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Air-Hitch Advisor

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RV Trends 2024: What to Expect in the Evolving RV Industry

The RV industry is constantly evolving, and staying updated on the latest trends is crucial for both enthusiasts and industry professionals. As we approach 2024, several exciting trends are shaping the future of RVing.

In this article, we will delve into these trends, providing insights and analysis to help you understand what to expect in the coming years. Whether you are planning your next road trip or looking to invest in an RV, staying ahead of the game will ensure you make informed decisions for an unparalleled RV experience.

Electric-Powered RVs: Revolutionizing the Industry

As electric technology advances, RV manufacturers are exploring electric power as an alternative to traditional fuel-powered engines. Electric RVs offer benefits such as reduced emissions, quieter operation, and lower operating

costs. However, challenges such as limited charging infrastructure and shorter driving ranges need to be addressed for widespread adoption.

Transition to Electric Power

One of the primary trends shaping the RV industry is the rise of electric-powered RVs. With advancements in electric technology, RV manufacturers are increasingly exploring electric power as an alternative to traditional fuel-powered engines. Electric RVs offer numerous benefits, such as reduced emissions, quieter operation, and lower operating costs. The transition to electric-powered RVs aligns with the broader global shift towards sustainable and eco-friendly practices.

Overcoming Challenges

However, challenges such as limited charging infrastructure and shorter driving ranges need to be addressed for widespread adoption. RV parks and campgrounds are gradually installing electric vehicle charging stations, providing RVers with the necessary infrastructure. Additionally, advancements in battery technology and the development of more efficient charging systems are extending the driving ranges of electric-powered RVs. As these challenges are overcome, electric RVs are poised to revolutionize the industry and pave the way for a more sustainable future of RV travel.

Smart Technology Integration: Enhancing the RVing Experience

The integration of smart technology is transforming various industries, and the RV sector is no exception. In the coming years, RVs equipped with advanced smart home automation systems will become more prevalent, offering convenience, safety, and connectivity on the road. Connectivity options and remote monitoring systems will also enhance the RVing experience.

The Era of Smart RVs

The integration of smart technology has been transforming various industries, and the RV sector is no exception. In the coming years, RVs equipped with advanced smart home automation systems will become more prevalent. From app-controlled functions to voice-activated virtual assistants, smart technology will enhance convenience, safety, and connectivity on the road. Imagine

controlling your RV's temperature, lighting, and security system with a simple voice command or a few taps on your smartphone. With the integration of smart technology, the RVing experience will become more intuitive and user-friendly.

Connectivity and Remote Monitoring

Moreover, smart RVs will offer enhanced connectivity options, allowing users to stay connected to the internet and stream media seamlessly during their travels. Remote monitoring systems will enable RV owners to keep track of their vehicle's condition and receive real-time alerts, ensuring optimal performance and maintenance. As the demand for connectivity and convenience increases, smart technology integration will play an integral role in shaping the future of RVing.

Flexibility and Versatility: Rise of Lightweight and Compact RVs

There is a growing demand for lightweight and compact RVs, particularly for urban travel and off-grid adventures. Innovative design solutions and optimized storage are maximizing the use of limited space, allowing for a comfortable and functional RV experience in smaller units.

Changing Preferences and Urban Travel

Gone are the days when bigger was always better in the RV world. In recent years, there has been a surge in demand for lightweight and compact RVs. These smaller RV options offer several advantages, particularly for urban travel and off-grid adventures. Lightweight and compact RVs are easier to maneuver, park, and store, making them a practical choice for those seeking flexibility and versatility in their RVing endeavors.

Innovative Design Solutions

Innovative design solutions, such as foldable furniture and multi-purpose spaces, are maximizing the use of limited space, allowing for a comfortable and functional RV experience in smaller units. Manufacturers are focusing on optimizing storage solutions and incorporating modular designs to cater to the evolving needs of RV enthusiasts. The rise of lightweight and compact RVs

provides travelers with greater freedom to explore urban areas and adventure off the beaten path.

Gen Z and Millennial RVers: Shaping the Future of RV Travel

Younger generations, such as Gen Z and millennials, are increasingly embracing the RV lifestyle. Factors such as the desire for freedom, flexibility, and remote work opportunities are driving their interest. The industry is adapting to their unique needs by incorporating technology, offering eco-friendly options, and creating vibrant RV communities.

