burned.

Don't forget to bring insect repellent and sunscreen for lingering biters and intense sunsets.

8. Stock up on firewood.

Dry firewood can become scarce in autumn. As long as there are no burn restrictions in your campsite area, pack your own wood so you don't have to risk going without a cozy fire.

9. Be prepared for rain.

Invest in a good backpack with a rain cover. You can also line your backpacks with plastic garbage bags to keep out moisture. Bring extra plastic garbage bags and plastic baggies for protecting other items, such as electronics. Also bring water tight-containers. And finally, don't forget to bring extra tarps that you can hoist and tie above eating or gathering areas to provide shelter from rain.

AT THE CAMPSITE

1. Set up your campsite with warmth in mind.

Choose a sheltered spot to pitch your tent. Double bonus if you find a place where the sun is likely to shine in the morning!

2. Hang a tarp.

Hang a tarp between trees near your tent. The tarp will provide some additional shelter from wind. You can also hang a tarp over your picnic/eating area to provide a dry place to eat in case of rain.

3. Prepare for wind.

When you set up your campsite, secure your tent extra firmly in case of intense winds.

TRICKS TO STAY WARM

1. Layer up.

As with any cool weather recreation, layers are essential to keeping warm. You'll want to start with a base layer, such as a wicking thermal underwear to keep moisture away from your skin. Then add a layer for warmth, and finally a breathable, windproof outer layer to keep heat from escaping.

2. Give yourself permission to eat those carbs and fats.

Loads of carbs help your internal furnace burn. Good fats like fish, nuts and avocados are also helpful as you burn calories on the trail. So dig in! Don't worry about burning it off. All of your extra outdoor activity will do the trick.

3. Sip on a hot cup o' something.

Bring an insulated cup for everyone in your party and use it for sipping on a hot beverage or hot soup throughout the day. This will help increase your internal temperature.

4. Move around.

It goes without saying, but we'll say it anyway. If you are cold during the day, don't sit around. Get up and move around. Go for a short hike, walk the campground, start working on the next meal, etc.

5. Invest in down booties.

At nighttime, a pair of down-filled booties can keep your feet as warm, if not warmer, than hiking boots and they can be worn in your sleeping bag as well.

6. Take care with heaters.

If you must bring a small propane heater, be sure it has various safety shut-offs and is labeled for indoor use. Heaters can be very dangerous, and lead to carbon monoxide poisoning. Be sure that you're following safety precautions carefully.

7. Give your body a head start in the a.m.

As soon as you awake in the morning, give your body a head start on warming up. Move around in your sleeping bag for a couple minutes before jumping out into the cold air.

8. Bring your clothes into your sleeping bag.

Fall mornings will be crisp. As soon as you awake, pull the clothes you plan to wear for the day into your sleeping bag with you. Hang out for a few minutes so that they can absorb some of the heat trapped in your bag from the night. They'll be nice and cozy when you put them on!

KEEP TOASTY AT NIGHT

1. Double up on sleeping gear.

To stay warm, use two foam pads instead of just one between your sleeping bag and the ground. You can also double up on sleeping bags, or put your bag in a bivy sack.

2. Use a bivy sack.

Put a bivy sack around your sleeping bag for added warmth. This can increase your sleeping bags capacity by up to ten degrees.

3. Remember, the hot water bottle is your friend.

Snuggle up with a warm water bottle in your sleeping bag or place it at your toes to keep your feet warm.

4. Eat a snack just before bed.

Your body stays warmer by burning calories, so a snack full of carbs just before bed can help increase body heat. Don't worry about the calories. You'll be burning them off with all the moving around you do while camping.

5. Do some jumping jacks.

Warm up before getting in your sleeping bag by doing some quick exercise, like sets of jumping jacks, just before bed. This will warm your body and ultimately your sleeping bag. Just be careful not to exercise to the point of perspiration as you do not want to introduce humidity to your bag.

6. Do not breathe into your sleeping bag at night.

It may feel good to bury your face, but the condensation from your breath will add humidity to your bag. If your head is cold, wear a balaclava to retain body heat. It will warm your both your head and your body.

7. Force yourself to use the bathroom before bed.

Just like mom said, even if you think you don't have to go, just do it! The last thing you want to do in the middle of the cold night is crawl out of your tent to empty your bladder.

