

ROUGHING IT SMOOTHLY - WINTER 2024 - VOL. 21, NO. 1 BOB TIFFIN LIMITED EDITION BUS 45 BTP - BYWAY 38 CL - KENTUCKY BOURBON TRAIL - DESTIN-FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA - ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK AND MOUNTAIN TOWNS, COLORADO - RV INSURANCE BASICS

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Winter 2024

SNEAK PEEK: **Bob Tiffin Limited Edition Bus**

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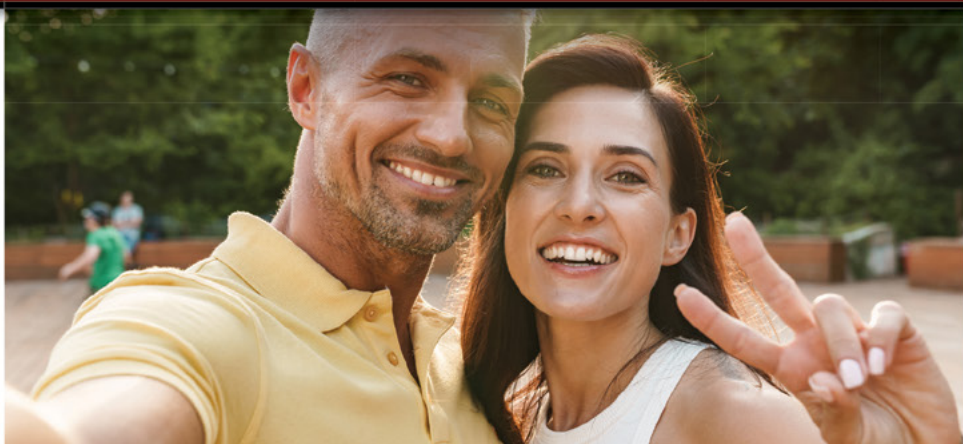
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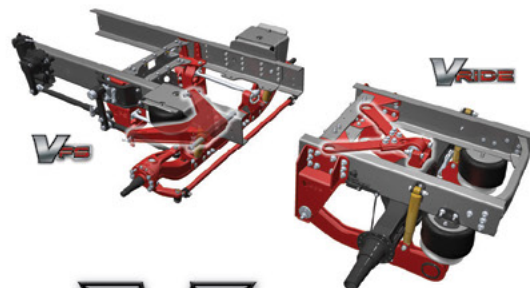
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Memories

My grandfather, Bob Tiffin, started this company over 50 years ago, but to me he will always be first and foremost my Papa Bob. Both my grandfather and grandmother Judy, whom I affectionately call JJ, have been mainstays in my life. I love and respect them, and I would not be the person I am without them.

Sure, there have been many influential, life-changing moments with both of them, but the memories that first come to mind when I think of my grandparents are the routine, “normal” times — days that cemented the important role they played in my life. For example, Sundays growing up, I always went to their house after church. JJ would make lunch, and I just hung out with them all afternoon — I didn’t want to go home. Later, when I was in high school and college, how many times did Papa Bob shag footballs while I practiced and honed my place-kicking skills? Countless.

The start of a new year often begins with making bold goals and statements. Here at Tiffin Motorhomes, we are proud to announce that one of the new models we’re launching in 2024 is the Bob Tiffin Limited Edition Bus (see page 28). This exclusive, luxury motorhome evokes all the things Papa Bob and JJ love — and I’m so proud that the company can honor them in this unique way.

My grandfather remains a key figure at Tiffin — you will see him at the office, at rallies and at numerous events throughout the year. He loves interacting with people and helping them enjoy the RV lifestyle, and he is a mentor to me and everyone here at the company that bears our name.

Here’s to making big and small memories in 2024, and always be safe in your travels.

Best,
Leigh Tiffin
President, Tiffin Motorhomes

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This issue's cover features the Bob Tiffin Limited Edition Bus. Read more about it on page 28. Photo courtesy of Tiffin Motorhomes.

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PIZZA AND TIFFIN CONNECTION

You can't imagine our surprise and delight to find our "Charming Pizza Joint" mentioned in the Summer/Fall 2023 issue, in the article featuring our lovely town of Gettysburg. We are the owners of Tommy's Pizza and are celebrating our 50th year in business. We were founded by my father, Tommy Kranias, a Greek immigrant, in 1973, and our sons are now the third generation to be involved in the family business.

Coincidentally, we are the owners of our second Tiffin Motorhome, a 2021 40IP! Kellie Gormly, the author of the article, could certainly not have known this!

We love our Tiffin, and we love Tommy's Pizza!

Catherine Leedy

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania



RECALLS AND MORE

This information is provided to make owners aware of safety recalls that may need to be completed on their motorhomes. For questions about what recalls may apply to your motorhome, please email recalls@tiffinmotorhomes.com.

NHTSA Recall #21V-514, Tiffin Recall #WAY-100 Wayfarer valve stem or valve stem extenders may be damaged: Tiffin Motorhomes has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists on certain models of Wayfarer motorhomes — **2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 Wayfarers, all floorplans.** Specific Wayfarer motorhomes are equipped with a decorative wheel liner that may come into contact with the valve stem or the valve stem extender used on the tires of the motorhome. Repeated contact of a valve stem extender with a wheel liner may cause damage to the valve stem or the valve stem extender. If a valve stem or a valve stem extender is damaged, it can result in a loss of air pressure in the tire, which may increase the risk of a crash.

NHTSA Recall #21V-610, Tiffin Recall #WAY-101 Wayfarer frame rail extension failure: Tiffin Motorhomes has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists on the following models of Wayfarer motorhomes — **2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and**

2022 Wayfarer motorhomes, all floorplans.

Owners must not tow or use the hitch under any circumstance until the recall repair has been completed. The hitch may become loose from the frame of the motorhome. The area of the hitch attachment to the frame on the Wayfarer brand of motorhomes must be reinforced. If the hitch were to become loose or break away, this could cause a crash which could lead to an injury.