The Shifting Demographics

While RV travel has long been associated with older demographics, younger generations are increasingly embracing the RV lifestyle. Gen Z and millennials are fueling the growth of RV travel, driven by factors such as the desire for freedom and the flexibility to work remotely. The COVID-19 pandemic has further accelerated this trend, as more individuals seek safe and socially distant vacation options. The rise of social media platforms showcasing the RVing lifestyle has also played a significant role in attracting younger audiences to explore the world of RV travel.

Tailoring the Experience

As younger generations enter the market, the industry is adapting to their unique needs and preferences. Manufacturers are incorporating technology, offering more eco-friendly options, and creating vibrant RV communities to cater to the shifting demographics. The future of RV travel will be shaped by the desires of Gen Z and millennials for immersive experiences, digital connectivity, and sustainable travel options.

Sustainable RVing: Eco-Friendly Trends in the RV Industry

With the growing emphasis on sustainability, the RV industry is integrating green technologies into designs, such as solar power systems and energy-efficient appliances. Preserving natural habitats and promoting responsible travel are also important aspects of sustainable RVing.

Embracing Environmentally Conscious Practices

With the growing emphasis on sustainability, the RV industry is making strides towards eco-friendly practices. RV manufacturers are increasingly integrating green technologies into their designs, such as solar power systems, energy-efficient appliances, and eco-friendly materials. These innovations not only reduce the environmental impact but also provide RVers with the opportunity to embrace a more sustainable travel lifestyle. From off-grid camping powered by solar energy to using composting toilets and recycling systems, RV enthusiasts have a growing array of eco-friendly options to explore the world while minimizing their carbon footprint.

Preservation and responsible travel

Furthermore, there is a renewed focus on preserving natural habitats and promoting responsible travel. RV organizations and enthusiasts are actively involved in conservation efforts and educating travelers on Leave No Trace principles. Sustainable RVing goes beyond the choice of technology; it encompasses responsible camping practices, waste management, and the preservation of natural resources. As we move closer to 2024, the focus on sustainable RVing will continue to grow, making it an integral part of the evolving RV industry.

Embrace the Future of RVing with RVnGO

The RV industry is undergoing significant transformations as we approach 2024. From the revolution of electric-powered RVs and the integration of smart technology to the rise of lightweight and compact designs and the growing influence of younger RVing demographics, the future of RVing is promising and exciting.

Embracing these trends will allow you to stay ahead of the curve and make the most out of your RV adventures. Whatever your preferences, RVnGO is here to help you find the perfect RV for your next journey into the world of RVing. Stay informed, stay adventurous, and embrace the future of RV travel.

Start planning now for the 2024 total solar eclipse in North America. Seriously!

Get ready, the 2024 total solar eclipse is coming!

On August 21, 2017, campgrounds from the Oregon Coast to the shores of South Carolina were swamped by campers crowding to get under the shadow of the solar eclipse.

Many campground owners weren't prepared for the crazy, carnival-like atmosphere the eclipse caused, and parks throughout North America took note to be better prepared the next time the sun disappeared at midday.

Well, it's all going to happen again on Monday, April 8, 2024, and if you're an RVer who doesn't want to be left in the sunlight this time, it isn't too early to start making your plans.

Where can I see the 2024 total solar eclipse?

The 2024 eclipse in North America will first touch the U.S. in South Texas before sweeping in an arc across 15 states and six Canadian provinces.

The "sweet spot" for eclipse watchers is the 70-mile-wide "Shadow of Totality," where the sun will totally disappear behind the moon's shadow. Only a glowing corona will appear around the eclipse margins.

While the eclipse effect will only last a few minutes in any one location along the path, the experience in 2017 showed owners the power of the natural phenomenon. After all, the total population in the states under the 100% eclipse totality equals 114 million folks. That's a lot of people crowding under a 70-mile-wide swath of territory.

Get ahead of crowded campgrounds

"We knew it would be big, but not that big," said Kathy Freeman, owner of the Benton, Illinois, KOA Journey, of the 2017 event. Freeman's park has the distinction of being one of the very few campgrounds that experienced the eclipse in 2017 and will be under the Shadow of Totality again in 2024.

"The few weeks before the last eclipse happened, we were overwhelmed with phone calls," Freeman said. Her park did raise rates to usual holiday levels, but many campgrounds along the 2017 route weren't aware of the crushing

demand they experienced, and some didn't alter online booking rates for the August 2017 event in time to reap the benefit.

