

Subject:

May 2023 Newsletter from Air Safe Hitches

# May 2023

Newsletter

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## Today's thoughts

- Surround yourself with positive people that lift, motivate, and inspire you. Joel Osteen
- You cannot hang out with negative people and expect to live a positive life. Joel Osteen
- The positive force of love can create anything good, increase the good things, and change anything negative in your life. Rhonda Byrne
- Dwelling on the negative simply contributes to its power. Shirley MacLaine
- A positive attitude will have positive results because attitudes are contagious. Zig Ziglar
- When you are inspired in your work, everything seems to fall into place. Wayne Dyer Change is hard at first, messy in the middle, and gorgeous at the end. Robin Sharma

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## Will RVs Go Up In Price Next Year?

It's impossible to talk about what RV prices will do in 2023 without bringing up what's happened to the RV market in the recent past. It's been a strange few years for everyone, including the RV industry.

In 2020, the pandemic brought extraordinary travel restrictions that made airline travel impossible. But that wasn't all; other restrictions encouraged social distancing, isolating, and quarantining.

All these restrictions made people want to get away from it all more than ever. In addition, many former office job positions became remote jobs. Employees could work from anywhere and check in for virtual meetings with other people from the office.

More people than ever looked to RVs as a way to enjoy a socially distanced family vacation, work from a mobile office wherever they wanted, or both.

Not only that, but from 2020 to 2022, the increased demand for RVs brought historic price increases with it. However, interest rates remained at some of the lowest levels in a very long time. This made taking out an RV loan a very doable fit for many household budgets. The demand for RVs skyrocketed, and it brought RV prices along for the ride.

### **RV manufacturers struggled to meet demand**

RV manufacturers struggled under a sometimes overwhelming demand for new RVs from dealers at a time when pandemic-related restrictions were decimating their workforce. It became difficult to find qualified employees who were able to come to work. But the demand for RVs was soaring, and RVs had to be built faster than ever.

According to an October 2022 article published by IndyStar, some RV plant workers more than doubled their production from 16 to 36 RVs per day.

Increased production from a sometimes scant workforce led to more errors being made in the workmanship and quality of some RVs.

Another challenge for RV manufacturers was getting computer chips for the motorhomes they were building. When the chips finally arrived, they were finally able to ship motorhomes, creating an inflated number of motorhome shipments that arrived on RV dealer lots.

### **A return to normal**

Soaring RV prices, a climbing rate of economic inflation, and increases in lending rates have all had an effect on consumer demand for RVs. In spite of optimistic RV industry forecasts, demand for shipments to dealers lost steam

and then dropped off by 16% overall as 2022 progressed. The RVIA sees this decline as a return to normal market trends, which it expects to carry over in 2023.

As 2022 draws to a close, RV prices are declining across all classes but one. Class B motorhomes are still very in high demand, perhaps in response to high fuel prices. As a result, prices for Class B motorhomes haven't seen the same decreases as other classes of RVs.

The demand for Class A motorhomes has plummeted, reflecting consumer concerns about how a diesel shortage and high gas and diesel prices will affect their ability to use their RVs.

## **Conclusion**

Dealers are already marking down 2022 RVs to clear space on their lots for incoming 2023 models. Although there will always be a demand for good quality RVs, the market for RVs is nowhere near what it was in 2021 and early 2022.

As 2023 progresses, expect to see many used RVs come on the market due to the effects of a looming economic recession. People who tried the RV lifestyle for the first time in 2021 are going to be facing both higher loan interest rates and a higher cost of RV ownership with inflation on RV insurance, fuel, and parts. Historically, when the economy goes into recession, the recreational toys are sold off before the houses.

In general, RVs are going to continue to decrease in price in 2023, due to an increased supply of RVs and a decreasing demand for them. Class Bs might be the exception to this, as demand for them from Gen Z, Millennials, and Boomers continues to rise.

As prices for RVs decline both the new and used sectors, 2023 will very likely be a great year to save money on an RV. Prices will almost certainly (can we ever be certain of anything these days?) not be going up as they did for the last two years.

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## **22 RV Trip Ideas You'll Want To Take In 2023**

by Rene Agredano

**Get on the Road in 2023!**

Planning an RV trip for 2023? The best of this beautiful country is just waiting to be explored. Check out some of these great RV trip ideas for the New Year!

On this list there are some RV trip ideas that are very familiar, some are great for families, others allow you to take in nature and its beauty, and some might have a little more urban flair.

## **Winners of the Best RV Trip Ideas of 2023**

Check a few of these RV trip ideas off your must-do list and add your own. Make sure you plan your travels with RV LIFE Pro to find campgrounds and get RV-safe GPS directions.

### **1. Disney World**

Disney World is one of the best RV trip ideas for families. With 6 theme parks, including 2 water parks, Disney is one of the top places to take the kids.

With its on-site campground, Fort Wilderness, you will find tons of amenities, including shuttles to the parks, heated pools, trails, campfire activities, and much more.

### **2. Gatlinburg/Pigeon Forge**

The small town of Gatlinburg is nestled in the middle of the mountains, and you can walk the streets to visit locally owned shops and restaurants.

SkyLift Park, reopened in 2019 with a walk in the clouds known as the SkyBridge, is a must-see. It's the longest pedestrian suspension bridge in North America. Walk across glass panels for a view of the canyon, or look up for the best views of the Smokies.

Take a short drive to Pigeon Forge to check out Dollywood, water parks, musical shows, and much more. The area hiking trails have beautiful mountain views that will satisfy the nature lover. Nearby RV parks abound with plenty of fishing, hiking, and relaxing.

### **3. Charleston, SC**

Charleston is one of the best RV trip ideas for those who like history. Some say the Battery, a stretch along the city's southern tip, is a can't-miss. Check out the southern-style mansions overlooking Charleston Harbor, and spend time in nearby White Point Garden to see Civil War relics and memorials.

You can start at the 12-acre Waterfront Park, and follow the walking path for a nearly one-mile stroll to White Point Garden. Don't forget to sign up for a horse drawn carriage ride, a ghost tour, or check out the Charleston City Market, one of the oldest in the country.

Nearby RV parks are plentiful. Be sure to check out the Mount Pleasant/Charleston KOA Holiday with its fishing lake, nature trails, and access to the Oakland Plantation.

#### **4. Niagara Falls**

Of course, Niagara Falls is full of attractions, events, festivals, and much more, particularly in the summer. Niagara Falls State Park is really the highlight of your visit to this quaint town.

On the U.S. side, the falls straddle the U.S. and Canada. Don't miss a ride on the Maid of the Mist, which takes you on a boat ride up to the falls. Yes, you will get wet.

You can also descend 175 feet into the Niagara Gorge. An elevator takes you down to a series of wooden walkways to Hurricane Deck where you will be within feet of Bridal Veil Falls. You might want to plan your trip for the fall when you can add the beauty of the changing colors to your already stunning views.

Spend your evening checking out a local restaurant or winery and then return to see the falls lit at night.

#### **5. Williamsburg, VA**

Another one of the best RV trip ideas for history buffs is Williamsburg, VA. The true heart of Williamsburg is, of course, Colonial Williamsburg. History comes to life as you explore life in the 1800s. The grounds are open to visitors for free so you can explore historic buildings, see historical interpreters, and visit shops, museums, and restaurants.

During the summer, you might find a free concert. You can visit the post office and mail a letter with an official Colonial Williamsburg stamp.

Take the Jamestown-Scotland ferry, its free, across the James River to Scotland and Surry to see the plantations and other historic sites. You can bike the Virginia Capital Trail, one of the first inland paved pedestrian and bicycle trails in North America. Take in musical performances, as well as arts and crafts vendors, walk through the historic campus of William & Mary, the second oldest college in America, or enjoy cuisine from the 1800s.