NHTSA Recall #21V-680, Tiffin Recall #TIF-118, sofa seat-belt mounting points: Tiffin Motorhomes has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists on the following models of motorhomes: **2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 Allegro Open Roads; 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 Allegro REDs; 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 Allegro Breezes; 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 Allegro Buses; 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 Phaetons; and 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 Zephyrs that were built between January 3, 2017 and April 13, 2021.** Tiffin Motorhomes has become aware of the possibility that the sofa seat belts were not mounted correctly. In the event of an accident, passengers sitting on the sofa may not be properly secured in place with the current seat-belt anchoring method, which may cause injury. Until the repairs have been completed, do not use the sofa seating positions and seat belts during travel.

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NHTSA Recall #21V-753, Tiffin Recall #WAY-102 Wayfarer rear center water pan failure: Tiffin Motorhomes has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists on the following models of Wayfarer motorhomes — **2018 24 FW Wayfarers; 2019 24 BW, 24 FW, 24 TW, 25 QW and 25 RW Wayfarers; 2020 24 TW, 25 QW and 25 RW Wayfarers; 2021 25 RW, 25 SW and 25 TW Wayfarer; and 2022 25 RW, 25 SW and 25 TW Wayfarer motorhomes.** It has come to our attention that on certain Wayfarer Motorhomes, the area of attachment for the rear center water pan, which holds the rear center water holding tank in place, must be reinforced. If the area of attachment is not reinforced, the rear center water pan may become loose from the frame of the motorhome, which could cause the water holding tank to become loose or drop from the motorhome.

NHTSA Recall #22V-068, Tiffin Recall #TIF-120, DCD panel torque and information label for 1200W inverters and DCD panel, buss bar, torque and information label for 2000W inverters: Tiffin Motorhomes has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists on the following models of motorhomes — **2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 Allegro Open Roads and Allegro Breezes built between February 23, 2017 and February 14, 2022, equipped with a standard 1200W inverter or the optional 2000W inverter.** Tiffin Motorhomes has become aware of the possibility that the nuts on each side of the buss bar may not have the correct torque applied. If the torque is not correct, this could create elevated temperatures on the buss bar, which could lead to melting components on the DCD panel and, in some cases, the overheating of the DCD panel could increase the risk of a fire.

NHTSA Recall #22V-055, Tiffin Recall #TIF-121 sidewall mounted patio awning: Tiffin Motorhomes has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists on the following models of motorhomes — **2020, 2021 and 2022 Allegro RED 360 37 PA built between May 2, 2019 and January 4, 2022 that are equipped with a certain brand of sidewall mounted patio awnings.** Tiffin Motorhomes has become aware of the possibility that certain sidewall mounted patio awnings

may not be securely fastened to the motorhome. If the awning is not securely attached, there is the possibility that it may detach from the sidewall of the motorhome, and this could lead to an accident or a personal injury.

NHTSA Recall #22V-273, Tiffin Recall #TIF-122 defective slide-room cylinders: Tiffin Motorhomes has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists on the following models of motorhomes — **2021 Allegro Open Roads 34 PA and 36 UA floorplan only; 2022 Allegro Open Roads, all floorplans; and 2022 Allegro Bays, all floorplans.** Tiffin Motorhomes has become aware of the possibility that on these motorhomes, the hydraulic cylinder that moves certain slide-rooms may have a defective inner seal. If a hydraulic cylinder has a defective inner seal, it is possible that the slide-room could extend from the motorhome on its own by 6 to 8 inches while parked after non-use, or possibly, while in transit. Please note that there is an acceptable relaxation tolerance of .5 to 1 inch. This recall is for movement beyond this tolerance. If a slide-room extends unintentionally during transit, it can increase the risks of a crash.

NHTSA Recall #22V-291, Tiffin Recall #TIF-123 Cahaba improper wiring and inverter installation: Tiffin Motorhomes has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists on certain **2021 and 2022 Cahaba motorhomes, all floorplans.** Tiffin Motorhomes has become aware of the possibility that on these motorhomes, the 110-volt and 12-volt electrical system may be improperly installed, and that the inverter may not be secured. Improperly installed and unsecured electrical items may lead to a fire.

NHTSA Recall #22V-511, Tiffin Recall #TIF-124 possible defective LP service valve: Tiffin Motorhomes has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists on the following models of motorhomes — **2021, 2022 and 2023 Allegro Open Roads; 2021, 2022 and 2023 Allegro RED 340; 2021 and 2022 Allegro RED 360; 2021 and 2022 Allegro Breezes; 2022 Allegro Bays; and 2021 and 2022 Phaeton motorhomes, all equipped with the option for LP gas.** Tiffin Motorhomes has become aware of the possibility that on

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these motorhomes, the LP gas tank may be equipped with a defective LP service valve. A leak in the connection of the LP tank installed on a motorhome could result in a fire or explosion and serious personal injury, property damage or both.

NHTSA Recall #22V-589, Tiffin Recall #TIF-126 PowerGlide Chassis 150-A circuit breaker: Tiffin Motorhomes has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists on certain **2022 and 2023 Allegro Breezes; 2022 and 2023 Allegro Buses; 2022 and 2023 Phaetons; and 2022 Zephyr motorhomes, all built on Tiffin Motorhome's PowerGlide Chassis.** Tiffin Motorhomes has become aware of the possibility that on these motorhomes, the chassis' 150-amp circuit breakers may overheat and trip. If this were to happen, the chassis would lose power and the driver's dash display would go blank. If the chassis were to lose power, this would increase the risk of a crash.

