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Are You Ready to Start RVing?

Perhaps you have wondered about taking an RV vacation. It seems like fun and you'd like to try it, but you aren't sure if it's for you. It may be possible that you just weren't really aware of all the great vacations that can be enjoyed with RVs. Hopefully we can give you a few new ideas for you to plan your next trip. Here are some of the best types of RV vacations:

Camping – Camping seems to be the most obvious use and can also be done in conjunction with almost all the other types of vacations on this list. An RV gives you plenty of space for the entire family and all the equipment that you will need on your trip.

Fishing and Hunting – RVs are great for the fishermen and the hunters. Depending on your travel destination, in most cases you can literally walk out of your door and start fishing or hunting immediately. Just plan a trip to your favorite lake or forest and jump in your RV and go!

Sightseeing and Exploring – Although you can literally explore and see the sights anywhere you go, the most popular places that RVers tend to visit are the National Parks. The scenery and wilderness available for you to see and explore at the top National Parks are absolutely breathtaking.

Sporting Events and Tailgating – For the sports fan, taking a road trip to see your favorite sporting event is an experience that you really

have to experience first hand. Just the tailgating parties alone are worth the trip, however the convenience that your RV provides is quite the bonus. Football seems to be the most popular sport for RV trips, however NASCAR/Indy Car Racing, rodeos, baseball, basketball and pretty much any sporting event can make for quite the RV road trip.

All Other Vacations – When it comes down to it, really any vacation can be an RV vacation. An RV is basically your "hotel on wheels". So if you want to go to your favorite beach to soak up the sun or Las Vegas for some leisurely gambling, just load up your RV and hit the road.

Fall/Winter, 2010

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Storing Your RV for Winter

We strongly recommend the following maintenance be performed before storing your camper for the winter:

1. Winterize your entire water system.
2. Clean your roof thoroughly. Check caulking around all seams and vents on the roof and replace as needed.
3. Rubber roofs should be sealed with a protectant made especially for rubber roofs to keep them from drying out and cracking.

Top 10 Reasons To Retire in an RV

There are so many reasons to retire in a RV. Here are the top 10 reasons to choose retirement RVing, in no particular order:

10. Learning - Not only are there interesting new things to learn about your [retirement RV](#), there are countless new places to learn about around the United States.

9. Meeting new friends - RVer's have the reputation of being some of the friendliest folks around, so it is fairly easy to meet new people, who eventually become new friends. You never know who you will meet when you [Go RVing](#).

8. Reconnecting with family - Some non-RVer's (and sometimes some RVer's) wonder how your marriage can survive fulltime RVing. Other RVer's wonder how your marriage can survive WITHOUT fulltime RVing. No matter if you are a fulltime RVer or you RV for short vacations, RVing is an excellent way to reconnect with your family.

7. A new challenge - You have put in your years of work, you have raised your children, you have been involved in

your community...now what? Is it time for a new challenge? [RVing 101](#) type articles can help. There is never a shortage of new challenges and exciting adventures when you RV.

6. Mobility - When you have a RV, it is so convenient to go anywhere at the drop of a hat. You have all of the comforts of home and it is so easy to be mobile.

5. Change of scenery - State Parks, National Parks, and scenic byways that are extremely easy to capture out the window of your RV.

4. Living on a budget - if you already own your RV, retirement RVing can offer a very economical way to live. If you are on a fixed budget, this can be music to your ears. Choose to boondock most of the time, workcamp in exchange for your site fees, or stay in campsites for an extended period of time to save on gas. RVing in retirement can be very economical compared to living in a fixed location.

3. Downsizing - Buying an RV for retirement forces you to pare down all of the "things" that you have accumulated

through years of living in a "sticks and bricks" house. Because your motorhome has much less square footage, cabinets, and closet space, retirees must choose which items are most important to them and keep only those items.

2. Seeing the Country - Retirement RVs offer unprecedented ability to travel and see the country. No more just going on a short RV vacation.

1. Staying Warm- Become a snowbird or fulltime RVer and travel south for the winter. No more shoveling snow, slipping on ice, or bundling up tight. You choose when it is time to head to a warmer climate and then you bring all of the comforts of home with you in your retirement RV.

About the author:

Jenny Russell write a series of blogs for the RVingPlanet family of sites.

Fun Trips To Take With Kids



Things To Do In Washington DC #1:

Washington DC has lots of trails that are scenic as well as historically significant. Whether your vacation activities include walking, running, cycling or hiking, the DC area has loads of great trails. Here's a couple examples:

At the Georgetown Visitor Center you can catch the **C&O Canal Towpath** in the C&O Canal National Historical Park. This is a great trail for foot or bicycle and you can go as far as you want cause this trail runs for 185 miles all the way to Cumberland MD.

A riverside trail with great views of the Washington skyline is the **Mount Vernon Trail**. It runs along the Potomac River on the Virginia side. This is a nice scenic 18 mile long multi-use trail.

The Tidal Basin is a small inlet of water near the the Jefferson Memorial and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial.