That isn't likely to happen in 2024. Most campground owners we talked to are well aware of the high interest the eclipse generated in 2017 and are already making their plans for April 2024.

"We are definitely starting to think about our plans for 2024," said Indianapolis KOA Holiday owner David Vaughan. His park, which lies squarely in the middle of the Shadow of Totality, is also the current KOA Campground of the Year.

"I think a lot of campground owners got caught a bit flat-footed last time it happened," Vaughan said. "It is a wonderful opportunity, especially coming this time early in the camping season."

In 2017, campers were begging park owners to let them park just about anywhere – and they were willing to pay premium prices to have a place to go.



It isn't too early to pick your spot for the 2024 total solar eclipse

Pick your spot: There are already many maps available online (we've included a good one above) that show the path of the April 8, 2024, eclipse. You can also find the exact time of the total eclipse in a certain area, along with the duration. Again, the maximum totality of the eclipse only lasts a few minutes. The longest it will last in 2024 is four minutes and 28 seconds in Nazas, Durango, Mexico.

The closer you are to the center of the Path of Totality, the longer the totality will last.

The best cities with the longest durations are...

Waco, Texas

Dallas, Texas

Poplar Bluff, Missouri

Mount Vernon, Illinois

Indianapolis, Indiana

Bloomington, Indiana

Kenton, Ohio

Cleveland, Ohio

Erie, Pennsylvania

Buffalo, New York

Rochester, New York

Wildlife can get a little weird during an eclipse, with confused birds, bats, and other animals as confused as we are by the effect. It's interesting to witness the wildlife, so find a good spot with plenty of fauna.

Wherever you choose to camp to see the eclipse, get there early. During the 2017 event, roads and highways were jammed with folks trying to get under the shadow any way they could. Even remote areas had huge traffic jams.

Be ready to wait for a reservation for the 2024 total solar eclipse

While campgrounds are likely to be much better prepared for the 2024 eclipse, don't expect to find any available spots just yet. Owners know the demand for campsites will be huge, and many will hold out for a while to see what rates are like at competing campgrounds before they open their systems for the dates around April 8, 2024.

Owners are also a bit fearful of campers making multiple reservations along the path of the eclipse and waiting until the last moment to select their true destination. This did happen in 2017, as campers booked several sites and waited for weather reports before making the trek to see the eclipse from the best possible vantage point. Weather is certainly a factor for eclipse chasers, as a cloudy or rainy day would ruin the experience.

Call the campground

Your best bet may be to pick your desired campground, then reach out with an email or call to see precisely when reservations will be made available for the April 8, 2024, date. See if the owner has a waiting list and will keep in touch. Regardless, the eclipse is likely to again cause a website and phone-feeding frenzy. Have a Plan B in place in case Plan A doesn't work out.

But try to be respectful of your fellow RVers and don't play the "weather game" by booking several campgrounds along the eclipse path, knowing you'll only use one.

Some sites to watch to pick your campground

Here are some sites to watch when you're ready to pick your eclipse campground. Likely, you won't find many parks willing to make a reservation for April 8, 2024, just yet. But there could be some.

Recreation.gov: This is the behemoth of government booking sites for many federal parks.

Hipcamp: This site acts as a "dating service" for campers and landowner hosts who want to keep their land undeveloped.

2024 State Park Statistics: This is a great site that gives you information about state parks under the Shadow of Totality for the 2024 eclipse. Note that a few state parks in certain states, like Arkansas, will let you make reservations 12 months in advance. The shortest advanced windows for reservations are in Texas state parks (five months in advance) and Maine state parks (reservations open February 2024).

Free Campsites: This site includes a lot of camping information crowdsourced from users, mostly about public parks.

Harvest Hosts: A membership is required here, but the experience at a small winery or pretty golf course would be epic.

KOA: Kampgrounds of America will have at least 63 parks under the Shadow of Totality and many more close by with at least 80% darkness.

Jellystone Parks: Jellystone Parks (aka Yogi Bear campgrounds) are designed with younger families in mind. Since the 2024 eclipse passes right through mid-America, which has a lot of Yogi parks, this chain will likely be more than ready with special eclipse events too.

The above information should help you get started in your planning. Don't forget about Canada! The eclipse will cut across Eastern Canada, all of the way to Prince Edward Island.

