

## **Saving money by traveling in an RV or Camper**

For many people, nothing compares to the freedom and versatility of enjoying the open road in a recreational vehicle or camper. There is certainly much to be said for taking your hotel with you wherever you go, and the savings on hotel costs can more than pay for the initial cost of an RV.

One of the things that makes an RV so popular among budget travelers is that it frees travelers from many of the issues typically associated with sticking to a travel budget. For instance, traveling with an RV frees the traveler from having to shop early for the best deals on airfare, hotels and rental cars. That's because the RV serves as the hotel room, and as transportation as well. Many seasoned travelers even buy a trailer which they use to tow their car, or even a pair of motorcycles, along behind them.

Of course, the RV lifestyle does have some considerations for the budget minded traveler, not the least of which is the price of gas to fuel it. Most recreational vehicles hold a lot of gas or diesel fuel, and filling one up can result in sticker shock for many new owners. It is important to weigh the cost of fuel when determining if an RV is the right choice for you.

Traveling in a recreational vehicle or motor home is often a good choice for those who want to travel to different locations, and it may be less suited to those who visit the same location year after year. As a matter of fact, many of those travelers who visit the same location every year find that the thing that suits their budget best is buying a vacation home. Buying a vacation home, and renting it out when it is not being used, can be a good way to both save money on lodging and build equity for the future.

For those who want to travel the country, however, there are few things to compare to doing it in your own RV. Many RV owners come to love the freedom of the open road, and the money they save, so much that they end up hitting the road full time, traveling from RV park to RV park and enjoying the country from coast to coast.

One great budget saving tip that is well known in the RV community, but less well known among the general public is the fact that Wal-Mart's from coast to coast allow RV owners to park for free on their lots. That is why, when you visit your local Wal-Mart, you may have seen a number of RV's parked near the edge of the lot.

This situation is a win for both parties – RV owners have a safe, well lighted place to camp for the night, and Wal-Mart receives much needed income from those RV owners who frequent the store in the middle of the night to pick up those little things they either forgot to pack or used up along the way.

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