NHTSA Recall #22V-814, Tiffin Recall #TIF-127, LPG regulator hose leak: Tiffin Motorhomes has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists on the

following models of motorhomes — **2023 Allegro Open Roads; 2023 Allegro RED 340; 2022 and 2023 Allegro RED 360; 2022 and 2023 Allegro Breezes; 2022 and 2023 Allegro Bays; and 2022 and 2023 Phaeton motorhomes, all equipped with the option for LP gas and that were built between May 5, 2022 and October 21, 2022.** Tiffin Motorhomes has become aware of the possibility that on these motorhomes, the fitting on the hose that connects the LPG regulator to the LP tank is leaking at the swivel joint. A leak in the connection of an LP hose installed on a motorhome could result in a fire or explosion and serious personal injury, property damage or both.

NHTSA Recall #23V-104, Tiffin Recall #TIF-128, Cahaba suspension springs: Tiffin Motorhomes has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists on the following models of motorhomes — **2021 and 2022 Cahaba 19 SC motorhomes, built between May 2021 and April 2022 and equipped with upgraded suspension springs.** Tiffin Motorhomes has become aware of the possibility that on these motorhomes, the upgraded front suspension springs installed by Tiffin Motorhomes are incorrectly installed and that the upgraded rear suspension springs are incorrectly sized. On 4WD units, improperly installed front suspension springs may cause damage to the front 4WD axles, which could lead to an increased risk of a crash. On 2WD units equipped with upgraded front suspension springs, the suspension will not function as designed.

NHTSA Recall #23V-297, Tiffin Recall #TIF-129, Cahaba tire carrier and Molle rack installation: Tiffin Motorhomes has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists on the following models of motorhomes — **2021 and 2022 Cahaba 19 SC motorhomes, built between May 2021 and April 2022 and equipped with a spare tire carrier and/or Molle rack.** The tire carrier and Molle rack may not be installed properly and may become loose or detached from the rear doors of the motorhome. If the spare tire carrier and Molle rack were to become loose or detach from the mounting location, this could lead to an increased risk of a crash.



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NHTSA Recall #23V-308, Tiffin Recall #TIF-130, refrigerator pan may overflow onto electrical connections: Tiffin Motorhomes has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists on the following models of motorhomes — **2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 Allegro Breeze motorhomes that were built between July 2019 and April 2023.** The condensation pan located underneath the refrigerator can become full of water and may overflow onto electrical connections located on the floor. If the condensation pan were to completely fill, water could overflow onto the Molex connections, which could cause a fire.

NHTSA Recall #23V-406, Tiffin Recall #TIF-131, PowerGlide A/C compressor failure causes loss of drive power: Tiffin Motorhomes has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists on certain **2022 and 2023 Allegro Bus, Phaeton and Zephyr motorhomes that were built between May 2022 and May 2023.** On certain motorhomes equipped with an IFM brand of chassis controller, in the event of an A/C compressor failure, the current draw spike from the compressor will blow the fuse protecting the circuit. This circuit also supplies power to the chassis ignition switch. In the event of an A/C compressor failure there would be a sudden loss of power to the chassis. If the chassis were to lose power, this would increase the risk of a crash.

NHTSA Recall #23V-643, Tiffin Recall #TIF-133, 240V induction cooktop grounding: Tiffin Motorhomes has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists on certain **2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 Allegro Bus motorhomes; and 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 Zephyr motorhomes built between April 27, 2015 and August 2, 2023.** On certain motorhomes equipped with an optional 240V induction cooktop, there is no ground installed in the metal junction box used to connect the cooktop to the motorhome. If the wires inside the junction box were to short circuit, there is a risk of an electrical shock, which could increase the risk of injury. 🚗



CONTACT US!

Letters to the Editor: To send us comments or questions about the magazine, please email RoughingItSmoothlyMag@outlook.com and put "Letters" in the subject line.

Recalls: For questions about recalls that may apply to your coach, please email recalls@tiffinmotorhomes.com.

"From the Road" travel stories: We love hearing from Tiffin owners and invite you to share the special places you have discovered during your travels. Tell us about where you've been, including your favorite parks, restaurants, fishing spots, hiking trails, attractions, festivals, or just share a neat story. Go to rismag.org/contact/travelstories or email RoughingItSmoothlyMag@outlook.com and put "From the Road" in the subject line. Please share photos, too!

Tech Talk: The Tiffin Tech Team welcomes your questions and will address them with experts and specialists in the Tiffin Service Center. To send a question, especially those that may be useful to all our readers, go to rismag.org/contact/techtalk. You can also email RoughingItSmoothlyMag@outlook.com and put "Tech Talk" in the subject line.

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Vermont Rally Recap

As we bid farewell to an unforgettable 2023, we reflect with excitement the resounding success of a great rally season shared with our Tiffin Allegro Club friends.



Our last Allegro Club owners rally of 2023 was held at the Champlain Valley Expo Center in Essex Junction, Vermont. Over 325 coaches graced the rally grounds, with an impressive 50% of attendees being first-time rally-goers. Retail vendors showcased their latest and most outstanding RV-related products, and our Tiffin Allegro Club General store was present with new Tiffin-branded apparel, gear and RV parts. Rally attendees toured the new 2024 Tiffin models, and many drove home in one!

Each day was filled with engaging seminars and events, including a veterans parade, teatime with Bob and Judy Tiffin, and a wreath-making and floral arrangement class with the talented Mark Bryan of Mark Bryan Designs. For those seeking a thrill and a chance to channel their inner lumberjack, axe throwing added an extra touch of excitement! Each night ended with a catered meal and entertainment from Claudia Hoysler, the Swooners and Brandon Davis, as well as a game of bingo hosted by our very own Tom Webber.