Get your glasses ASAP

Viewing a solar eclipse requires special darkened glasses. This is no time to go with the cheap knockoffs, and you'd also be wise not to wait and hope that your chosen campground supplies the right specs. The glasses were in short supply in 2017 and, if you didn't have the foresight to hang onto your five-year-old pair, you might want to start searching now for the right pair.

You can get a rundown of the top eclipse glasses here. Prices are pretty reasonable now, but as the date approaches, you can expect prices to go, well, sky-high.

You can find just about every kind of glasses to use for the 2024 total solar eclipse on Amazon too.

Eventually, watch the weather

Trying to pick where it's going to rain in two years will drive you crazy. And, as stated above, it isn't nice to book multiple campgrounds to cover all your bad-weather bases. A better bet might be to book your best spot under the eclipse totality, then bring along a towed or second vehicle and use it as an "escape vehicle" if you need to drive out of the rain to see the eclipse. It's not an ideal solution, but we're dealing with a natural phenomenon with a lot of factors.

As the date approaches, plan on watching the weather, too, on accurate and user-friendly platforms like Dark Sky and Wunderground, where you can plot the forecast from seven to nine days in advance.

Planning, planning, planning

Like every camping trip these days, an eclipse outing is going to take a lot of forethought. Plan for shortages and long waits (food, fuel, traffic) and pack your patience. There will likely be more than a few folks who have never set foot in a campground before and are only there for the eclipse event.

Rental RVs will likely be there in large numbers and watching the rookies park and hook up is always an entertaining event. But it's also an opportunity for you to pay it forward and help out.

Remember it's all happening Monday, April 8, 2024. Be there, be kind, and look up!

Study Shows Family Savings From RV Travel

RV PRO January 2, 2024

A new study conducted by an outside, independent firm has found that RV vacations cost much less than other types of vacation travel, even when factoring in fuel prices and the cost of RV ownership, the RV Industry Association (RVIA) reported.

According to the study, commissioned by Go RVing and RVIA, CBRE Hotels Advisory Group found there are average cost savings of up to 60% for a four-person travel party, while a two-person travel party saves up to an average of 46%, depending on factors such as the type of RV and type of vacation.

For the most common type of RV, the lightweight travel trailer, the average cost per day of the 4-person camping vacation was found to about 48% less than the average daily cost of a comparable 4-person air/hotel vacation and be about 34% less expensive than the average daily cost of comparable 4-person car/hotel combination vacation.

For the fastest growing segment of RVs, Class B motorhomes, the average cost per day of the 4-person camping vacation was found to about 49% less than the average daily cost of a comparable 4-person air/hotel vacation and be about 35% less expensive than the average daily cost of comparable 4-person car/hotel combination vacation.

“Consumers continue to place a priority on traveling and spending time with family and this study confirms the fact that RV vacations are one of the most economical ways to travel,” said RVIA President and CEO Craig Kirby. “RV vacations provide freedom from many of the traditional hassles of travel, while also providing greater control over your budget.”

The study analyzes vacation costs using two sets of hypothetical travel groups: a four-person travel party of two adults and two children, and a two-person travel party of two adults. The study compared different methods of travel, including a:

- folding camping trailer
- lightweight travel trailer
- compact motorhome
- Class C motorhome
- Class A motorhome

traveling in a personal car, staying at hotels/motels and eating meals in a restaurant

traveling by airline, renting a car at the destination, staying at hotels/motels and eating meals in restaurants

and traveling in a personal car or airline (as appropriate), staying at a rental house/condominium and eating the majority of meals in the rental unit.

The Class A motorhome, typically the largest and most luxurious RV, was compared to travel options such as flying first class, renting a premium car, staying in upscale hotels/resorts and eating meals in restaurants.

The study analyzes major costs vacationers incur traveling to nine popular vacation destinations. Specific routes and stops were analyzed to evaluate the true comparison of vacation types. For each destination, researchers analyzed vacations lasting three, seven and 14 days.

“It was important for us to look at real itineraries for travelers and quantify what real families can expect to save by choosing RVing as their preferred mode of travel,” said Go RVing Chief Marketing Officer Karen Redfern. “Beyond the cost savings, RVing also allows families the unique

ability to travel whenever and wherever desired while avoiding common travel hassles and fostering an increased sense of togetherness, control, flexibility, convenience and accessibility to the great outdoors.”

For a family of four traveling from Dallas to the Grand Canyon for a 14-day vacation, the trip would cost \$8,801 if the family took a plane, rented a car and stayed in hotels. For the same vacation in Class C motorhome, the vacation would cost \$5,627, a 37% savings.