COOL-WEATHER COOKING

1. Leave more time for cooking.

Cooking times are longer in low temperatures. Plan to rise early to heat warm liquids to sip for keeping warm throughout the day.

2. **Bring extra fuel.**

Along with longer cooking times, you'll need extra fuel than you would in summer.

3. **Pack easy dishes.**

You'll be grateful to have easy-to-prepare items or one-pot meals in case the weather conditions turn for the worse and food preparation becomes difficult.

CAMPING WITH LESS LIGHT

1. **Be prepared for shorter days.**

Be aware of when the sun sets and be sure to allow yourself extra time to arrive at your campsite before dark. And, as always, pitch your tent first thing.

2. **Bring a headlamp.**

Shorter days mean you'll need to be extra careful about planning for cooking before sundown. A headlamp is particularly useful for managing tasks in the dark.

RESPECT FALL RITUALS

1. **Be aware of autumn wildlife safety**

Wildlife are often engaged in fall mating rituals so be careful to respect their space. Some animals can be more aggressive as winter nears, so beware bee hives and be sure to eliminate trash from your campsite to avoid attracting bears and other animals. As always, never leave food in your tent. Use a bear can, hang your food from a tree, or if you're car camping, put in in the trunk of your car at night.

2. **Respect fall life cycles and leave no trace.**

Many wildlife species will be engaged in fall mating rituals. This can make for an interesting spectacle, but always be respectful of wildlife rituals and leave plenty of space between yourself and animals. If you want to grab photos, use a zoom lens, but do not approach. Also leave the special places you visit as wild as you found it by observing 'leave no trace' camping practices, and always pack out everything that you brought in.

STAY SAFE

1. **Be mindful of hypothermia risks.**

With lower temperatures, it's critical to keep yourself warm and dry so not to risk hypothermia. Always change out of wet clothing as quickly as possible. Bring extra clothing, footwear and mittens, so that you always have dry back-ups. Be sure to pack a rain poncho and a pair of rain pants. You might also consider a pair of gaiters to wear around your boots to keep the rain or snow out. Also be sure to keep yourself well hydrated and nourished as this will help your body stay strong against the elements.

2. **Go heavy on the H2O.**

It's easy to get dehydrated with cooler, dryer temperatures, so be sure you're drinking plenty of water throughout the day.

3. **Make a survival kit.**

Here's some survival kit essentials:

- headlamp and/or flashlight
- bandanna (acts as water sifter, breathing mask, makeshift bag, emergency flag, bandage)
- waterproof matches
- tinfoil (doubles as reflector to signal)
- water purification tablets (iodine can also be mixed with water for a sterilizing solution for wounds)
- small roll of duct tape
- toilet paper (doubles as trail marker)
- Vaseline-soaked cotton balls (fire starter and salve)
- a small bag to carry all of these in your pocket (rather than in a backpack you could lose)

Also be sure to bring:

- first aid supplies
- extra water and food
- flashlight
- pocketknife
- a map of the area
- a compass and/or GPS
- sunglasses

4. Be prepared to stay longer than expected.

Be sure to bring extra water, food and supplies in case inclement weather forces you to stay longer than planned, or you get lost.

5. Know where you are and let others know.

Bring a GPS device, compass and/or map. If you visit a backcountry area, be sure to notify friends and park officials where you plan to go and when you plan to return.

PLAN B

1. Be ready to jump ship.

Bring extra money and be prepared to use it to eat out or spend the night in town if absolutely necessary. If you want to be extra cautious, you can always stay in a cabin, which may be available at national and state parks. The main thing is, don't be afraid to make an emergency retreat if the weather concerns you. The point of fall camping is to have fun, not to be miserable!

10 Best RV Campgrounds To See Fall Foliage

by Terri Nighswonger

Leaf Peepers Love These Top 10 Fall Foliage RV Campgrounds

A trip to see the trees showcase their beautiful colors should be on every RVer's bucket list. Whether you head west to see the Aspens or east to see the color in New England, you won't be sorry you took the trip. You might even want to make plans yearly and it wouldn't hurt to plan a year in advance.

Below are some of the best campgrounds to see fall foliage; you can find even more great RV parks and destinations on RV LIFE Campgrounds or while planning your travels with RV LIFE Trip Wizard and the RV LIFE App.