Drive the 23-mile scenic parkway and take in nearby Yorktown, Jamestown, as well as Williamsburg.

## **6. Yellowstone National Park**

Yellowstone is one of the most popular parks in the Western United States and for good reason. The park sits on top of a dormant volcano and has more geysers and hot springs than any other place on earth. The 3,500 sq. mile wilderness recreation area is mostly in Wyoming, but also spreads into parts of Montana and Idaho. There you will find lush forests, canyons, alpine rivers, geysers, including the most famous, Old Faithful. The park is also home to bears, wolves, bison, elk, and antelope.

There are five campgrounds within the park. Be sure and check for any length restrictions. Fishing Bridge Campground is the only place with full hook-ups. There are private campground options outside of the park. You will want to make your reservations well ahead of time to make sure you can stay.

## **7. Grand Canyon National Park**

Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona is a massive canyon with layers of red rock that are millions of years old. Some 277 miles of the Colorado River runs through the canyon which is one-mile deep and up to 18 miles wide. Hiking, ranger tours, river trips, and backcountry camping are just a few of the things you can do while in the park.

The Trail of Time is a nearly 3-mile walk that traces the Grand Canyon's geologic history. Along the way, rocks and exhibits explain how the Grand Canyon and its rocks were formed.

The South Rim of the Grand Canyon National Park has one campground with full hook-ups inside the park. It can accommodate RVs up to 50 feet in length and is open year round. You will need to get your reservation at least 6 months in advance. There are plenty of private campgrounds nearby.

## **8. Redwood National And State Parks**

Redwood National Park is home to some of the tallest trees in the world. The park also encompasses prairies, rivers, woodlands, and 40 miles of coastland. Tall Trees Grove is the best place to see the towering redwoods, and Red Creek Overlook is a great place to see the sunset.

Elk Meadows is the most reliable place to see elk in the park. Don't miss the Avenue of the Giants. Although not technically in the park, this 31-mile drive

through the Humboldt Redwoods State Park is a must-see. Make it a day trip; there is plenty to see along the way.

The Del Norte Redwoods State Park is one of four parks in the National and State Parks. It can accommodate RVs up to 31 feet for dry camping. Nearby Ramblin' Redwoods Campground is one of several that provide full hook-ups and 50-amp electric.

## **9. Arches National Park**

Utah has five National Parks, all of which are beautiful, very different, and very busy. Arches National Park has more than 2,000 natural sandstone arches, including Delicate Arch, Devils Garden, and other sandstone features such as Balanced Rock, The Three Gossips, and many more. The park is bordered by the Colorado River to the south.

If you are not up for a lot of hiking, you can see much of the beautiful scenery with a car ride. You can stop at one of the many overlooks and take pictures of the unique rock formations.

There are several parks to choose from when visiting Arches National Park. Moab Valley RV Resort is just a short drive from both Arches National Park as well as the town of Moab.

Portal RV Resort, situated between Moab and Arches, is another great place to stay. About a mile north of Moab and about three miles to Arches, the park has a pool and a hot tub, as well as a small, fenced dog park. Sites are level gravel.

## **10. Zion National Park**

Zion is my favorite National Park in Utah and one of the best RV trip ideas. Here are a few hints to get the most out of your trip to Zion.

During peak season from March through late November, cars can't drive through the park, so you must take the shuttle to the different sites and trailheads. Be sure and get up early to find a parking place at the visitor center. The shuttle begins at 7 a.m. so it's best to get there as early as possible.

Zion is home to some famous (or perhaps infamous) trails including one of the most dangerous parts of a trail called Angel's Landing. The Chains Section is a ½ mile route set on top of a 1,488 foot rock section. The path provides a chain to hang onto, but is only a few feet wide in some places.

There are RV spaces in Zion National Park, but they have no hookups. Your best bet is to find a campground nearby and use the park's shuttle. Zion Ponderosa Ranch Resort offers the best RV camping near Zion, with spacious RV sites and other accommodations, as well as a wide variety of activities on the eastern border of the national park.

Zion River Resort in nearby Virgin, Utah has full hook-ups sites. The resort amenities include a pool, hot tub, laundry facilities, and is situated along the Virgin River with walking access to the river from your site.

## **11. Yosemite National Park**

Yosemite National Park is another one of those bucket list RV trip ideas you can't miss while you spend time in the West. The park is located in California's Sierra Nevada mountains and is famed for its giant ancient sequoia trees, Tunnel View and the stunning Bridalveil Fall, and the granite cliffs of El Capitan and Half Dome.

An easy hike to Bridalveil Fall will take you right to the base. You can feel the spray and hear the water as it crashes on the boulders. From Tunnel View, you get a good look at the falls from a higher vantage point.

Yosemite has some great hiking trails for all abilities. Some are wheelchair accessible paths and others will take one day or several days to hike. The shorter trails are usually busiest, but you can avoid the crowds by tackling some of the longer hikes. Some trails are only accessible in the summer.

When you've had your fill of the beautiful scenery, head to Yosemite Village where there are shops, restaurants, and the Yosemite Museum and Ansel Adams Gallery, with black and white photography prints available of the landscapes of the area.

Most campgrounds in Yosemite allow RVs, but you will need to get a reservation at least 6 months to a year in advance. There are only 8 sites that allow for longer rigs. Some sites are first-come, first-served. Be aware there are no hookups anywhere in Yosemite National Park.

## **12. Glacier National Park**

Glacier National Park is a 1,583 sq. mile wilderness area in Montana's Rocky Mountains. Visitors can see glacier-carved peaks and valleys while hiking some of the 700 miles of hiking trails. You can also enjoy backpacking, cycling, and camping, and see the area's diverse range of wildlife including mountain goats, grizzly bears, moose, coyotes, wolves, elk, deer, and many others.



One of the most popular things to do at Glacier is to drive the scenic 52-mile highway through Glacier National Park called the Going-to-the-Sun Road. It crosses the Continental Divide and provides some spectacular views.

Inside the park, only primitive camping is allowed. Sites are first-come, first-serve. Just outside the park inside the Flathead National Forest you can find dispersed camping, and there are a number of RV parks nearby with full hookups.

### **13. Garden of the Gods, Colorado Springs**

Choosing just one place to go in Colorado is difficult. There are so many beautiful areas. One of the most visited attractions is Garden of the Gods. You will be in awe of its enormous sandstone formations. Don't miss a photo op of gravity-defying boulders such as Kissing Camels, Balanced Rock, Tower of Babel, and Pig's Eye. You won't need your wallet because Garden of the Gods is free to explore.

While you are in the area, don't forget to take a drive or a train ride to the top of Pikes Peak. Plan for a three hour roundtrip to the top and get your tickets in advance for the Pikes Peak Cog Railway. Pikes Peak is the highest summit of the southern Front Range of the Rocky Mountains. The 14,115 foot peak is located in Pike National Forest, 12 miles west of downtown Colorado Springs. The town of Manitou Springs lies at its base.

### **14. Bar Harbor, Maine**

There is a such a beauty to this area, you won't be sorry for taking some time, either in summer or fall, to explore Bar Harbor and the surrounding area. Located on Mount Desert Island, next to Acadia National Park, this favorite tourist destination offers historic charm, a beautiful coastline, and a plethora of activities for the whole family.

The national park, located on the island, is a rugged 47,000-acre Atlantic Coast recreation area which features rocky beaches, granite peaks, and Cadillac Mountain, the tallest mountain on the U.S. Atlantic Coast. Visitors can enjoy hiking, climbing, mountain biking, horseback riding, and birdwatching. From the town pier, the Shore Path winds along the bay overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and the Porcupine Islands.