There's a 2 mile trail around the Tidal Basin with overlooks that provide excellent views of the water and the famous Washington cherry blossom trees.

Fun Things To Do In Washington DC #2:

Visit the National Christmas Tree Throughout the Holiday Season

The National Christmas Tree and the Pathway of Peace is illuminated each evening from dusk until 11 p.m. through January 1st. Seasonal displays include a Yule log, a large-scale model train and a Christmas manger. Musical performances by volunteer choirs and dancers, will be held nightly on the Ellipse stage. Weeknight performances will be performed from 6-8:30 p.m. Weekend performances will be performed from 4-8:30 p.m. For further information or scheduled groups performing call (202) 208-1631. The seasonal display includes Santa's Workshop, which

will be open at select times so that children can visit with Santa.

Holiday Magic at the United States Botanic Garden

100 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC at the foot of the U.S. Capitol. November 26 through January 10, 2010. Regular hours 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Open until 8 p.m. with live music on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout December. See the outdoor train garden, enter the Conservatory and enjoy a colorful display of poinsettias and other winter-blooming tropical plants, and the National Mall in miniature, a replica created with natural plant materials.



Cooking on the Road

Caprese Bites—Serves 8

Ingredients:

2 pints grape tomatoes
1 ball fresh mozzarella,
cut into 1-inch cubes
1 bunch fresh basil (look
for large leaves)
olive oil
sea salt



Directions:

Using toothpicks, skewer 1 grape tomato followed by a mozzarella chunk wrapped with a large basil leaf.

Continue, until all the ingredients have been used.

Drizzle the tray with olive oil and sprinkle with sea salt.

Serve immediately, or refrigerate until ready to serve.

Easy Chicken Casserole

Prep/Cook Time: 15-20 minutes Oven Temp: 350°

Ingredients

4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
1 family-size box rice and pasta mix
1 small can mushrooms, drained
1 small can chopped olives, drained
1 large can green chiles, diced
2 cups (1 package) Monterey Jack cheese, grated
1 small sour cream

Directions:

Cook chicken approximately 15 minutes each side; cut into bite-size pieces.

Cook rice and pasta mix per box directions. Place green chiles on bottom of casserole dish. Layer the other ingredients as follows: chicken, rice and pasta, mushrooms, olives, cheese and sour cream.

Bake approximately 15 minutes until cheese is melted. Serve with garlic or French bread and salad. Great to prepare ahead. Serves 6.

Winter Travel Safety Supplies

Safety is of utmost importance any time you set out on a road trip, and the supplies you need during cold weather conditions may be different from the items that are necessary during spring and summer travel.



When you set out on an RV trip during the winter, be sure to pack a complete winter severe weather travel kit in your vehicle. The best kits include first aid supplies, roadside assistance equipment, a folding shovel for dealing with snow, a powerful light, and other items. A fire extinguisher is also a safety necessity.

You should also keep personal safety and winter survival items in your vehicle within easy reach of all travelers.

Necessary items include nutritious food that doesn't require cooking or refrigeration, potable water, extra sets of warm attire, and any needed prescription medication. These items can be life savers in the instance of a winter storm, power failure, or travel accident.

Decorating for the Holidays

It's that holiday time of year again - Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Kwanza, Christmas. You can still decorate, but you just need to think on a smaller scale.

Thanksgiving Decorations

A small table centerpiece can be made from a bow around a colorful candle. Use a small circle of cardboard as a base and glue on desert rocks, or pine cones (whatever's in the area) to support the candle.

- Camped near the ocean? Find a small piece of driftwood that stands stable, drill three to five small holes and insert birthday candles.
- The traditional turkey may not work well in an RV oven, but turkey decorations from local stores (or made by the kids or grandkids) will work on the wall.
- A small basket filled with local fruit or vegetables will serve as a quick cornucopia (horn of plenty).



Christmas Decorations

Most of those who decorate at Christmas use a traditional tree, a wreath on the grill, or outdoor lights around the rig. There are many ways to brighten up the RV for Christmas that involve little bulk and less work. Easy to find, easy to store, easy to use ideas include:

- Bright Christmas napkins (small packages from dollar stores, just enough for the season)
- Hang Christmas tree ornaments in small bunches on the wall. Inexpensive ornaments need not be stored.
- A plastic gumdrop tree packs flat in a drawer while traveling. Use red, green and white for Christmas. If there are any gumdrops left after the holiday, bag 'em up and stow them by the dash for travel munchies.
- Love the lights you used to string all over your yard? Well, you can still string them all over your camper



(be sure to check with your campground hosts to be sure they have no problem). Minimally you can run a string along your awning in place of your other decorative lights.

- If you can't put a big wreath on your front door, you can get a sprig of holly or evergreen, tie it with a pretty red bow and hang it from your door handle (being very sure that you can open the door without getting pricked).
- If you crave a real tree it can still be done. Check out nurseries for little Norfolk Pines in buckets. Bring it home and decorate away. You can put it inside or out - your choice (and the weather's).
- When the holiday is over, donate the tree to your campground, a local park, church or school. Won't it be fun to come back in later years to see "your" tree?





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