We extend our thanks to everyone who attended the Essex Junction rally, and a heartfelt thank you to all the Tiffin owners who volunteered their time during the rally, including helping to coordinate events, driving shuttle golf carts and working in the store. We recognize that it truly takes a team to bring an event like this to life, and our team of volunteers was exceptional!

It was a very successful rally, and everyone had a great time! The future of the Tiffin Allegro Club is bright as we look ahead with excitement to our 2024 rallies. We can't wait to rally with you!

Until next time, happy trails!

Lisa Smith
President, Tiffin Allegro Club



A big thank you to our Tiffin volunteers at Essex Junction!



Judy and Bob Tiffin hosted a tea at the Vermont rally.

2024 TIFFIN ALLEGRO CLUB MEMBER RALLIES

Auburndale, Florida: Monday, April 22, to Friday, April 26, 2024 (departing Saturday, April 27). Lottery registration opens at 9 a.m. CST on January 4, 2024.

Larkspur, Colorado: Monday, August 5, to Friday, August 9, 2024 (departing Saturday, August 10). Lottery registration opens at 9 a.m. CST on March 6, 2024.

Arizona: Monday, October 14, to Friday, October 18, 2024 (departing Saturday, October 19). Lottery registration opens at 9 a.m. CST on May 22, 2024.

Please be advised that rally dates, locations, and lottery application dates are subject to change. Complete rally details and registration information will be announced prior to each registration date, so monitor the following media pages for up-to-date information.

- Tiffin Allegro Club Facebook page: www.facebook.com/tiffinallegroclub
- Tiffin Side Roads News page: tiffinsideroads.com/
- Tiffin Allegro Club website: www.tiffinmotorhomes.com/allegro-club

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Our online store is open! You can now shop for lifestyle parts, accessories and Tiffin merchandise while on the road or at home.

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Half of the Essex Junction, Vermont, rally participants were first-timers.

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Road Rules

Don't be caught off guard! Familiarize yourself with the most common rules, ordinances and laws about pets that you may encounter when RVing.

BY MELISSA KAUFFMAN

The other day as I was stopped at a red light, I noticed the adorable Chihuahua in the car next to me. He was hanging half in and half out of the window, as he sat in his owner's lap while she was driving. Most of us have been guilty of doing this at one time or another — and we all know it's a bad idea. In fact, driving with a dog on your lap can earn you a ticket in most states nowadays, whether the local ordinance or state law specifically prohibits it or if it falls under the “distracted driver” umbrella.

Because state laws and local ordinances constantly change, make sure to review the rules of the road in the areas you plan to drive through as well as those at your ultimate destination. Not knowing an ordinance or law does not excuse you. Here are eight rules that you may encounter when RVing with your pets.

1. PET DISTRACTION IN VEHICLE

Currently, only a handful of states specifically do not allow dogs to sit on your lap while you're driving or ride unrestrained in a moving vehicle. However, some counties, cities or states can ticket you under a distracted driver ordinance or law if you are stopped and your pet is unrestrained.

Pooches in cars can distract drivers as well as other drivers. Plus, it's dangerous for dogs. Debris could injure their eyes, ears or face; they could fall out of the car; and in a crash, they could be injured or killed by a deployed airbag or from being thrown from the car.

2. NO PETS LEFT UNATTENDED

Some campgrounds have rules about leaving pets unattended in or outside an RV. This means if you leave your RV at the



MELISSA KAUFFMAN

The author recommends checking the rules pertaining to pets at every RV campground you're considering staying at — even those that you have stayed at before.

campground, you must take your pets with you. Although an RV is supposed to be our home away from home, this rule was created for the safety of the pets and happiness of the other guests. Pets tend to bark or whine when left alone. Also, power interruptions do occur at campgrounds and no one wants a pet left alone in a hot RV.

3. LEASH LAWS

You'll find leash laws everywhere nowadays, which basically state that dogs (or cats) must be restrained on a leash that is 6-feet long or less. You'll find this law in national and state parks, many counties, cities and towns. Unless an area is specified as a dog-friendly, off-leash area, it's safe to assume that your dog must be leashed. If a dog-biting incident occurs and your dog is not leashed (restrained), you may find yourself held accountable even if your dog was not the instigator.

As an addendum to leash laws, many places do not allow pets to be tethered to an object and left unattended because this isn't safe for the pet or other humans. Children, especially, have been known to be bitten in this type of situation. Many national and state parks have no-tethering rules as well.

4. RABIES VACCINATION AND HEALTH CERTIFICATE

Pack your pet's current health information when you hit the road. Most states require proof of rabies vaccination, which you can get from your vet. If your dog bites someone — and camping is a situation ripe with oblivious strangers walking across your camp site — you must show proof of a current rabies vaccination. Your dog still may be quarantined for about 10 days whether he has been vaccinated or not.

If your pet is exposed to a wild animal with rabies, the public health veterinarian of the state you are traveling in will determine next steps. If your pet has not been vaccinated, the vet may decide on euthanasia and testing, or you may have to pay for up to six months of quarantine at the state's facility.

If you cross international borders, you'll need a health certificate and a USDA endorsement of the certificate. You may need one for certain states, too. This certificate typically includes your pet's medications, vaccinations and current health status.

5. BREED-SPECIFIC LEGISLATION

Breed-specific legislation (BSL) restricts ownership or possession of certain breeds of

The author's senior dog, Tampa Bay, is friendly, but he is always kept on a leash because all national and state parks and most counties, cities and towns have leash laws.



MELISSA KAUFFMAN

ROAD RULES RESOURCES

Need more info? Check out these websites before your next trip.