Don't forget to take a whale watching trip, or explore the Village Green in Bar Harbor to enjoy its history and see its landmarks.

There are plenty of private RV parks near Bar Harbor, as well as in the National Park. Just make sure to make reservations well in advance.

## **15. Mount Washington and the Cog Railway – New Hampshire**

Look down on the tops of clouds or view four states on a clear day from the top of Mount Washington, the highest elevation in the northern Appalachians. The best way to get to the top is via the Cog Railway, which has been carrying tourists since 1869. At the top, visit the Sherman Adams Visitors Center, which houses a small museum, a cafeteria, and the Mount Washington Observatory, a research station that studies the mountain's extreme weather conditions.

Check out the Tip-Top House, a historic former hotel in Mount Washington State Park. Built in 1853, it is the oldest surviving building in the summit area and is believed to be the oldest mountain-top hostelry in the world. It features exhibits about the mountain's history and is located near the visitor's facility. It is open to visitors from early May to early October.

Check out the 5,775-acre Crawford Notch State Park, which is a major pass through the White Mountains. The park includes the Willey House historical site and the Dry River Campground with some RV sites (no hookups). Hiking trails in the park lead to popular destinations such as Ripley Falls and Arethusa Falls.

## **16. Mustang Island**

Mustang Island is an 18-mile barrier island on the Gulf Coast of Texas. If you like everything to do with beaches, water, and fishing, you will love this area. You can access the island via the Causeway Bridge from Corpus Christi, or over the Port Aransas Ferry which runs continuously.

Watch the boats from Roberts Point Park, or explore nature at the Leonabelle Turnbill Birding Center or the Port Aransas Nature Preserve at Charlie's Pasture. Throw a line in right from the beach or take a walk down the Horace Caldwell Fishing Pier, some 1,200 feet long. In April, brave the crowds and check out the Texas Sandfest. Sculptors from all over the world turn sand into beautiful art pieces.

After a day in the sun and sand, take in some nightlife in Port Aransas. There are many restaurants, bars, and shops to fill an evening with fun. Don't forget to get fresh shrimp off the Peggy Ann for a tasty treat.

Find a spot to boondock at Mustang Island State Park, get a permit and park on the beach, or check out some great RV resorts in Port Aransas.

## **17. Galveston**

Galveston is an island city on the Gulf Coast of Texas. While there, you can enjoy the long stretch of beaches with plenty of room to claim your spot and play in the shallow water. Check out Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier with rides, suitable for all ages, as well as games and activities. The 1,130-foot pier is a great family destination and is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and on weekends during the winter.

Stewart Beach is a family-friendly beach with chair and umbrella rentals, a children's playground, concessions, and a lifeguard. Head to Galveston Island State Park, walk along the boardwalks, kayak and birdwatch on the bay or the ocean.

Moody Gardens is where giant glass pyramids house sharks, monkeys, and other animals. The Moody Mansion, a 28,000 sq. ft. home, is on the National Register of Historic Places and features stained glass, custom carved woodwork, decorative tiles and plasterwork, along with fine stencil work throughout. Guided tours are available, as well as special events and programs. Don't forget to check out the vintage Cadillacs parked in the garage.

There are many RV resorts and parks that you can stay right along the Gulf with beautiful views and full hookups.

## **18. Beaver Lake/Eureka Springs, Arkansas**

Arkansas isn't called the Natural State for no reason. Whatever place you pick is going to be beautiful. Beaver Lake and Eureka Springs are a great combination of outdoor fun together with shopping, shows, activities, spectacular views and more.

At Beaver Lake don't miss War Eagle Cavern. This is a one hour, one-mile guided walking tour that follows a wide, easy walkway beside a stream flowing through the cavern. The cavern features domes, streams, waterfalls, and many formations. During the tour you will learn about the Indians and outlaws and maybe see a bat up close. Above ground are hiking trails and picnic and play areas for the kids. Although not for everyone, you can join the Spelunker Tour that begins where the public tour ends. It takes at least three hours, a group of four or more, and reservations.

In Eureka Springs, make sure you see Thorncrown Chapel with its 425 windows and some 6,000 sq. ft of glass. Ride the tram for a guided tour of historic Eureka Springs. You will see Victorian buildings, landmarks such as Grotto Spring, and hear stories of Eureka's history.

Ozark Cabins and RV provides full hookups with beautiful views near Beaver Lake and the White River. Book a trout guide or explore many trails

on the grounds. You can also get your fishing supplies at the on-site convenience store.

Spider Creek Resort has just one RV pad with full hookups that can accommodate RVs up to 40 feet in length. It has a beautiful view overlooking both Spider Creek and the White River. The pad includes a separate, private bathroom and shower, as well as a charcoal grill and patio furniture. The resort offers fishing guides, and rentals of jon boats, river boats, kayaks, rafts, and canoes.

## **19. Upper Peninsula, Michigan**

The Upper Peninsula of Michigan is one of the most popular RV trip ideas. The Upper Peninsula region borders three of the Great Lakes and is connected to Michigan's Lower Peninsula by the five-mile-long Mackinac Bridge. In between the two peninsulas is Mackinac Island, a car-free vacation destination accessible by ferry and a must-see on your UP adventure.

While on the island, check out Fort Mackinac with its 14 historic buildings. Check out the museum and listen to interpreters as they depict life in the fort in the late 1900s. See Arch Rock or visit the Butterfly House and Insect World. Stay at the Grand Hotel on the island, play a round of golf, or take a carriage tour.

If you want to get away from the crowds, choose the lesser traveled Drummond Island, known for its wildlife and ORV trails, or Grand Island for wilderness camping and mountain bike riding along scenic overlooks. The Les Cheneaux is a series of islands, great for protected paddling.

Park your RV at Straits State Park with a high, straight view down the center of the Mackinac Bridge. It was used as a survey point during its construction. Also, you can choose a beachfront campsite on the shoreline of the Straits of Mackinac.

## **20. Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Michigan**

As you spend time in Michigan, check out Sleeping Bear Dunes in the state's Lower Peninsula. The park is known for its scalable dunes at the Dune Climb. Beaches include Platte River Point, where the river flows into the lake. The Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail winds through the forest with views of 19<sup>th</sup> century farmsteads.

The park is a great place for stargazing, so be sure and plan to attend a star party. Rangers share the best spots for sky viewing. Check out the historic village of Glen Haven with some of the park's prettiest beaches. Watch a

smithy hammer hot iron into horseshoes, get penny candy at the general store, and visit the neighboring museum.

Paddle, fish, or just enjoy the views. Don't forget to catch a beautiful sunset as well.

Make an online reservation for the Platte River Campground, which is open year round with RV spots with electrical hookups.

## **21. Door County, Wisconsin**

Why is Door County, Wisconsin one of our favorite RV trip ideas? Try 5 state parks, 19 county parks, and 300 miles of shoreline. Don't miss the wineries, quaint bed and breakfasts, and unique inns. Pick your own cherries or apples, enjoy a fish boil, or visit Peninsula State Park for views of Green Bay from the top of Niagara Escarpment.

Door County Maritime Museum is also a popular place to visit. This museum has interpretive and educational programming on unique maritime topics and preserves the maritime history of the Great Lakes. Tour a restored tugboat, take a shipyard tour, or enjoy one of the seasonal festivals.

Peninsula State has a number of campgrounds but few with any amenities. Nearby Egg Harbor Campground & RV Resort has 78 full hookup sites with a game room, heated pool, playground, picnic area, and pull through sites. It is also adjacent to Orchards Golf Course.