1. Kebler Corner, Colorado

With access to hiking and biking trails, as well as fly fishing in Anthracite Creek that runs behind the property, Kebler Corner is a great place to see the beauty of fall color in the Rocky Mountains. Kebler offers full hook-ups as well as tent camping and cabins for rent.

Aspen is a prime place to see the color change as the dense foliage takes on deep yellow, auburn, and orange hues. The best time to see the seasons changing is from late September through early October.

Kebler Corner is located in Somerset, just north of Paonia. The views are spectacular, not to mention the grounds are impeccably maintained. We even met the owner (who lives on property) and he was working the entire weekend while chatting away with his guests. The fact they have a general/liquor store on the property is the icing on the cake.

There's actually a lowkey hiking trail on the other side of the property leading to gorgeous views. We were here during Fourth of July, and people were grilling and having a great time. You'll easily become friendly with your neighbors, though the space for the campground is large enough to go out on your own and not be bothered.

Hidden gem!!!! Our favorite campground by far. Beautiful, right on the river. Quiet, no highway noises. Always meet friendly families, some of who have become friends we stay in touch with. I think you will love this place as much as we do. We camped at Kebler Corner in a Fifth Wheel." – via LMDB on RV LIFE Campgrounds

2. Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park, New Hampshire

Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park in the White Mountains of New Hampshire is truly a family destination with lots of activities. Located along the Saco River, the area is noted for hiking, fishing, tubing, and many other activities.

With approximately 200 sites, the RV park provides full hook-ups in premium sites and has a pool, arcade, family pavilion with nightly movies, tennis courts, and camp store.

Since New Hampshire is so far north, the best time of year to visit White Mountain National Forest to see the color change is around the middle of September to early October. There will still be plenty of beauty after the middle of October for a short time.

3. Tahoe Valley Campground, California

Tahoe Valley Campground is located in beautiful South Lake Tahoe. Enjoy the many amenities of a first class RV park, including a pickleball court, fishing, hiking trails, playground, and tennis court.

This park also provides beautiful views of towering pines and mountain vistas. While you're here, enjoy the beaches or stroll the river. You can also head to the nearby casinos in the evening after a day of outdoor activities.

The Sierra Nevada Mountain Range is one of the best places on the West Coast to see fall foliage. The mountain range stretches more than 250 miles from the Mojave Desert to the Cascade Range. The best time of year to see the color change in the Sierra Nevadas is from the middle of September in the northern areas through the end of October.

4. Santa Fe Skies RV Park, New Mexico

Nestled on the western slopes of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and just south of Sante Fe, Santa Fe Skies RV Park is a beautiful, family-owned campground that sits on 17 acres. The park's 55 pull-through sites are designed to accommodate large motor coaches and travel trailers with full hook-ups.

Visitors can enjoy the nation's oldest capital city along with the unobstructed sunrise and sunset views from the Turquoise Trail.

If you want to see the fall foliage here, check out the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The RV park sits on a ridge just outside of town where you can get a panoramic view of the entire Santa Fe area. The sunset makes the mountains shine with a red glow in the evening, hence the name Sangre de Cristo or “Blood of Christ.” The Jemez mountains are viewable to the west and the Cerrillos Hills, the Ortiz Mountains, and Sandia Peak are to the south and southwest.

The color change here is best seen from the start of October through the end of the month. In this part of the country, the fall color change will be slightly more subtle and different because of the desert climate.

5. Grand Marais Campground, Minnesota

Grand Marais RV Park & Campground is the ideal base camp for access to Lake Superior and the surrounding regions. The campground offers full hook-up sites with a ball field, playground, harbor side pavilion, recreation hall, community garden, and Gitchi-Gami bike trail connections.

As part of the Grand Marais Recreation Area, the camp is adjacent to the harbor and just a short walk away from downtown Grand Marais and Sweetheart’s Bluff nature area.

This region of Minnesota is famous for awesome Lake Superior scenery, Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, the Sawtooth Mountains, Superior National Forest, and other Minnesota State Parks.

Isle Royale National Park is a small island cluster located in the eastern part of Lake Superior, close to the border of Ontario. It is a remote area with access by plane or boat only. The fall scenery makes the trip worthwhile. The best time of year to visit Isle Royale and see the fall foliage is from the middle of September until the middle of October.

