



## Dreaming Of An RV Lifestyle 5 Tips To Help Make That Happen

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You can't wait for the latest RV and travel magazines to reach your mailbox every month? You spend hours reading the stories of other people that made their dream come true. So, what is keeping you from realizing your own dream. Too many financial responsibilities, fear that you won't like living in a small box on wheels, worried about how your extended family could possibly survive without you, afraid of losing friends and feeling isolated, still have children in school...did I miss anything?

Making the decision to follow that dream seems to be the difficult part of getting started down the path to fulfillment. Here are five basic tips that can help with the reality check:

1. Sell the house and purchase a quality used motorhome (if you really want to travel) or a fifth-wheel/truck combination if you are thinking several months in one location. If you are concerned that you may not like the RV lifestyle, lease your house instead of selling.
2. Take the money from the house sale (or rental income), the furniture sale, the gardening tool sale, the workshop sale, the extra toys sale, the clothing sale, and put it in a bank that has national branches. This allows you walk-in access for cash just about anywhere you roam. Of course your ATM card always gives you access and those machines are everywhere.
3. Handle the responsibilities issue. This turns out to be the easiest part of the decision-making process.
  - Go down the street to the UPS store and open a mailbox. They charge an annual fee for the box but send your mail anywhere for the cost of postage. There are many options for this type of service including the Escapees (a support group for RVers).
  - Sign up for automatic payment on all your bills. If you have several old fashioned vendors that still send you a bill and expect a check in return, there are several options available (check your bank first) that pay those bills for you right out of your checking account, free.
  - Get your paperwork in order. Create a will, compose a health directive from the many online forms available, and get a passport in case you want to wander into Mexico for the winter.

- ☑ Announce your independence to the family and give them a copy of the your completed paperwork. Amazing how quickly you find out that your family really does not depend on you after all. Some family members may be shocked and critical, but over all they understand your need to live a full life. Show them a few photos of your RV, or invite them to visit you, and their fears about your mental state disappear.
4. There are so many opportunities to share your life with others. Because you carry your home with you, many opportunities around the country open up and allow you to participate.
- ☑ Thousands of RVers work together around the country building homes, providing shelter, ending poverty, educating and training young and old alike to become independent, and most important, expanding their own lives.
  - ☑ On the recreation side, the National Park system is always on the lookout for RVers that want to live and work seasonally within the park system. Become a docent, park host, hiking guide, or any of the dozens of opportunities to live free in exchange for volunteer efforts. There is plenty of play time for you to explore all the natural wonders that abound in our National parks.
  - ☑ Commercial RV parks are also competing for the RV workforce. Expect an hourly wage plus an RV site with utilities. At the top of the earning scale at around \$3000 a month, the seasonal park manager. At the other end, around \$8 per hour.
5. If you still have children at home, take them with you. The more public school systems deteriorate the more support systems mushroom for homeschooling. You can create the curriculum yourself or purchase a complete system. Testing is done online or by mail. Most colleges and universities now accept homeschooling credits. There are hundreds of online forums just waiting to answer any question you have.

So...do you see yourself already out there, swimming in lakes, oceans or pools; fishing for bass, catfish, or marlin; boating along coastal shores or in peaceful lakes; golfing on some of the finest courses in the country; playing tennis day or night; dancing the night (or day) away; and learning something new every day. Sound too busy for you, then how about just relaxing in the shade, or basking on the beach. You are the boss, anyway you want it.

For more detailed information on how to make your RVing dreams come true, see *How to Save Money While Living the RV Lifestyle*, *Working On The Road*, and *Staying In Touch, A Travelers Guide*.