## **22. Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri**

As you travel this beautiful country, make sure you don't consider Missouri just a pass-through state. For those who like the outdoors, there is an abundance of beautiful state parks, rivers to kayak and canoe, and lakes to enjoy. One of my favorite spots is Lake of the Ozarks. I've been visiting there since I was a young child, swimming, skiing, boating, and exploring the 84 sq. mile lake.

If you are ready for a break from the water fun, head out to explore Bridal Cave with its massive rock drapery formations, or Stark Caverns with a large underground lake. Ozark Caverns is famous for its Angel Shower cave phenomenon where a constant shower of water streams from the cave ceiling.

In the area you can find something to suit everyone in your family including spas, golf, go-karts, water parks, local wineries, or lakeside dining. Make a rainy day a shopping day at Osage Beach outlet marketplace.

Lake Of The Ozarks State Park has nearly 17,000 acres of place to hike, ride horses, hit the beach, or launch your boat for a day on the lake. Nearby Ha Ha Tonka State Park was named one of the four most popular state parks in the nation by 10Best. Check out its natural springs, awesome landscapes, and beautiful castle ruins.

Some 20 RV campgrounds are nearby with excellent reviews. You can even find some with lakeside parking for larger RVs.

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## **Living in an RV: Items for Downsizing to RV life**

### The Benefits of Downsizing for Full Time RV Living

There are many benefits to downsizing for full time RV living. When you downsize, you make your RV more efficient and easier to manage. You can also save money on gas and camping fees. Downsizing also makes it easier to stay on the road and see new places.

### How to Decide What to Keep and What to Get Rid of When Living in an RV

One of the most important decisions you'll make when organizing your home is what to keep and what to get rid of. It can be tough to let go of things, but it's important to remember that you don't need everything you own. Here are a few tips to help you make the decision:

Ask yourself why you're keeping something. If you can't come up with a good answer, it's probably time to let it go. RV life is all about downsizing and living simply. You don't need a lot of possessions to live comfortably and enjoy life to the fullest. When deciding what to keep and what to get rid of, ask yourself why you're keeping something. If you can't come up with a good answer, it's time to let it go. By downsizing and focusing on the essentials, you'll be able to make the most of the RV lifestyle and enjoy a more relaxed and stress-free lifestyle.

Be realistic about your needs. Just because you like something doesn't mean you have to keep it. Think strategically about what items you can live without and what items you need, and you'll be sure to have a more enjoyable RV experience.

Before you throw anything away though, it's important to ask yourself if the item gives you happiness. If not, it's time to let it go. A minimalistic lifestyle is freeing and will help give you the space to enjoy your RV life. No longer will you have to worry about cleaning and organizing items that have no

purpose. By asking yourself if an item brings you joy, it will make it easier to downsize and free yourself from clutter.

Think about how much space the item takes up. If you don't have enough room for it, it's time to get rid of it. To maximize storage, you'll need to be mindful of how much space each item takes up. Think about how much you use each item and if the space it takes up could be utilized for something else. If your RV is feeling cluttered, it's time to start downsizing. Take inventory of what you have and consider getting rid of anything you don't use or need. You'll experience a newfound freedom if you can make the switch to a smaller space.

Consider the cost of keeping the item. If it's costing you more to keep it than it's worth, it's time to let it go. When you make the shift, one of the most important things to consider is the cost of keeping your items. If an item is taking up precious space in your RV and costing you more in maintenance and upkeep than it's worth, it's time to let it go. Don't worry too much about it though, because RV living can provide a great opportunity to declutter and simplify your life.

Ask yourself if you've used the item in the past year. If not, it's probably time to let it go. "Have I used it in the past year?" If not, it's probably time to let it go. When it comes to downsizing, it can be tempting to hang onto things "just in case." However, this mentality defeats the goal of downsizing and can hinder your RV experience. Before you buy something new, assess what you have and clear out the items that have been sitting in your RV for a while.

If the item is broken or damaged, it's probably time to get rid of it. It's important to know when it's time to throw away items that are broken or damaged. When an item has been used too much or is no longer repairable, it's time to let it go so that it doesn't take up extra space. When downsizing for RV living, it's important to be realistic about what you can and cannot keep. Keeping items that are damaged or broken can make your living situation more difficult and can be a drain on your resources. Be sure to take the time to assess whether an item is worth saving or if it's time to toss it and move on.

If the item is clutter, it's time to get rid of it. Clutter can be a major source of stress, so getting rid of it can be really helpful. Clutter can be a major source of stress, and getting rid of it can help achieve a more peaceful and organized RV life. Start by going through your belongings and asking yourself if the item is necessary, useful, or adds real value to your life. If the answer is no, it's time to get rid of it. Donate, recycle, or sell any items you don't need and

make more room for the things that bring you joy! Learning to live with less will open up more possibilities for exploration and adventure.

If the item doesn't have a place in your home, it's time to get rid of it. If you don't have a place to store an item in your RV, it can be time to part ways with it. Downsizing your life is essential when moving into an RV and it can be a difficult process, but it is worth it in the end.

If the item doesn't bring you joy, it's time to get rid of it. If the items you bring with you don't bring you joy, then it's time to get rid of them. The more you can downsize and focus on items that make you happy, the more content you will be living in an RV. So, ask yourself what truly makes you happy and keep only those items. Anything else is just taking up space and cluttering up your RV. Downsizing and living a more minimalist lifestyle can help to bring a sense of peace and contentment. So, go through your things one-by-one and get rid of anything that doesn't bring you joy.

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## **Remote Working: RV Life and Internet Connectivity Options**

Considering working remotely and the benefits of RV life.

There are many benefits to working remotely, and for people who love spending time outdoors, RV life is a great option. When you work remotely, you can take your work with you wherever you go, which is perfect for people who love to travel. You also don't have to worry about finding a place to work, as you can do it from anywhere with an internet connection.

RV life is also a great option for people who want to downsize or simplify their lives. When you live in an RV, you don't have to worry about maintaining a large home, and you can easily go from one destination to the next. Plus, RV life can be a lot more affordable than traditional home ownership.

If you're considering working remotely and RV life, be sure to do your research first. Make sure that your RV is set up for working and be sure to find a good internet connection. You also need to be prepared for the challenges of working remotely, such as staying productive and avoiding distractions. But with the right planning and preparation, RV life can be a great way to enjoy your work and your travels.

Connectivity options for remote working while living in an RV.

If you're thinking about **working remotely while living in an RV**, you'll need to consider your connectivity options. Cellular data plans and hotspots



are the most common options, but they can be expensive. You may also be able to get satellite internet, but it can be expensive and can have data caps. Some RVers also use public WiFi, but this can be unreliable and insecure. Ultimately, the best option will depend on your needs and budget.

Pros and Cons of different connectivity options for RVers.

There are a variety of **different ways to stay connected while RVing**, and each has its own set of pros and cons. The most popular options include cellular data, satellite, and WiFi.

Cellular data is the most convenient and widely available option, and it works anywhere there is cell service. However, it can be expensive if you use a lot of data, and it can be slow and unreliable in rural areas.

Satellite is a good option for people who need reliable, high-speed internet access in rural areas. However, it is expensive to install and can be difficult to use in smaller RVs.

WiFi is the most affordable option, and it is widely available in RV parks and campgrounds. However, it can be slow and unreliable, and it can be difficult to find a good signal in rural areas.

MIMO WiFi Booster for RVs

If you're like most RVers, you rely on your WiFi connection to keep you connected to the outside world. But what happens when you're in a remote location and your WiFi signal is weak or nonexistent?