- **Table of State Rabies Vaccination Laws for Companion Animals:** www.animallaw.info/topic/table-rabies-vaccination-laws
- **Taking a Pet to One U.S. State or Territory to Another:** www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel/interstate-pet-travel
- **Taking a Pet to a Foreign Country:** www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel/take-pet-to-foreign-country
- **What Is Breed-Specific Legislation:** www.asPCA.org/improving-laws-animals/public-policy/what-breed-specific-legislation
- **Anti-Breed Specific Legislation by State:** resources.bestfriends.org/article/anti-breed-specific-legislation-state
- **National Parks Take Rover on Your Road Trip Too:** www.nps.gov/subjects/pets/index.htm

dogs, typically pit bull-type dogs, Rottweilers, Dobermans, German Shepherds, etc. At one point, many counties and cities passed these laws in response to fear of dog-bite attacks. Dogs are individuals, just like people, and evidence does not prove that these bans work. As a result, some states began to pass laws prohibiting legislative discrimination based on a dog's breed.

Check the city, county and state you plan to travel to or through for BSL laws. If your dog breed is not allowed, you could be fined or your pet may be removed.

6. NO PETS ALLOWED

Although RVing ranks at the top of pet-friendly travel, there are still a number of places you can't bring your pet that may not seem obvious.

- **Bathrooms, information centers and some picnic areas at state rest stops:** We

road warriors love a good rest stop. However, most rest stops only allow pets in specified pet areas.

- **Certain trails and scenic must-see spots in national and state parks:** This is all about preservation of the habitat and the safety and security of the wildlife and other human visitors. Each park has its own restrictions, which you can find at the National Park Service website or the state park's website.

- **Beaches:** Some beaches don't allow pets or restrict the hours or even months when they can be on the beach.

7. LIMITS ON NUMBER OR SIZE OF DOGS

One of our favorite RV parks in Asheville, North Carolina, instated a new rule limiting the number of dogs in an RV to two. Because we had stayed there many times, we didn't check the rules before reserving our spot. We did a quick check a few days before we left and saw the new limit. Since we had two dogs and a foster dog at the time, we were caught completely off guard.

Although RV parks tend to be pet-friendly, they may limit the number of pets you bring into the park. There may also be dog breed or size restrictions, too, especially at privately owned parks. Always read the pet rules and restrictions before reserving a spot. We always call the park whenever we have had a pet-related question.

8. PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG

Bring those poop bags along! Every national and state park and campground has a rule about picking up after your dog and disposing of pet waste. You'll also find this rule under nuisance ordinances in counties, cities and towns. Consequences may be anything from getting

fined to being asked to leave the premises.

Although these eight rules are the most common, you may come across more. For example, in my county, under the nuisance animal ordinance, a pet may not be allowed to "bark, whine, howl, crow or cackle, in an excessive, continuous or untimely fashion" and bug the neighbors. Although my dogs

and parrots don't seem to care when I tell them to quit breaking the law, they quiet down for treats — thank goodness. That's why we never leave home without them. 🐕

Melissa L. Kauffman is the former editor of Dogster and Catster magazines. For the past decade, Melissa and her husband have traveled around the country in their RV along with their dogs and parrots.



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Spices to Bring on the Road

These five tasty spices may help tamp down chronic inflammation.

BY KATHRYN DRURY WAGNER

Bear with me for a moment. I'm starting to think that spices are the perfect travel companions. They can be bold and adventurous, but they can hang back and be mellow, too. They liven up mealtimes. And they travel lightly, not hogging space.

In numerous studies, spices have been proven to have significant health benefits, as the compounds they contain can lower inflammation levels in the body. This is a good thing because chronic inflammation can cause aches and stiffness — hello, creaking knees and sore back. Inflammation plays a

part in an array of diseases, including cancer, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, asthma and Alzheimer's disease. When we lower chronic inflammation, we are helping to protect our health, and cooking with spices is a natural, and delicious, way to do it.

WHAT IS A SPICE?

Its definition is a bit squishy, but a spice is generally considered a flavor booster that comes from part of a plant — the roots, leaves, stems, seeds, fruits or flowers. There are about 100 spices commonly used in cuisines around



Be mindful of the health benefits of the spices you pack and the recipes you plan to cook while on the road.

SHANTANU PAL / PEXELS

the world, from basics like cinnamon and garlic, to lesser-known delights such as Indonesian lemon pepper and Nigella seed. Some spices are best used when fresh, such as basil, but for our traveling spices, I focused on flavor-packed dried options. They don't take up much room in your motorhome's kitchen cabinets, making them perfect for bringing on your next RV adventure. Ready to spice up not only your cooking, but also your health?

Please note: This article contains general information. Check with your healthcare provider for medical advice, especially if you are taking medications.

ROSEMARY

Robust rosemary smells delicious — it calls to mind wind-swept hills and fluffy focaccia. A study published in "Oncology Reports" found that rosemary's anti-inflammatory properties slowed the spread of leukemia and breast carcinoma cells. Rosemary appears to work as an anti-inflammatory when used topically, too. One randomized, controlled study found that massaging arthritic knees with rosemary essential oil helped lessen pain.

Dried rosemary can be found whole, as a pine-needle-like leaf, or in powdered, pulverized form. Try using dried rosemary with chicken, lamb or beef dishes — keep in mind that it's much stronger dried than fresh, so factor that in accordingly.

GINGER

Tendonitis or osteoarthritis bugging you? Ginger has been studied for its ability to block inflammation pathways in the body and has even performed well in studies that compared it to the over-the-counter pain reliever naproxen.



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Experimenting with various spices is easy because they don't take up much space. Cloves (bottom left) are natural painkillers and are great for pork dishes. Use a pinch of ginger (bottom right) in soups, stir fries and even teas.



PIXABAY / PEXELS



AMITHAAR / UNSPLASH



NATURAL CHEF CAROLYN NICHOLAS / UNSPLASH

In one 12-week, randomized controlled trial, participants who received a daily dose of ginger had a considerable decrease in pro-inflammatory markers.