6. Gros Ventre Campground, Wyoming

Located about 9 miles northeast of Jackson, Gros Ventre Campground is surrounded by cottonwood trees, bordered by the Gros Ventre River, and offers views of the Grand Teton Mountain Range.

Choose from more than 300 individual campsites and 5 large group sites. Sites vary in size and can accommodate RVs up to 45 feet. Electric hook-ups are available (50 amp) and there is a dump station on site. Gros Ventre offers campers the best views of wildlife as they make their way to the nearby river. Sites include a picnic table, fire pit, and access to flush toilets and cold running water.

Nearby Grand Teton National Park is a great place to see the seasonal fall foliage. Nature truly shows off in this place of pristine beauty and abundant wildlife. Head south to Yellowstone National Park or Jackson Hole for more adventures.

The best time of year to see the color change is during the month of October. Depending on the year, the leaves may start their change as early as end of September.

7. Rio Grande Village RV Campground, Texas

Rio Grande Village RV Campground offers 25 RV sites with full hook-ups. Some sites may not be available for a 40-foot or longer RV due to the size of the parking lot and orientation of the spaces. 20 of the spaces are available for reservation only.

Chisos Basin, Cottonwood, and Rio Grande Basin campgrounds offer tent camping only. Other lodging is also available.

Big Bend National Park offers spectacular views of the seasonal fall foliage. The park is only a few hours southeast from El Paso, Texas.

The best time to see the color change is from about a week into November until the end of November. Be sure to keep an eye on the weather as it will help determine when the best time is to get there.

8. Coachman’s Terrace Park Campground, Wisconsin

Coachman's Terrace Park Campground is a quiet campground with full hook-ups and is adjacent to shopping, dining, skiing, sightseeing and more. Enjoy the pool at the campground or check out nearby Lake Geneva and all it has to offer.

Other great things to do in Lake Geneva include wineries, a history museum, Tristan Crist Magic Theatre shows, or Geneva Lake Shore Path. The path is 21 miles and takes visitors by homes and lakeside neighborhoods.

A two-mile area on the west end offers more views and landmarks such as Abbey Resort, Fontana Spa, and popular local restaurants. Also, don't miss out on the Ice Castles. Tickets and warm clothing are needed to see these beautiful ice sculptures.

Just a few miles west of Lake Michigan, Lake Geneva is one of the best spots in the area to see the seasonal color change. Enjoy hiking while you view the colors and wildlife. The best time to visit is from late September until late October.

9. Roosevelt State Park, Mississippi

The campground at Roosevelt State Park offers full hook-ups, a pool, playground, hiking trails, disc golf course, fishing, and a beach. With the nearby lake, visitors can also enjoy boating and fishing.

Roosevelt State Park is located between Meridian and Jackson, Mississippi, which offers an abundance of outdoor recreational activities. The park's scenic overlook provides a panoramic view of the Bienville National Forest – a beautiful display of nature's color in the fall. You can see that fall color anytime from the middle of October until the middle of November.

10. Luray KOA, Virginia

RV camping at Luray KOA is a great way to spend time in a beautiful setting. The park offers full hook-ups, two seasonal pools, and a large dog park. Nearby pastures make this park feel off-the-beaten-path, but it is located near some great sites, including Luray Caverns, the largest caverns in the United States.

Located only an hour and a half from Washington, DC, Shenandoah National Park is considered one of the best places on the East Coast to view the fall foliage.

The best time to see the color change is during the month of October. At the beginning of the month, color changes at the highest elevations. Later, the entire forests will turn bright yellow to deep orange.

Choosing A Horse Trailer From The Horse's Point Of View

WHY A ONE HORSE TRAILER? YOU ARE PROBABLY ASKING YOURSELF...

Whether you are looking to buy a new horse trailer or a used one, it's easy to be influenced by fancy options and shiny construction materials. But, for a horse owner who wants to promote safe and stress free hauling for the horse, choosing a trailer from the horse's point of view is very important. Since many horse trailers are built to appeal to the human perspective, this may not be as easy as one may think.

Considering the nature of the horse as a species, it's a minor miracle that our equine friends get into a trailer at all. Horses are creatures of the prairie who are designed for life in wide open spaces. Because they are prey animals, they have a highly developed "flight or fight" response. When danger threatens, horses run away. That is how they survive. Feral horses who don't run fast enough end up as dinner! They also have to watch their footing so they don't fall into a hole or quicksand!