Don't worry – there's a solution! A **MIMO WiFi booster** can help you get the most out of your RV WiFi connection, even in the most challenging environments.

These boosters work by using multiple antennas to receive and transmit signals, allowing them to pick up weak signals and amplify them. This can help you get a stronger, more reliable WiFi connection, even in locations where other boosters wouldn't work.

So, if you're looking for a way to boost your RV WiFi signal, a MIMO booster is the perfect solution.

Cellular Hotspots for RV Internet

Campgrounds and RV parks are great places to set up cellular hotspots for RV internet. Many campgrounds and parks have free or low-cost Wi-Fi

available, and many offer electrical hookups for RVs. This makes it easy to set up a cellular hotspot and get online.

**Cellular hotspots are a great way to get RV internet** without paying for a full-time satellite connection. hotspots use the cellular network to provide internet access, so they work anywhere there is cell coverage. This makes them a great option for people who like to travel and explore.

There are a number of different cellular hotspots available, so it is important to choose one that fits your needs. Some hotspots are designed for travel and are small and lightweight. Others are designed for use in a home or office and offer more features and options.

No matter what type of hotspot you choose, setting it up is easy. Most hotspots come with a built-in Wi-Fi signal that you can use to connect your devices. Simply connect your device to the hotspot's Wi-Fi signal, and you're ready to go.

#### weBoost 5G Cellular booster for Remote Working RVs

If you're a mobile RV enthusiast who likes to stay connected on the go, weBoost has the perfect product for you! The **5G cellular booster** is designed specifically for RVs and can provide a stronger, more reliable signal for all your devices. Whether you're streaming a movie, checking email, or just browsing the web, the 5G booster will help you stay connected and enjoy your trip.

The booster is easy to install and can be used with any cellular carrier. It works by amplifying the signal from the cellular tower and distributing it evenly throughout your RV. This prevents dead zones and dropped calls, and helps you stay connected even in remote areas.

#### Starlink for RVs from Starlink.com

If you're looking for a way to get your RV online while on the road, Starlink has the perfect solution. With Starlink, you can access the internet from anywhere in the United States, without the need for a phone or cable connection. All you need is an RV with a built-in Starlink satellite system, and you're good to go.

**Starlink's RV service is fast, reliable, and affordable**, and it's the perfect way to stay connected while on the road. With Starlink, you can access the internet, check your email, and stay up-to-date on the latest news and weather conditions. And best of all, there's no contract required, so you can cancel your service at any time.

If you're looking for a way to stay connected on your next road trip, Starlink is the perfect solution. With Starlink, you can access the internet from anywhere in the United States, without the need for a phone or cable connection.

Immediately access unlimited high-speed, low-latency internet on an as-needed basis at any destination where Starlink provides **active coverage map**. \$135/mo with a one-time cost of \$599 for portable hardware or \$2,500 for in-motion hardware.

The **Standard Starlink** is designed for portable use at any destination where Starlink has active coverage. With an easy setup and break down, Starlink delivers high-speed, low latency internet access within minutes, and packs up quickly when its time to move to your next destination.

The new **Flat High Performance Starlink** allows users to enjoy high-speed, low-latency internet while in-motion. With a wide field of view and enhanced GPS capabilities, the **Flat High Performance Starlink can connect to more satellites**, allowing for consistent connectivity on the go.

The hardware is designed for a permanent installation on your vehicle and is resilient in harsh environments.

Thor Industries RV combines with Starlink for RVs

**Thor Industries, the world's largest RV manufacturer, has announced a new partnership with Starlink, the leading provider of high-speed satellite internet service.** The two companies will work together to design and build RVs that are integrated with Starlink's service, allowing travelers to stay connected even while on the road.

This is a major development for the RV industry, as it has long been struggling to keep up with the growing demand for internet-connected vehicles. According to a study by the Pew Research Center, 78% of Americans say that internet access is a “necessity”, and that number is only expected to grow in the years to come.

With this new partnership, Thor and Starlink are both poised to take a leading role in the RV market. Thor is known for its high-quality, innovative RVs, while Starlink has the experience and expertise in delivering fast and reliable internet service. Together, they should be able to provide consumers with the best possible RV experience, complete with reliable internet access.

Benefits of T-Mobile 5G Home Internet for Remote Working RV use

Many people who enjoy the RV lifestyle choose to travel and explore the country while they are still working. This can be a great way to see America, but it can also be difficult to stay connected to the internet while on the road. **T-Mobile's new 5G Home Internet service** is the perfect solution for people who need reliable internet access while they are on the go.

The 5G Home Internet service from T-Mobile provides speeds of up to 400 Mbps, which is more than enough for most RVers. Plus, there are no data caps, so you can use as much data as you need. And since the service is available nationwide, you can access it wherever you go.

Conclusion:

After months of research and hands-on experience, we have come to a few conclusions about the best ways to stay connected while living the RV lifestyle.

The first is that a cell phone signal booster is a must-have item. We have tested several different models and found that they all work well, but you do need to purchase one that is specifically designed for your carrier.

Secondly, we recommend using a satellite internet connection. This option is a little more expensive, but it is very reliable and it allows you to stay connected no matter where you are.

Finally, we recommend investing in a quality RV WiFi system. This will allow you to connect to the internet from anywhere in your RV.

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## **Packing List of Clothes for Full Time RVing**

Full time RVing affords one a lot of freedom. However, it also takes away some of your available closet storage space. If full time RV living is new for you, or you're just exploring what changes go along with a full time RV lifestyle, you might struggle when deciding on a pack list of **clothes for full time RVing**.

Planning how to minimize what you'll take is an important planning step before moving full time into a camper. One of the toughest things for many to learn is that they'll need to start eliminating some of their stuff to create a workable list of clothes for their full-time RV adventure. One of the hardest lists you'll need to make and that's also why it's one of the most important.

Follow our list here and you'll not only have a great starting place for your clothes list regardless of the size of your camper's closet, but you'll also have

a few extra great storage location ideas. Be sure and read to the end for bonus tips on some great RV clothes storage ideas.

It's common for many people to get stuck trying to decide which clothes to take for full time RV living. After all, how will an entire wardrobe fit into that tiny RV closet? What are the must have items, and what items are optional or not needed at all?

If you're one of those struggling to create your full time RV wardrobe, then continue reading here. Below you're going to find a collection of best practice tips to ensure you end up with everything you need without a lot of space taken by things you may never use. This is very important when you're ready to hit the road full time.

### The Basics – Clothes for Full Time RVing

Planning always starts with the basics, and in this case that means items like socks and underwear. You'll want to think about your average laundry cycle when deciding how many it takes to the next wash day.

That said, it's probably a good idea to make it 8 to 10 pairs of each since you never know when you'll shift a day or need an extra clean pair.

Another thing to consider is that these products are often sold in 5 or 10 packs so it would be easy to grab a 10 pack if you decide to buy new clothes for this new RV lifestyle adventure. Now that you have these basic items taken care of, its time to move to items like pants, shorts, and shirts.

### Focus on Day-to-Day Living

Let's begin this process by planning for your day-to-day RV life. If your plans are to be traveling full time, it's probably safe to say, you probably won't be heading for an office or other professional work situation. For that reason, formal business attire is probably not something you plan to bring into the new RV lifestyle. It's probably safe to say, you'll be wearing more jeans, sweatpants, or shorts and more casual t-shirts.

Once again, set your focus on about 7 days' worth of favorite casual dress attire. You're going to place these in the most accessible storage area for your clothes.