Fresh ginger provides quite a kick to stir-fries or as a tea. But dried ginger is less spicy, making it ideal for baking into cookies, cakes or breads. You can also add a little ginger powder to honey to create a tasty spread for your morning toast, or mix it into lemonade for a refreshing warm-weather beverage.

TURMERIC

Featured prominently in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and in Ayurvedic medicine (practiced in India and Nepal), turmeric is a rhizome, or underground plant stem. Its active component, curcumin, has been found to relieve tummy troubles like indigestion and nausea. In “Antioxidants in Food, Vitamins and Supplements,” the authors noted turmeric’s excellent anti-inflammatory properties and write that it has the potential to

reduce the risk of various diseases, including arthritis, Alzheimer's and some types of cancer. Turmeric may also help ease symptoms of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis (inflammatory diseases), according to the National Psoriasis Foundation.

Turmeric is what makes curry dishes so brightly colored and tangy. Experiment with vegetarian curries like a lentil, pea and potato; or chicken curries, rich with cream and tomatoes; or shrimp curries with coconut milk. Better still, many curry recipes include a bit of black pepper and some fat, which makes turmeric's curcumin more bioavailable.

CARDAMOM

Dubbed "the queen of spices," cardamom comes in several dried forms: as a whole seed pod, the seeds contained within the pod or as a ground powder. This spice is often used in South Asian foods, such as chai or the spice blend garam masala. It's also a key ingredient in some Middle Eastern beverages, and in Scandinavia, it's popular for use in pastries.

If you perked up at the mention of pastries, you'll be especially interested in cardamom's benefits fighting inflammation in the mouth. A recent study found that cardamom extracts had antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties that helped fight periodontal infections. Who knew that sipping a chai may help fight gum disease?

Try cardamom in desserts such as cheesecake, or in a maple-syrup glaze for grilled salmon.

CLOVES

You may hear "clove" and immediately picture an old-fashioned baked ham, but cloves are more versatile than you think. Cloves

are the dried, unopened flower buds of an evergreen tree (yes, a clove tree is apparently a thing) that is native to Indonesia. This spice can be used either whole or in a ground form.

Cloves contain components called eugenol and isoeugenol, which are known for their anti-inflammatory effects. Cloves are also a natural painkiller, which

is why they've been used to treat toothaches since ancient times.

Try this fragrant spice on pork, with roasted squash or in mole sauce. You can even throw a few whole cloves into your pickle jar. 🥒

Kathryn Drury Wagner is a Savannah-based writer and editor. She is the author of two books and writes frequently about health and wellness for national publications.

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Insurance Basics

Here's a primer to help you understand the importance of getting the right coverage for you and your motorhome.

ARTICLE AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEVE BLUME

According to Murphy's law, "Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong." As RV owners, we tempt fate every day, propelling a massive luxury home on wheels down the road at highway speeds, then ending the day in a campground maneuvering between cars, trees and walls to park it. What could possibly go wrong?

The agent you choose to insure your Tiffin may be the same one who handles your home and autos, or he may be a voice on the line from a national call center. He may be

an agent who is contracted to work for one insurance company (State Farm, Allstate, Liberty Mutual, Geico, etc.) and can only sell that company's policies, or he could be an independent agent who is contracted to work with a variety of insurance companies and can sell policies from multiple providers. For example, Roamly specializes in RV coverage and can quote multiple carriers simultaneously, including Foremost, Safeco, National General, Progressive and their own company. Regardless of who you choose, everyone sell-



A Tiffin is a big investment that needs to be protected. Educate yourself about the different insurance companies and available coverages for RV owners.

ing insurance is regulated, trained and has passed the required certifications.

PRICE AND RATES

Price is king, right? People are quick to trash an insurance company or brag about the price of their coverage, but what does that price include? What are the limits, deductibles and add-ons? They claim this insurance company is better than that one, or shout about how they were wronged by a different company. I can't help but shake my head.

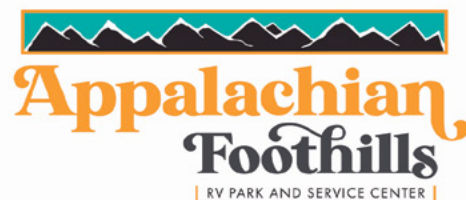
Carriers have things they like, called their "appetite," and getting with the one who targets your situation best gets you the lowest price. For example, some companies will not write full-time RVs, while others aggressively pursue those customers. Some really prefer new motorhomes.

Rates must be filed by insurers in each state detailing how they establish the rate class, the qualifiers, surcharges and the

discounts. These rate classes may consider credit score, home ownership, bundling with other items, prior claims, how the policy is being paid for and even things such as marital status. This guarantees that every consumer is treated fairly and equitably, and explains how two owners with identical coaches could have substantially different rates. An agent cannot negotiate pricing on your behalf, they can only present your information accurately to insurance companies and help you navigate potential discounts to lower your rate. The only way to know if your situation is attractive to another company is to get quotes and compare.

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

When you purchase coverage, your insurance company will provide a **Declarations Page**, which lists the drivers, dates of coverage, VIN, policy limits (maximum coverage for each item), any add-ons or special notes, and the price you are paying. This is



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Some insurance companies have separate coverage for windshield replacement.

an easy-to-understand summary of all your coverage.

You will also receive a multi-page **Policy Document** that describes in detail what is covered and what is not, how claims are determined and paid out, and any conditions. The purpose of insurance is to spread the risk of loss over a large group, making it affordable for the individuals in that group to be protected against a catastrophic loss. Multiple claims in five years, even small ones, can make you uninsurable. Insurance is structured to make you whole after a loss, not put you ahead. Insurance companies are in the business of paying claims, but only for things in the policy they agreed to cover and for which you paid them a premium.