For that same family of four to take a 7-day vacation from Oklahoma City to Corpus Christi, Texas, the family would expect to pay \$5,279 to fly, rent a car and stay in a hotel. The same vacation in a lightweight travel trailer would cost only \$2,383, a savings of 55%.

Similarly, a family of four taking a luxury 7-day vacation traveling from Washington, D.C. to Cape Cod, Massachusetts, with first class air travel, car rental, a hotel would spend \$8,201. For the same vacation in a luxury Class A motorhome, the family would spend \$4,981, a 39% savings.

Even when airfare is removed and a family road trip staying in hotel is compared to an RV vacation, the savings are significant. A family of four taking a 7-day vacation from Atlanta, Georgia, to Orlando, Florida, would spend \$3,216 for a road trip in a family car and staying at hotels and motels. The same vacation in a folding camping trailer would cost \$1,712, a 47% savings.

The study also looked at travel for a party of two. In one example, a couple traveling from Seattle, Washington, to Yellowstone National Park would expect to spend \$11,328 for a 14-day vacation traveling via airplane, rental car, and vacation home rental. A similar vacation in a Class B motorhome for the couple would cost \$4,606, a savings of 60%.

The study included analysis of how fluctuations in fuel prices could affect the economic advantages of RV travel. Researchers found that for a four-person travel party it would take a rise in fuel prices to nearly \$21 per gallon for a Class C motorhome vacation to be more expensive than the least expensive non-RV vacation. The Class A motorhome vacation remains less expensive than the upscale non-RV vacation until the respective fuel costs increase

between 350% and 375%, or between \$25.20 and \$26.60 for diesel fuel and between \$17.06 and \$18 for regular gasoline.

“We are of the opinion that fuel costs will likely not approach the levels required to significantly impact the affordability of RV vacations versus other modes of travel in the foreseeable future. As such, RV vacations are generally less expensive than the comparable non-RV vacation types. Therefore, price spikes in fuel costs should not adversely affect the decision on whether or not an RV vacation is taken versus other types of vacations,” the study states.

Research by Go RVing and the RV Industry Association shows that when fuel prices are higher, RVers save on fuel costs by driving fewer miles, taking trips closer to home, and staying longer in one destination.

CBRE Hotels Advisory was commissioned by Go RVing to provide an objective comparison between the cost of a summer vacation using RVs and the cost of other types of vacations during that same timeframe. CBRE factored in an estimated cost of RV ownership based upon published data regarding average ownership periods, residual values, annual days of use, insurance and other costs of ownership, as well as any applicable tax benefits.

These Are the Top Camping Trends for 2024

By Evie Carrick

If travel in 2023 was driven by a need to check off dream items and do it all, 2024 is going to be all about slowing down and spending time in nature, according to a survey conducted by Campspot, an online marketplace for family campgrounds, cabins, glamping, and RV spots.

The survey, which polled almost 3,000 Campspot customers across North America between June 27 to July 5, 2023, found that after a year of fast-paced, bucket-list-focused travel, travelers are “feeling drained and disconnected from the essence of the destinations they visit,” according to a Campspot press release shared with *Travel + Leisure*.

In addition, the survey found that one in three respondents are feeling stressed about the economic uncertainty in the year ahead, with nearly 70 percent of travelers craving “a sense of calm and relaxation on their trips in 2024.”

Enter, the “calm-cation,” a term coined by Campspot to describe a vacation that provides travelers with a refuge from the complexities and uncertainties of daily life. These camping-focused “calm-cations” are often closer to home, more affordable, and immersed in nature — three things Campspot customers are craving. In fact, the survey found that 93 percent of campers feel more relaxed or mentally refreshed after time spent camping versus other kinds of trips.

But we’re not talking about pitching your tent on a patch of dirt and sleeping on a camping mattress. Campspot found that their customers are sick of roughing it and want “waterfront locations, crystalline skies with views, and even high-speed connectivity to bolster their camping experience.” As a result, Campspot is expecting to see an increase in demand for glampsites, cabins, and amenity-rich campgrounds with a beachfront, kayaking, fishing, and paddleboarding, as well as destinations known for their fresh air and clear, starry skies.

“Fresh air was the number one element that travelers felt contributed to their feelings of relaxation while spending time outdoors, while more than half (63 percent) of campers are looking for amazing views as part of their 2024 camping trips,” reported Campspot in the press release.