### Hold Onto Some Dressy Attire

Even though we discussed not needing business attire, you're still going to want something to dress up a little occasionally even when living the RV lifestyle. Think of times like, weddings, funerals, or the occasional formal

invitation that might come along. While picking your dressier attire, focus on a few versatile pieces you'll be able to mix and match or even layer if the weather happens to get cold. Thinking in terms of combining a few pieces while keeping the total number of pieces down is the key to covering all your bases when planning your RV lifestyle.

### Consider a Capsule Wardrobe

You might want to consider what called a capsule wardrobe to help keep your total wardrobe pieces to a minimum while still giving yourself an assortment of outfit options. In order to create a capsule wardrobe, you'll want to choose your base color. This might be a tone of black, gray, brown, blue, or another favorite of yours. You'll use this base for items like jackets, pants, and shoes, and then you'll add varied color with tops and accessories. The capsule concept makes it easier to mix and match your clothing choices.

### Shoes Choices for Full Time RVing

Shoes seem to be that topic that can ruin an RV living clothes checklist quickly. Especially if you're going to need to purge your current collection to find space in your camper. In general, there are 6 different types of shoes you should make room for in your RV.

#### **These include:**

- Flip flops or sandals (for the beach, pool, and shower)
- Casual shoes (for everyday wear)
- Hiking shoes (for hiking)
- Tennis shoes (for active wear)
- Boots (for cold weather)
- Dress shoes

Flip flops are good to have around for a day at the pool, lake or maybe the beach. They can also be handy if you plan to use a public shower at the campground. You might think as you're planning that you'd never use a public shower, but it's handy to keep them just in case. What happens if you end up at a site with no water available and your only option is that public shower house, or maybe you just get tired of constantly cleaning your own RV shower.

Even if chances are you never end up using that public shower, you're bound to end up near water sometime during your travels. By having flip flops available, you'll be able to keep sand out of your regular shoes and hopefully your camper. Last point is that flip flops don't take up any real space, so just stash them out of site.

Hiking shoes or boots can be used for a variety of purposes including general hiking and dealing with snow or rain. They can also be a fashionable option during fall and winter seasons. We recommend including a pair of lightweight hikers that will add a flexible option to your footwear.

Consider bringing a pair of trainers, these are great for workouts, and they'll double as walking or jogging shoes. Match them up with a pair of jeans and you'll be able to wear them when you're touring around town.

A comfortable pair of casual shoes are a good alternative to your trainers. While deciding what to wear you'll be able to rest the trainers while wearing these casual shoes.

If you select a neutral color for these shoes that is also different than your trainers, you'll also add a new dimension to diversify your wardrobe.

Many consider dress shoes to be an optional add, depending on personal preference. If your future plans include fine dining, the occasional business meeting, or the unexpected funeral, then these might be an important addition to your full-time wardrobe.

We're reminded here that not everyone going full time has waited until retirement. If you already own dress shoes, then be sure to bring a set along before you begin your travels.

Another option when you're just starting out would be to leave the dress shoes behind with the option of renting a pair if you ever need them. Maybe you opt for a pair of leather trainers as an alternative to the dress shoes.

### Keep Weather in Mind

Your plans may be to head south for the winter as you begin your full time RV adventures. The common thought is to bring an entire wardrobe based around warm weather. This might include more shorts and t-shirts with just a couple pants or jeans and a jacket included. Many think that because summer clothing is lighter and easier to pack, they'll devote the majority of their RV space to light-weight clothing.

It's important to remember that the weather patterns have been changing and even the deep south has been seeing occasional cold snaps that one should plan for. For this reason, it's important to bring along some sweatshirts, sweaters, jackets, and maybe even a coat to be prepared for a change in the weather or unforeseen trip up north.

At a minimum, consider at least a single sweater or sweatshirt, along with some form of rain jacket and a fall weather jacket. If your RV travels are still open to all regions, then consider adding one winter jacket.

With this combination, you'll be able to layer a combination of sweater or sweatshirt with one of your jackets to create the best outfit for your current days weather.

If space is at a real premium for you, then consider buying a rain poncho to store in place of a separate rain jacket. You can pick one of these up at any dollar store and tuck it away until you need it. You'll thank me when the day comes, you're stuck outside working on your RV in the rain and you're able to at least stay dry.

Here's a handy storage tip: consider storing small items like lip balm, sunglasses, and lighters in your jacket pockets rather than limited drawer storage places. You're more likely to use them while outdoors and they'll already be with you in your jacket.

### Go with Layers

Another trick that I've already touched on when creating your personal RV lifestyle clothes collection is to layer up. For many, winter coats are bulky to store and can be avoided with the right combination of layered clothing.

Rather than devoting precious space to heavy coats, consider using your wardrobe space to hold a combination of clothes that layer together well. This way, if you end up somewhere cold or during a cooler morning, you'll be able to layer up and then remove layers as the day warms up.

So, keep in mind that jackets, leggings, and sweaters are all good choices as you build your list of clothing for full time RV living. This is because they all layer up nicely.

### Don't Be Afraid to Re-Wear Some Items

In your home, you probably had a washer and dryer always ready, so it was tempting to toss everything in the laundry after each day, even if some things weren't dirty. Laundry when your living in an RV will probably be different. You may have RV laundry equipment but if you do it will be smaller, meaning smaller loads that take longer to run. Many others will elect to visit a laundromat in order to save space in their RV.

One option during RV life is to stretch your scaled down wardrobe and limit your laundry trips by re-wearing some items. Jeans come to mind as something that can be worn for a couple days before they begin to show signs



of wear. Your outerwear like jackets or sweaters will tend to be good for a couple wearing's as well.

Create a new habit once you begin the RV lifestyle. Try checking a article of clothing to see if it's actually dirty before tossing it into the hamper, you might get one more use out of it before wash day.

### Accessories You'll Be Glad You Remembered

Accessories for your RV clothing list can get a little carried away. Probably because most won't take up much space, so you might be compelled to bring more than you'll ever need. Accessories like hats, scarves, gloves, and even jewelry or watches need to be reduced to just one or two each.

### Consider this accessory list when planning:

- 2 Hats
- 2 Pairs of Gloves
- 1 Watch
- 2 Belts

Hats come in handy for both sun and cold, so consider one for each purpose. A wide brim hat and a winter hat or stocking cap will have you covered year-round.

The hat or cap you choose for winter use can be stored in your winter coat or jacket pocket and a wide brimmed hat can be hung on a wall somewhere.

You might consider warm winter gloves if you plan to be removing snow or any very cold weather, but you'll want something lighter for around town or working around the RV in warmer weather.

It's important to protect your hands, especially if you'll be out in cold weather. Consider a thin pair of leather or even cotton gloves which will easily store in a jacket pocket. You might also consider storing these in your tow vehicles glove box.

In today's world, almost everyone has a cell phone that includes a time feature. So, a watch is not necessary. Consider it more of a jewelry piece than anything. When you're planning your RV lifestyle, why not consider a smart watch that can also help you track your health and fitness. This way it serves many purposes besides telling time.

Owning a standard watch will act as a piece of jewelry and tell time, but a smart watch can do that and so much more.

Many consider belts to be optional unless you need one to hold up your pants. They can also be considered for their fashion accessory contribution but limit them like all other accessories.

## Multi-Purpose Items

Multi-purpose items are a great add to any full time RV clothing wardrobe. Consider these items that can serve more than one purpose in daily life. **(Disclaimer: I've included a few Amazon links below if you'd like to visualize what I'm describing. Each link shows several options for the general item.)**

- 4 Season Jackets
- Aquatic Hiking Shoes
- Smart Watches
- Reversible Belts

A four-season jacket that comes with multiple layers can be a great addition to your wardrobe. You typically will have a spring jacket that also rain resistant that zips together with a fall jacket in order to create a winter coat. What a space saver that makes.