8 WAYS TO PROTECT AGAINST THE UNEXPECTED

- 1.** Get multiple quotes
- 2.** Review your Declarations Page
- 3.** Take advantage of available discounts
- 4.** Consider a Personal Umbrella Policy (PUP)
- 5.** Do not submit small claims
- 6.** Understand what each add-on covers
- 7.** Review Roadside Assistance details
- 8.** Read your policy!

COVERAGES

If you cause an accident and hurt someone or their property, **Liability** coverage pays for it. It covers *bodily injury*, when you injure someone, and/or *property damage*, which repairs vehicles of others damaged due to your negligence, but it does not cover your vehicle. If you have substantial assets to protect, you should strongly consider having a **Personal Umbrella Policy (PUP)**. This is a powerful addition at a fairly low cost. Ask your agent to explain the benefits.

Here are other common coverages:

- **Collision Coverage** will pay for repairs to your motorhome if you're in an accident, regardless of who's at fault. This coverage will have a deductible, the amount you agree to pay before the insurance pays. Selecting a higher deductible will result in a lower rate.

- **Comprehensive Coverage**, on the other hand, pays for damage to your motorhome from non-accident-related events like natural disasters, theft or vandalism.

- **Glass Coverage** replaces windshields and may be listed separately and with a different deductible.

- **Uninsured/Underinsured Motorist Coverage** protects you if you're in an accident with a driver who doesn't have insurance or enough coverage to repair your RV.

- **Personal Property Coverage** replaces all your personal belongings inside your motorhome up to the amount you list. Imagine turning your RV upside down and shaking it. What would fall out? What would it cost to replace all that?

ADD-ONS AND TOTAL LOSS

There are numerous add-ons to RV policies, including **Vacation**

Liability Coverage which offers liability protection while you're parked at a campsite, **Full-Timer's Coverage**, **Mexico Coverage**, **Pest Coverage** for damage caused inside by animals, and even **Roof Replacement Coverage**. If you live in your RV full-time and it is unusable, **Emergency Expense Coverage** helps with lodging and transportation costs. Understand what the coverage means, and the cost of adding these. Most companies include **Roadside Assistance** as an option to help with towing, flat tires and other roadside issues, but many RV owners elect to purchase beefier stand-alone roadside assistance policies.

If your RV is deemed a total loss after an accident, most policies pay out based on **Actual Cash Value (ACV)**, a depreciating

amount. If you have a new coach, look for a company that offers **Total Replacement Coverage**, which insures up to your purchase price.

Every situation is different, and the specific coverage you need depends on your motorhome's value, how you use it and your personal situation. Ask a lot of questions when you are talking to an agent and make sure they have all the correct information. Reading your insurance policy is guaranteed to put you right to sleep, but once you do, you can sleep better! 🛏

A retired entrepreneur, Steve Blume and his wife, Nancy, spend half the year on the road and the other half at their Brentwood, Tennessee, home. His articles have appeared in newspapers and magazines on multiple topics.

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FLAME *Out*

A simple onboard fire-suppression system provides round-the-clock, maintenance-free protection.

BY BOB LIVINGSTON

No one likes to talk about fires. Reality suggests that structures, vehicles and landscapes are subject to fires under unfortunate circumstances. If that weren't the case, there would be no such thing as a fire department.

RV manufacturers build in safeguards and emergency exits to comply with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) codes. However, relying on first responders in the event of an RV fire likely will not end on a positive note. Therefore, owners are charged with taking certain precautions, having a solid emergency plan and practicing their evacuation routine should a fire break out.

In most cases, the provided fire extinguisher is grossly inadequate — ironic, isn't it? Usually, the only option is for owners to get out of their motorhome when a fire erupts. In this scenario, there's not much time to react because it only takes a few minutes for a motorhome to become fully engulfed in flames.

FROM RACING TO RVS

Proteng, a Florida-based company, focuses on suppressing fires instantly to provide owners enough time to get out of their motorhomes safely and limit collateral damage. It gained its fire-protection experience in the race-car industry, building prototypes for Grand Prix-type events. Proteng designed unique and innovative race-car chassis and engines using new technology, which led to several fires that seriously impacted investors and timing. Chemicals from standard

fire extinguishers destroyed the electronics, which was another expensive lesson.

The Proteng THIA (tube + heat = instant action) system was developed out of necessity and is now targeted at the RV industry as a viable fire-suppression product that not only saves lives but prevents the aforementioned collateral damage. The simplicity of the system is astounding. Special tubes are filled with proprietary gas and a compound that is expelled when heat causes a rupture. Basically, the tube explodes, and the contents extinguish the flames instantly. When this happens, there's a loud bang comparable to a gunshot. There's no way to sleep through this noise, so occupants have time to vacate.

When Proteng's owner Dusan Maly was asked about the non-corrosive gas and compound used to suppress the flames, he smiled and said, "Very much like Coca-Cola, we don't tell you." What Maly will tell you is that there are various types of tubing that respond at different discharge temperatures. A super heavy-duty tube can handle extreme temperatures, like those found in bigger displacement diesel engine compartments.

DEMONSTRATED PROOF

Of course, there are always skeptics who doubt the reliability and effectiveness of such a simple device, and its ability to suppress a fire. To prove the value of the Proteng system, a dramatic demonstration was staged. A rag saturated with charcoal lighter fluid was placed in a pan below a Proteng tube



NOEL / ADOBE STOCK

specifically sized for a Plexiglas box. The fire was ignited, and within seconds the tubing ruptured, and the fire was out, leaving no residue. It was quite impressive.

The demonstration reinforced the need to size each tube for the specific compartment and equipment being protected. Likely protection points include the refrigerator compartment (when using an absorption unit), engine bay, battery bank, hydronic heating components, generator compartment and places where there are electrical devices and wiring. The THIA system is designed for these hard-to-reach areas to suppress fire at the source. It comes in two versions: standard and heavy-duty.