And finally, 91 percent of campers report feeling more relaxed when they have internet access of some kind — even if they plan to “disconnect” on the trip.

Camping and glamping — even the Wi-Fi-boosted variety — seems to be the natural solution to what travelers are looking for. It is significantly cheaper than a European holiday, provides access to nature — including the water and fresh air — and naturally exudes a sense of calm and relaxation.

“Whether you're an experienced camper or new to the world of outdoor adventures, these experiences promise to rejuvenate the spirit and create incredible experiences without breaking the bank,” said Campspot in the press release.

Can I Afford Full-Time RVing on Social Security? (2024)

By Mike Wendland | Updated Jan 2, 2024

It is possible to afford full-time RVing on Social Security, but it can be challenging. Here is what you need to know...

Many retirees dream of buying an RV and traveling the country full-time. As Jennifer and I can attest, it's a fantastic way to spend your golden years. But it can be more expensive than you might think.

Can you RV full-time on Social Security? Can it be done?

The simple answer is YES! We know a lot of couples who do this. Full-time RVing on social security may even support a better lifestyle than living in a house.

Still, there are a number of factors to consider when weighing this decision.

How to Afford Full-Time RVing on Social Security

Figure it out first.

Here are steps you can take to determine if full-time RVing on Social Security is right for you, and how to get ready for it.

FIND OUT HOW MUCH YOU'LL GET FROM SOCIAL SECURITY

As a starting point, it is helpful to know an estimated amount you will receive from Social Security per month. This way, you can manage your expectations for a budget down the line.

You can get an idea using this social security calculator.

Is there a minimum budget for full-time living in an RV Life? Not really, but from experience, I would suggest \$2,000 per month as the absolute bare minimum.

Despite not paying rent, full-time RVing carries some basic, consistent costs. Just understand that living on \$2,000 per month from Social Security alone will be challenging, especially if you're traveling around a lot. Living a more stationary RV life can be more affordable since you're saving on fuel costs.

How to Determine If Full-Time RVing Is Right For You

Right off the bat, we want to encourage you to start things slow! The BEST ADVICE we can give you is to **TRY BEFORE YOU BUY**.

Buying an RV is a big decision with a big price tag, and you shouldn't make it on the sales lot with an RV dealer. You should make it from a campsite or on a road trip with your travel companions.

The only way to figure out if the RV lifestyle is right for you is to experience it firsthand. And you DON'T have to figure it out after you buy an expensive rig.

Before you make a big investment in an RV, rent one. Or borrow one. Or tag along with an RVing friend on their next trip. Do this for a minimum of three trips! Some RV trips go perfectly, while others have bumps in the road, so three trips is a good minimum baseline to get an idea of what RVing is really like.

If you realize RVing is, in fact, for you, great! But still don't dive in head first...

EASE INTO IT

Do you have a house full of things?

If you're considering becoming a full-time RVer, we encourage you to ease into it. **Before you sell your house, take multiple trips in your RV for longer and longer durations.** Make sure you can happily live in an RV full-time before you make it final.

If you decide to go full-time, carefully consider renting your sticks-and-bricks home instead of selling it. Most full-time RVers return to a traditional house at some point, especially once they reach a certain age or because of unforeseen

circumstances. We've heard too many stories of people having to cut short their RV dreams because of illness or the passing of a travel partner.

RENT YOUR HOME INSTEAD OF SELLING, IF POSSIBLE

If you can rent your home for the cost of your mortgage payment or more, then you can travel the country while renters pay for your home. You may even get some extra cash flow. If you need your home's equity to buy an RV, consider a cash-out refinance or HELOC instead of selling.

If you can rent your house to cover the payments, then you can keep your house, get an RV, and have a house to return to if you decide to quit the RV lifestyle. A house, mind you, that will likely be worth significantly more than when you started your RV lifestyle (unlike the RV that loses 20% of its value when you drive it off the lot).

We ourselves have kept a sticks-and-bricks home even though we RV three-quarters of the year. The remaining one-quarter of the year is spent intermittently at our house and gives us a break to reset and spend some time with our hometown family and friends in a more traditional setting. Then, we get the travel itch again and hit the road. It's worked out well for us, but every RVer has to find the right balance for themselves.

RESEARCH COSTS FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF RV LIFE

"RVing" is an umbrella term, and one RV lifestyle can look completely different from the next. One RVer may boondock in a campervan, while another RVer rolls into a luxury RV resort with their amenity-filled coach.