Aquatic shoes can be a good replacement for hiking shoes, shower shoes and waterproof shoes. These are often referred to as water shoes and can be worn to places like the pool, beach or even hiking where you'll be crossing shallow streams during warm weather.

Smart watches are versatile as jewelry, smartphone connections, and fitness trackers. RV enthusiasts who own smartphones or even standard phones will find this helpful.

Finding a two-tone reversible belt is one of the easiest ways to get versatile use out of a single belt.

## Where to Store Clothes When Full Time RVing

So, now you've compiled your *clothes for full time RVing*, it's time to figure out where you're going to store everything. While many RVs are equipped with a closet and a few drawers, there are some that are not. If you have chosen an RV that's not equipped with built-in storage you might have to get creative. Even if you have storage, here are some tips for additional storage ideas.

## Boxes Under Furniture

Check out space under the bed or a couch and see if you can find bins or under bed boxes that will slide under those spaces. This is a good storage space because everything is neatly organized yet clothes are easy to access.

### **Closet Organizer in Tall Cabinet**

Are there tall bedside cabinets in your unit that are not well suited for much of anything. Check out sweater organizers as a great way to store many different things in there. These are smaller cubby spaces that stack well and provide very flexible storage alternatives for smaller clothing items.

### **Over-the-Door Shoe Organizer**

Shoe storage is problematic for many RVers. One solution is to hang an over-the-door shoe organizer to hold all of the shoes. These organizers are also great for things like socks, underwear, and even t-shirts.

Find places for shoe storage can be a challenge for may living full time in their RV. Consider an over the door shoe organizer as a great way to store shoes out of the way. These can also be used as a creative way to hold a variety of things like t-shirts, underwear, and socks.

### **RV Laundry: How Will You Wash Clothes?**

Have you considered how you plan to do weekly laundry once you begin the RV lifestyle? One option is purchasing an RV washer/spin dryer combo that you can install or have installed in a closet area. This is a good option if you're dead set against using a laundromat. Many people just choose to make the trips to the local laundromat so they can get all the laundry done as quickly as possible.

Regardless of how you decide to do your laundry, you're going to want some type of good RV laundry hamper. You might also consider investing in an RV laundry drying rack so you can avoid the dryer and just look at a compact washer.

We hope you find this article helpful as you begin the process of downsizing your wardrobe to create your own list of clothes for full time RVing. We also wanted to include some ideas on how you can store and care for your RV wardrobe. Keep in mind that once you've created your full time RV clothing list, you'll be one step closer to the adventure of living the full time RV lifestyle!

### **In Conclusion**

As you enter the world of full time RV living, you need to be prepared to downsize and decide what clothing you'll need and what you can leave behind. This way you won't find yourself giving up anything you'll need to enjoy the full time RV lifestyle.

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## **The Car Trailer Is a Key Piece of Racing Equipment That Never Sets a Tire on Track**

The quickest drivers at your local track have more than a few things in common. Odds are they're the most focused racers in the field, and they've probably accumulated more instruction and track time than the also-rans. Another safe bet: They don't drive their race cars to and from the track. They trailer them.

Of course, a car trailer won't necessarily make you a faster driver—but it may motivate you to spend more weekends at the track and net some additional racing experience.

Should you commit to a car trailer? Depends on what your goals are. Do you just want to have fun hanging out and driving fast with a bunch of like-minded friends, or do you want to regularly finish on the podium? Are you happy pulling a small tire trailer behind your daily driver to autocross and track days, or do you want to race wheel to wheel?

If you're among the former group, you probably don't need a trailer. If you belong more in the latter group, maybe it's time to consider one.

### **What do I need to consider before towing a trailer?**

The Race Car trailer could be a 5th Wheel, Gooseneck, or receiver hitch type. The key issue with these trailers is the contents. The contents of the trailer are your car(s), motorcycles, equipment, and tools. In some cases, it could also be your living quarters while you are traveling. Just about every car that runs around a NASCAR or other smaller tracks arrived, along with equipment and spare parts, in big vans and trailers. Getting the cargo safely from track to track is a serious responsibility for the crew assigned to the job. It's something they deal with week after week; they know their rigs and they're in the habit of handling them.

With any hard connection hitch, the solid connection to the trailer causes your tow vehicle to feel every bump your trailer feels, and your trailer feels every bump your vehicle feels.

Have you arrived at your destination and found the trailer contents suffered damage from all of the bouncing because of bad road conditions and you have to spend time putting your trailer and contents back together?

All of the problems noted above are faced by the thousands around globe on a daily basis. Many of the problems above can be solved or drastically reduced if you place an [AirSafe Hitch](#) between you tow vehicle and your trailer. Our AirSafe hitch cushions the ride of the tow vehicle and the trailer.

The wear and tear on your truck and trailer Will be greatly reduced. You can add air springs to the truck and to the trailer, but this Will not fix the problem if you still have a hard connection hitch. Fix the problem at the source, with our AirSafe Trailer Hitches you do not need air suspension on the trailer or truck unless you just want all the comfort you can get and don't mind paying for it.

The AirSafe Hitch is a lasting investment as can be easily transferred to a new vehicle and give you years of good service.

## **Why Tow?**

Picture this. It's 4:30 on a steamy Sunday afternoon in August at Road Atlanta. You just finished your last HPDE session, and it's time to head home.

If you have a trailer, you've already lowered its ramps so you can immediately load the car when you reach the paddock. You tie down the car, start the truck, get the air conditioning going, and pack up your gear. By the time you climb into the cab and sink into the driver's seat, the interior has cooled to a hospitable 72 degrees. You drop the truck in gear, crank up some music, and make the 6-hour drive home in climate-controlled comfort.

As you pull out, be sure to wave to the guy putting DOT tires back on his car and loading his tire trailer. Then wave to the driver who broke his daily driver; he'll be the one signing paperwork for the tow truck operator.

Okay, maybe that scenario is a bit exaggerated, but you get the point. No matter how hard you push your car on track, a trailer setup will ensure that you and your machine will always have a ride home—and that means time and money saved.

## **Rock a Rental?**

Look around the paddock during any race weekend and you'll see a lot of U-Haul orange. There are good reasons for that. First, U-Haul stores are everywhere, and they provide probably the simplest and most cost-effective

way to tow your car to the track. If you're only going to use a trailer a few times each year and don't have a convenient place to store a trailer, this is a good option.

A U-Haul car hauler is about 16 feet long and weighs 2210 pounds. With a gross trailer weight rating of 7500 pounds, a U-Haul car trailer can carry as much as 5290 pounds.

The ramps pull straight out the back, and it's not too difficult to load a sports car—even one with a lower ride height. What's more, these rentals are fitted with hydraulic surge brakes, so there's no need for an electronic brake controller in the tow vehicle. However, rental costs can add up quickly. Availability isn't always a slam dunk, either, especially if you're making last-minute plans.

### **How Much to Budget?**

Ready to commit? Whether you buy new or used depends on your budget.

New enclosed trailers cost as much as you'd care to spend. The price of the BRE Aerovault can seem high, but it's about as trick as you can get: It comes fully equipped with a remote-controlled winch, 15-inch Goodyears and a name-brand hitch.

Shopping new? Just about every town in America has at least one trailer outlet; eBay is another viable source. But if your budget is like that of a lot of weekend racers, you're probably looking to buy used. Prepare to spend some serious time poring over craigslist, RacingJunk.com and eBay ads.

