

Ultimate RV Road Trip Checklist

Your comprehensive guide to a stress-free RV adventure

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Before You Book Your RV Rental

- ☐ Research RV types (Class A, B, C, travel trailer, fifth wheel)
- ☐ Determine trip dates and flexibility
- ☐ Set your budget (rental + fuel + campgrounds + insurance)
- ☐ Check driver's license requirements for RV size
- ☐ Research RV rental companies and read reviews
- ☐ Compare prices on multiple platforms
- ☐ Book 4-8 weeks in advance for best selection
- ☐ Read rental agreement carefully before signing
- ☐ Understand mileage limits and overage fees
- ☐ Confirm what's included (linens, kitchen supplies, etc.)

Pro Tip: Book during shoulder season (April-May, Sept-Oct) for better rates and availability. Peak summer prices can be 30-50% higher.



Insurance & Documentation

- ☐ Verify your auto insurance covers RV rentals
- ☐ Check credit card RV rental coverage
- ☐ Consider supplemental RV insurance (collision damage waiver)
- ☐ Purchase roadside assistance coverage
- ☐ Bring valid driver's license (must be 25+ years old)
- ☐ Bring credit card for security deposit (\$500-2,000)
- ☐ Print rental confirmation and contract
- ☐ Save emergency contact numbers for rental company
- ☐ Take photos of RV condition at pickup (all angles)
- ☐ Document any existing damage before leaving lot



Route Planning & Reservations

- ☐ Plan route with RV-friendly roads (avoid low bridges, narrow roads)
- ☐ Check road restrictions and weight limits
- ☐ Reserve campgrounds in advance (especially weekends)
- ☐ Confirm RV size limits at each campground
- ☐ Verify hookup availability (full, partial, or dry camping)
- ☐ Download offline maps (Google Maps, Roadtrippers)
- ☐ Identify dumping stations along route
- ☐ Locate propane refill stations
- ☐ Plan for gas stations that can accommodate RV length
- ☐ Check weather forecast for entire trip

Resources: Use apps like Campendium, RV Parky, or AllStays to find campgrounds, dump stations, and RV-friendly stops.

RV Pickup Day Checklist

Walk-Through & Inspection:

- ☐ Complete full exterior walk-around inspection
- ☐ Check for dents, scratches, tire condition, lights
- ☐ Test all interior systems (water, electrical, propane, heat, AC)
- ☐ Learn how to operate slide-outs (if equipped)
- ☐ Practice extending/retracting awning
- ☐ Locate water inlet, sewer outlet, electrical hookup
- ☐ Test all appliances (fridge, stove, microwave, toilet)
- ☐ Check smoke and CO detectors
- ☐ Verify water heater operation
- ☐ Confirm all safety equipment present (fire extinguisher, first aid)

Ask the Rental Company:

- ☐ "How do I dump the black and gray water tanks?"
- ☐ "What type of fuel does this RV use?"
- ☐ "What's the fuel tank capacity and average MPG?"
- ☐ "How do I level the RV at a campsite?"
- ☐ "Where are the circuit breakers and how do I reset them?"
- ☐ "What should I do if the check engine light comes on?"
- ☐ "Is there an owner's manual I can take?"
- ☐ "What's the after-hours emergency contact number?"

What to Pack for Your RV Trip

Kitchen Essentials:

- ☐ Pots, pans, cooking utensils
- ☐ Plates, bowls, cups, silverware
- ☐ Coffee maker and supplies
- ☐ Dish soap, sponges, towels
- ☐ Trash bags (bring extra)
- ☐ Aluminum foil, plastic wrap
- ☐ Can opener, bottle opener
- ☐ Cutting board and knives
- ☐ Measuring cups/spoons
- ☐ Food storage containers

Bedding & Linens:

- ☐ Sheets for all beds
- ☐ Pillows and pillowcases
- ☐ Blankets/sleeping bags
- ☐ Bath towels and washcloths
- ☐ Beach towels

Bathroom Supplies:

- ☐ RV-safe toilet paper (special)
- ☐ Toiletries and medications
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Sunscreen and bug spray
- ☐ Hand sanitizer

RV-Specific Items:

- ☐ Sewer hose and gloves
- ☐ Water pressure regulator
- ☐ Drinking water hose
- ☐ Electrical adapter (30A to 50A)
- ☐ Leveling blocks
- ☐ Wheel chocks
- ☐ Flashlights and batteries
- ☐ Basic tool kit
- ☐ Duct tape and zip ties