So, the first thing you need to know is what type of RV lifestyle suits you best, such as boondocking off-grid, hooking up at standard campgrounds, staying at 55+ campgrounds, or staying at luxury RV resorts.

JOIN RV SOCIAL GROUPS

Instead of just reading articles, join Facebook groups or, better yet, our RV Lifestyle Community (it's free!). You can join the conversation with other RVers, including retirees. People who are already full-time RVing on Social Security are always the best resources. Many of them know the tricks and secrets to save considerable amounts of money.

Rest assured, this is a community that gets joy out of helping each other. They are some of the nicest people you can meet, so don't hesitate to ask them for advice.

BUDGET FOR LIFE ON THE ROAD

Figure out your budget.

Now that you have done the research, you can start putting together a budget.

Is this realistic given the amount you will receive for Social Security? If not, what sacrifices can be made to afford this lifestyle in the long term?

Log and plan for cheap or even free places to park, like in our article [Free and Cheap RV Sites for Your 2021 Travels](#). Choosing to stay in places like these adds up to considerable savings.

Regardless, there are certain costs where you can't budge much if living full time in your RV. Your fixed income would need to cover basic expenses such as:

RV payment

Fuel

Maintenance and repairs

RV insurance

Utilities

Campsites

Food

Clothing

Entertainment

Medical expenses

These items would all need to be included in your most conservative of budgets to be feasible.

IF YOU WANT TO GO FULL-TIME RVING ON SOCIAL SECURITY – START SAVING NOW

Now that a realistic, researched budget is in place that takes your own preferences into account, you can start saving.

This is especially important if your Social Security earnings won't completely cover your monthly expenses. Savings can enable you to sacrifice less if Social Security doesn't cover your whole budget.

Ideally, you're still a year or more away from retirement and still have time to save. The larger the nest egg you can collect, the better. It will come in handy for unexpected repairs or other rainy-day costs.

MAKE YOUR RV MORE FUEL EFFICIENT

Learn to do simple repairs.

Let's say you haven't bought the RV you would use during retirement yet. In this case, you have the freedom to choose an RV based on its long-term reliability and up-to-date efficiency.

Fuel consumption is a constant cost that will yield great returns if you invest in an RV with higher fuel efficiency. Models vary significantly in terms of fuel use since some are not ideal for full-time living.

See our RV Buying Secrets to find the best RV for a full-time RV lifestyle.

If you already own your RV and are happy with it, there are some things you can do to get better gas mileage:

Keep up on regular maintenance

Check tire pressure regularly

Travel lightly, declutter as needed

Keep the weight balanced

Use the A/C as needed

Drive smooth and steady

Know where you're going

You can also save by getting (RV Fuel Discount Cards & More).

SUPPLEMENT YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY WITH WORK CAMPING JOBS

Do you need to add in some work?

If Social Security doesn't cover your costs, you can supplement your income with work camper or side jobs- either for pay or in trade for a campsite.

In today's world, there are plenty of options for exchanging work for RV parking. For example, many RVers work as camp hosts at a campground in exchange for a free RV campsite.

Check out sites such as Workamper; this is a great place to find seasonal jobs all over the country. For example, in some campgrounds, you can work hospitality jobs in exchange for a modest wage and a hook-up site for your RV.

Here are some other helpful resources for earning extra income from the road:

[Work Camping Jobs: 10 Best Resources for Workamper Jobs](#)

[Camp Host 101: What Do Camp Hosts Do \(& Don't Do\)](#)

[Make Money While RVing as a Pet Sitter!](#)

If you're capable of working, explore all options. You might be pleasantly surprised by how many opportunities you come across.

In the end, I'm a big proponent of full-time RV life. As long as you budget and plan, you can enjoy RV life on Social Security.

[Are You Full-Time RVing on Social Security?](#)

Do you "do" full-time RV Life on Social Security? Is it what you expected? Or do you dream of full-timing and have insights you'd like to share? Comment below to help others plan!

Our 2024 RV Predictions

By Mike Wendland | Updated Jan 2, 2024

Here are our Top 5 2024 RV Predictions

1. CAMPGROUND VACANCIES WILL BE HARDER TO FIND AND MORE EXPENSIVE IN 2024

The demand for camping shows no signs of easing, and as it has been for the past few years. To get a spot during the height of the season, on holidays, or in popular areas, it is going to take reservations made long in advance.