Whenever we deal with a horse, we have to consider this flight response and reluctance to step on suspicious ground in our training. Because a horse trailer is small, dark, and shaky, it goes against the horses' very nature, but because horses are also trainable, they learn to put their natural fears aside and do the crazy things we ask them to do.

However, even if they do what we ask, it may not be comfortable for them, and they can suffer stress in ways that we don't even notice. It's easy to notice when the horse won't load, but it's less obvious that illness and some injuries can be caused by design features in a trailer that make trailering more stressful for the horse. Some trailering problems have become so commonplace that people just accept them as part of the process. Things like breaking halters and loading and unloading problems are some of those "acceptable" incidents that don't need to happen. Other problems like shipping fever, dehydration, colic, and even the acute stress of injury can be prevented by a stress free trailering environment.

Stress can be defined as an external stimulus which is beyond the control of the animal. When a horse is exposed to stress, the autonomic nervous system kicks in to physically prepare the animal to react to the stress. Heart rate elevates, adrenaline and epinephrine are secreted, and other bodily functions such as hormone levels, change to help the animal survive. For the horse, the reaction is to run away to avoid the object of the stress and the system returns to normal, so therefore, this system works in the horse's natural environment. However, if the horse cannot escape the object of stress over a long period of time, the health of the horse begins to suffer. The chronic stress can have a negative impact by changing the immune functions that can predispose the animal to disease.

Putting a horse in a trailer goes against its very instinct. He cannot get away from the stress of this small enclosed box. He is also put at risk of injury from the trailer itself or the possibility of a traffic accident. Whether your horse is a pet, or you only think of your horse as an investment or a tool, avoiding illness and injury can save you money and heartbreak, and at the very least, can actually improve his performance.

Of course, horses travel all the time without incident, and trailering can be a safe and enjoyable experience. **Buying the safest horse trailer** will increase your chances of arriving at your destination with a healthy, happy horse.

Manufacturers must build horse trailers to conform to the requirements of the road, but because there are no industry or government regulations concerning the safety of the horse, there are wide differences in horse trailers. Look at your prospective trailer from the horse's point of view.

What does the horse want? Room and light, good ventilation, and safety in design.

Room and light: An average sized horse (15.1h - 16.3h) needs about 10 feet of usable length to be comfortable. A larger horse may even need more. A horse needs to be able to spread his legs for steadiness, but is also important that he be able to use his head and neck freely for balance. A light colored interior and lots of windows or slats will make the trailer much more inviting and less claustrophobic.

Good ventilation is important for the horse's respiratory health and to control the temperature and environment of the trailer. Hay dust and noxious gasses from manure and urine compromises the horse's respiratory system and predisposes him to diseases such as shipping fever. Roof vents will remove contaminated and/or hot air from the trailer. A light colored exterior, especially the roof, will make the trailer cooler in hot weather.

Safety in design: There should be nothing sticking out to harm the horse in anyway. Tie rings, and latches should fold flat against the wall. All center posts and dividers should quick release, but should be strong enough to not break apart until you can make the decision. (Exception - dividers should come up and out if a horse would get under it.) No sharp edges anywhere. All parts of the trailer should be strong enough to hold up to the largest, strongest horse who will be hauled in it.

Ramps should be low to the ground and not slippery. It should be possible to reach every horse individually in the event of an emergency. (This is a special problem with many slant load trailers.) Butt and chest bars should quick release.

Safety in your selection of truck hitch ([Gooseneck](#) or [Tag trailer Air Hitches](#)).

Safety in design also includes road safety. All brakes and lights should be in perfect working order and the emergency breakaway brake battery should be charged. Safety chains on tag-along trailers must be crossed underneath, and ball hitch gooseneck hitches should also have safety chains or cables. Tires should be inflated to the recommended capacity, and rubber torsion suspension will not only reduce road shock for the horse, but will be an added safety feature in the event of a flat tire. It is most important that a tag-along trailer be hitched to a frame mounted Class III or Class IV hitch, and that the trailer be

towed in a level position. Whether you are towing a gooseneck or a tag-along trailer, you must have a properly rated tow vehicle to insure your own safety.

THIS HORSE TRAILER SAFETY ARTICLE IS PROVIDED BY EQUISPIRIT HORSE TRAILERS.

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.

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