Outdoor Gear & Entertainment

- ☐ Camping chairs (one per person)
- ☐ Outdoor rug/mat for under awning
- ☐ Portable grill or camp stove
- ☐ Cooler with ice packs
- ☐ Firewood and fire starters (if fires allowed)
- ☐ Outdoor games (frisbee, cards, board games)
- ☐ Hiking boots and outdoor clothing
- ☐ Binoculars and camera
- ☐ Portable speaker for music
- ☐ Books, e-readers, or tablets

Setting Up at Your Campsite

Step-by-Step Setup:

- ☐ **Step 1:** Level the RV using leveling blocks (front to back, side to side)
- ☐ **Step 2:** Put wheel chocks behind rear tires
- ☐ **Step 3:** Connect to shore power (30A or 50A hookup)
- ☐ **Step 4:** Hook up water hose with pressure regulator
- ☐ **Step 5:** Connect sewer hose to black water outlet
- ☐ **Step 6:** Extend slide-outs (if equipped)
- ☐ **Step 7:** Deploy stabilizer jacks
- ☐ **Step 8:** Extend awning (only in good weather)
- ☐ **Step 9:** Turn on water heater (takes 30-45 min to heat)
- ☐ **Step 10:** Turn on refrigerator (switch to propane or electric)

Important: Always use a water pressure regulator. Campground water pressure can be too high and damage your RV's plumbing system.

Daily RV Maintenance Checks

- ☐ Check fresh water tank level
- ☐ Monitor gray and black water tank levels (don't let them get full)
- ☐ Check tire pressure before driving
- ☐ Secure all loose items before driving
- ☐ Retract slide-outs and awning
- ☐ Disconnect all utilities
- ☐ Close all windows and roof vents
- ☐ Lock refrigerator and cabinet doors
- ☐ Turn off water heater
- ☐ Check exterior lights before night driving

How to Dump RV Tanks (Black & Gray Water)

Step-by-Step Process:

- ☐ **Step 1:** Wear disposable gloves (this is a must!)
- ☐ **Step 2:** Put on sewer hose and secure to dump station
- ☐ **Step 3:** Open BLACK water valve FIRST (wait until fully drained)
- ☐ **Step 4:** Close black water valve
- ☐ **Step 5:** Open GRAY water valve (this rinses the hose)
- ☐ **Step 6:** Close gray water valve
- ☐ **Step 7:** Disconnect hose and rinse thoroughly
- ☐ **Step 8:** Store hose in designated compartment

Golden Rule: Only dump when tanks are at least 2/3 full. Dumping too early prevents proper flow and can cause clogs.

Safety & Emergency Preparedness

Emergency Contacts:

- ☐ RV rental company 24/7 hotline: _____
- ☐ Roadside assistance: _____
- ☐ Insurance company: _____
- ☐ Local emergency services: 911

Safety Checks:

- ☐ Test smoke detector and CO detector monthly
- ☐ Know location of fire extinguisher
- ☐ Keep emergency exit clear at all times
- ☐ Never use generator in enclosed spaces
- ☐ Turn off propane when driving and refueling
- ☐ Keep first aid kit stocked and accessible
- ☐ Have backup phone charger and power bank
- ☐ Carry extra water and non-perishable food

Before Returning Your RV

- ☐ Fill fuel tank to same level as pickup
- ☐ Dump black and gray water tanks completely
- ☐ Clean interior (sweep, wipe counters, clean bathroom)
- ☐ Remove all trash and personal items
- ☐ Clean exterior (if required by rental agreement)
- ☐ Return RV with full propane tank (if required)
- ☐ Remove all food from refrigerator/freezer
- ☐ Turn off all appliances and lights
- ☐ Retract slide-outs and awning
- ☐ Take final walk-through photos
- ☐ Return on time to avoid late fees

Money-Saving Tips for RV Rentals

- ☐ Book early for best rates (4-8 weeks in advance)
- ☐ Travel during shoulder season (30-50% cheaper)
- ☐ Use discount codes from RV rental review sites
- ☐ Consider one-way rentals to popular destinations
- ☐ Pack your own linens and kitchen supplies
- ☐ Use free camping apps to find cheap/free campsites
- ☐ Cook meals in RV instead of eating out
- ☐ Join loyalty programs for campground chains (KOA, Harvest Hosts)
- ☐ Fill up at truck stops for better diesel prices
- ☐ Avoid peak weekend rentals (Friday-Sunday more expensive)

Need More Help? Visit www.bestrvrentalcompanies.com for:
RV Rental Reviews | Campground Guides | Expert Travel Tips | Destination Inspiration

Happy travels from the BestRV team!