However, it is possible to find a used enclosed trailer for what you might spend on a new open model. Used enclosed trailers with reasonable prices sell quickly, so if you find one, act fast. If you miss out on a deal, just wait for another one to come along—and there's always another one.

One mantra applies when buying a used trailer: Quality and good maintenance matter. Generally speaking, stick with names you know: BRE, Carson, Featherlite, Haulmark, Pace American and Wells Cargo are all national brands with good reputations. You also want an example that has been well maintained. Look for a clean trailer with new or nearly new tires as well as recently serviced brakes and bearings.

Another advantage to buying used is that much of a trailer's value depreciation has already occurred, so odds are that if you sell it within a few years, you'll likely get most of your money back.

## Open or Closed?

If you can afford to buy an enclosed trailer, it would be money well spent. Owners of open trailers typically start itching for enclosed models within a few years.

Why? At the track, enclosed units provide shelter from the sun and heat. And unlike pop-up canopies, they don't need to be anchored and won't blow away if the wind picks up. With the right adjustments, you can even camp inside them at the track and save on hotel bills. They also provide locking storage, which means you can free up garage space at home.

Open or enclosed, the most common type of entry-level car trailer typically has two 3500-pound axles with brakes on one of them. That means the combined weight of the trailer and contents can be no more than 7000 pounds. Enclosed trailers are heavier than open models, so they put more of a strain on the tow vehicle. And remember, the weight of your tools and gear can add up quickly.

Entry-level enclosed trailers tend to have the same axle weight ratings, but width becomes important: Make sure you can still use your sideview mirrors. If you have a small car, such as a Miata or a Lotus, you can get away with an 8-foot-wide trailer. If you have a Corvette or an Evo, you need an 8.5-foot-wide model.

## What Tow Vehicle?

SUVs like the Chevrolet Suburban or Ford Excursion make excellent tow vehicles, but sometimes you just gotta have a truck.

Think about it: You can carry spare wheels and grimy bits in a pickup bed and not have to worry about getting your interior dirty or removing third-row seating. And there's no need to inhale fumes all the way home—just throw your gas cans in the back of the truck.

Emotions can run high when comparing truck brands, so we'll stick to the basics. The newer trucks with five- and six-speed automatics are much better for towing over mountainous terrain. If you only tow in Florida or Indiana, a four-speed automatic will suffice, but be sure that whatever you buy has the towing package.

Before you start shopping, determine how much weight the truck will be pulling. Once you have that figure, add in another 1500 pounds to allow for some extra towing capacity. That way, you won't be asking everything of your truck each time you tow with it.

Another big decision involves fuel: gas or diesel? Any full-sized diesel truck is plenty capable, but if you're pulling a Caterham Super 7 on a single-axle trailer, you don't need a Chevy HD or a Ford Super Duty for towing. A gas truck will be fine.

Happy Trails

Whatever truck and trailer you end up with, remember that they probably won't lower your lap times. However, they will get you home safely—even if your race car will not.

## **Costs of Ownership**

*Trailer ownership involves a number of costs. Some on this list are one-time expenses and others are ongoing, but they should help give you an idea of the true price of trailer ownership.*

**Storage:** Most storage lots charge by the foot and include the tongue as part of a trailer's overall length. We've seen rates in the same town and for the same trailer vary. Shop around.

**Maintenance:** Wheel bearings require regular service, and the brakes need to be inspected just as frequently. Doing the work yourself saves money, but trailers are nowhere near as much fun to work on as race cars.

**Insurance:** It varies by state and insurer, but trailers are typically covered under the liability portion of your vehicle's insurance policy. A policy that covers damage to the trailer is rather affordable.

The policy would not cover the trailer's contents, though—including an uninsured race car. For a higher level of coverage, check with firms that specialize in collector cars.

**Brake Controller:** Most car trailers have electric brakes, which means you'll need to shell out for a brake controller.

**Trailer Tires:** Trailer tires degrade mostly due to photo-aging and disuse; a typical lifespan is three years. To prolong your investment, shield them from UV rays with a set of tire covers.

**Coupler Lock:** Diversi-Tech makes one of the most popular models on the market. It's robust, and its chrome-and-nickel plating resists corrosion.

**Tie-Downs:** Opt for straps of at least 3 inches. Mac's Custom Tie-Downs makes kits that come with everything you need to hold your car in place.



**Ramps:** Even if your trailer has long ramps and a dovetail, you may need additional ramps to get the car loaded without rubbing the undercarriage.

**Back-Up Camera:** A favorite is the Speedy Hitch camera system from Hardline Products. It's wireless and portable, and you can even use it to diagnose noises and mechanical problems you can't see from behind the wheel.

**Tongue Box:** Almost a necessity for an open trailer, a locking tongue box is an ideal place to stash tie-down straps, a coupler lock and other gear.

**Trailer Ramp:** Your racing jack will not lift a trailer with a race car on it. A simple ramp like the one from Trailer-Aid will easily lift your dual-axle trailer while you change tires or perform other services.

## Getting Underway

*Towing is an art that's rarely taught in driver's ed. A few easy tips can make things safer and less stressful.*

Slide the draw bar into the receiver and insert the pin from the left. That way, if the cotter pin falls off, you have 1 to 2 degrees of road camber to help keep the pin in place.

If the draw bar has multiple holes, use the hole that brings the hitch ball closest to the rear axle of the tow vehicle—unless you have interference with an exterior-mounted spare tire (Hummer H2 SUTs have this problem). The innermost position creates less downward leverage. Downward leverage unloads the front wheels.

If you don't have a back-up camera or a friend to help you back up to the coupler, try this: Back up in 4- to 6-foot intervals at first. As you get closer to the trailer, make the intervals shorter, periodically stopping and getting out to check your progress. Before long, you will have stutter-stepped the hitch ball into place under the coupler.

Once you've lowered the coupler onto the ball, lock it in place and raise the tongue jack to its highest position. Crisscross the safety chains under the coupler, connect them to the loops on the receiver, and plug in the wiring harness. Crisscrossing chains forms a cradle that will catch the coupler if it comes off the hitch ball. If you have S-hooks, put them over the eyelets on the hitch to minimize the risk of them falling off. Your chains should be long enough to accommodate tight right- and left-hand turns without dragging on the ground. If they hang too low, twist them to reduce their length. Be sure to leave at least 4 to 5 inches of clearance.

If you have a hand wheel-style coupler, be sure it's as tight as can be. If you have the throw-latch coupler, padlock it closed. Now check your turn signals and brake lights.

For proper stopping power, you'll need to adjust the brake controller for different loads. For example, when the trailer is empty, you need minimal gain so you don't lock up the trailer brakes and flat-spot the tires. A good starting point is 10 percent gain for an unloaded open trailer and 15 percent gain for an unloaded enclosed trailer. Once you load the car, bump the gain up to 15 percent for open haulers and up to 20 percent for enclosed ones. If your truck's brakes start to smell or require excessive pedal effort, increase the gain a bit more.

Because trailers are almost invariably wider than their tow vehicles, set your mirrors so you can see the trailer's orientation within the lane you're using.

The trailering line around a corner is not much different from a racing line. You want a late apex. A good rule of thumb: The trailer wheels generally follow the path of your tow vehicle's rear wheels.

When backing up, the trailer travels in the opposite direction of your steering inputs. In other words, to get the trailer to go left, you steer to the right. Like going fast on a track, it takes practice.

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Air Safe Hitches Island Park, New York 11558 Tel.407-973-2980 Fax. 866-201-3391 <a href="http://airsafehitches.com">airsafehitches.com</a>	  	

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Air Safe Hitches  
ISLAND PARK New York 11558  
United States

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