And they will cost more thanks to the growing practice of dynamic pricing that is sweeping the industry. The concept is nothing new. Hotels, airlines, and even restaurants have been doing this for years. Now, campgrounds are.

Dynamic pricing is the strategy of adjusting the nightly camping rates based on demand, preferences, and time.

If most of the spots are booked, the campground's booking software will increase the price because they know there is strong demand and people will pay. If it is a holiday weekend, up will go the price.

And the software can get pretty sophisticated. If most of the 50 amp sites are booked, those remaining will have a hefty price hike.

Conversely, I suppose, if the weekend weather forecast is lousy, the software could conceivably lower the prices... though we seldom hear of that happening.

But Dynamic Pricing makes campgrounds more money, just as it does in other segments of the hospitality industry.

Campers don't like it, of course, but for lots and lots of campgrounds, profit takes precedence over people. That's just the reality of our consumer economy.

2. BOONDOCKING SPOTS WILL BE HARDER TO FIND IN 2024

And that's a direct result of #1 above. Because boondocking becomes the best alternative when commercial and government campground openings are hard to find

We've sure seen this ourselves and we know from the email we get and campfire conversations we have, you are too. A boondocking spot in a national or state forest that you always had to yourself, now may be filled when you make your way there. Or you will have neighbors close by.

Another big factor for the pressure on boondocking spots is that across the country, dispersed camping areas are being shut down because they have been trashed by inconsiderate campers or, in many places, have become homeless encampments.

We have been hearing of this happening with increased frequency.

We went to one boondocking spot we knew of in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan a while back only to find access to it chained. A sign out front said the state DNR closed it early for the rest of the season because of litter and trash left behind by irresponsible campers.

3. PRIVATE RV LAND OWNERSHIP WILL RAPIDLY INCREASE IN POPULARITY

Because of the previous two reasons, a lot of RVers are doing what we did... buy a piece of property and make it our private RV retreat.

For us, it is five acres in Middle Tennessee. We have put in hookups a driveway, gates, and a concrete pad for our fifth wheel. We know we can use it whenever we want and we can stay there as long as we want.

Another development is being sold a half hour away from ours. And we know of similar projects coming in the next year in Florida, Arizona, and Texas.

RV resorts and upscale campgrounds around the country are either expanding for-sale campsites or putting more of their campsites into seasonal, long-term use, where RVers can buy or lease them for guaranteed use.

Hardly a day goes by that someone doesn't email us asking if we know of RV land they can buy. Our sense is this is a trend that is growing fast.

4. GAS PRICES WILL BE DOWN OR STABLE FOR MOST OF THE YEAR

Here's some good news:

As inflation eases and the COVID-19 pandemic fades further into the background, the GasBuddy app is predicting that pump prices nationally to drop from an average of about \$3.51 for all of 2023 to \$3.38 in 2024, reducing annual household spending on gas by about 2 percent

We think another reason prices won't go crazy high this year is because it is an election year. The administration will do everything it can to keep fuel costs as low as possible. High fuel prices are always a hot-button issue and the pressure will be on the big oil companies to do all they can not to raise prices.

There will be fluctuations.

In a normal year, gas prices follow a seasonal cycle, bottoming out in the depth of winter, when people drive less, and rising steadily through spring and summer, when temperatures are warmer, days are longer, and people drive more.

And a catastrophic event or world crisis could change all this too.

But, based on what we have been seeing so far, we predict that prices will be down or stable for most of the year.

Remember the Interview we did with Lightship?

5. EV RV'S WILL AGAIN BE MORE STYLE THAN SUBSTANCE

The Florida RV SuperShow will open in a couple of weeks and for sure, you will hear some of the big manufacturers gushing about an EV RV.

They'll have a fancy-looking prototype on display. They'll get a lot of splashy coverage during the show. And then that will be pretty much it until next year, when they'll do the same thing.

Like EV automobiles, trucks, and cars, there's not much public interest in EV RVS.

At least not by RVers.

Everyone loves the idea of an EV but the reality is the infrastructure is not there, campgrounds can barely provide adequate 30 and 50 amp RV service let alone the chargers necessary for EVs.

Besides, the proof of concept prototypes can't go far enough between charging and they can't tow enough RVs without drastically reducing their already dismal distance between charges.

Some day, yes, there will be viable EV RVs.

Just not this year. Or probably next, either.