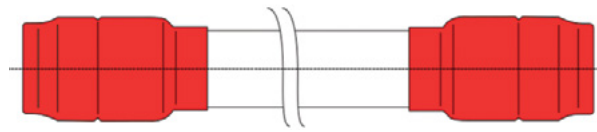
Lithium batteries present an additional risk when amperage discharge is too fast and deep, and when temperatures soar. Lithium battery banks are protected by shut-off circuits, but an electronic failure can set the stage for a fire. The Proteng system may not completely eliminate a lithium battery thermal event but it will provide enough time to vacate the motorhome, according to Maly.

INSTALLATION AND PLACEMENT

Redlands Truck & RV in California was an early adopter of the product, and its personnel have been trained by Proteng. To demonstrate the installation process, a number of tubes were mounted in key areas on a Class A motorhome.

Installation is customized to your RV and is relatively easy once the tricks of the trade are learned, such as insulating the tubing from

Tube + Heat = Instant Action



heat sources that are not flame-related. First, a technician will use a worksheet to determine the length and type of each tube, based on each compartment's physical dimensions and component(s). A laser tool is used to record measurements. The formula looks like one taught in a college chemistry class and is used to calculate the amount of suppression product inside a specific length of tubing.

The tubes are strategically placed and secured with special, heat-resistant cable ties and insulated clamps. For example, sections of rubber hose are used to keep the tubes isolated from mounting points in the back of the refrigerator. It takes about two hours to completely install tubing that will cover all vulnerable points in a diesel pusher motorhome. No maintenance is required, and the tubes can be relocated to a different motorhome, if the owner desires. If left inside a motorhome that's being sold, the Proteng protection system can be a selling point to prospective buyers.

Motorhomes are complex machines and the last thing owners want to worry about is a fire. The Proteng THIA fire suppression system will provide peace of mind because with it in place, an unfortunate fire will likely be less catastrophic. 🚐

The Proteng THIA system can protect RVs from catastrophic fires. It features tubes filled with a gas and a compound that is released when heat is detected — suppressing the fire.

A SNEAK PEEK AT THE
Bob Tiffin
Limited Edition
Bus



Touring this motorhome, built in homage to the company's founder, was a privilege. Having the opportunity to see it alongside Bob and Judy Tiffin was true delight.

BY STEVE BLUME



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TIFFIN MOTORHOMES

Leigh Tiffin frequently speaks about recognizing and honoring the special history, culture and legacy of the company he now heads. In 2024, the company is doing that by paying tribute to Bob Tiffin, Leigh's grandfather and the founder of Tiffin Motorhomes, with the introduction of the Bob Tiffin Limited Edition Bus, 45 BTP. In recognition of his 82nd birthday, Tiffin will build only 82 of these specially designed coaches. Bob has worked tirelessly to incorporate design elements in it that reflect his life, his favorite destinations and the quality he expects from every coach with his name on it. All 82 of these buses will be special, but I had the privilege of looking at No. 01 out of 82!

While the official unveiling of the Bob Tiffin Limited Edition Bus is scheduled to take place at the Florida RV Supershow in Tampa in January 2024, I was allowed a sneak peek with Bob and his wife, Judy, a month earlier. Bob was intimately familiar with everything, but this was Judy's first time seeing it.

In what I can only call a fairytale setting, this one-of-a-kind coach quietly made its way from Tiffin's HQ in Red Bay to Bob's 10,000-square-foot garage in Florence, Alabama. This garage houses 25 of his legendary classic cars in a temperature-controlled private museum. If you want to know more about this classic car collection, visit the Tiffin Motorhomes YouTube channel to watch a complete tour plus hear the stories of each of these cars from Bob himself.

Speaking of YouTube channels, Phil and Stacy Farley were also there to interview Bob and record a video tour of the new 45 BTP. They are a YouTube power couple with almost 200,000 subscribers to their "Today Is Some-



Personal touches abound in the 45 BTP, including photos of Bob's classic cars (seen hanging over the dinette area in top photo) and Bob and Judy's love of the Southwest.



STEVE BLUME



STEVE BLUME

The author was able to tour the 45 BTP in Bob's climate-controlled garage that houses his classic car collection.



There are various seating options available in the 45 BTP, including the optional theater seating (opposite page, top) or the standard 88-inch sofa bed (opposite page, bottom).

day” channel, sharing life on the road in their Tiffin. Both Farleys are veterans, and they have a heart for those who serve and seek opportunities to support them. Make sure to check out their video interview with Bob!

JUST LIKE SHELBY

The first question I asked Bob about the Bob Tiffin Limited Edition Bus was, “Why now?” When you ask a car guy a question, you often get a car guy answer.

“Because Shelby did it,” Bob said enthusiastically. “Carroll Shelby was one of the greatest automobile and race car designers ever, known for his AC Cobras and Mustangs, and Ford started introducing his limited editions in the ’60s. They are still doing them to this day. When Leigh asked me if he could celebrate and honor my Tiffin accomplishments over the years with a limited-edition bus, based on what Ford did with Shelby, I thought it was a great idea.”

IMPRESSIVE EXTERIOR

The popular PowerGlide® Raised Rail Rear Engine Diesel Chassis was chosen to provide the foundation for this 45-foot limited edition. From the front it looks massive, and there are no patterns or markings other than the TIFFIN lettering above the curved windshield. *Fun fact: Tiffin Motorhomes was the first manufacturer to introduce curved windshields.*

In Bob’s garage, the 45 BTP stood tall in the middle of these multi-colored classic cars. The high-gloss, full-body paint turned the coach into a giant mirror, reflecting brilliant colors and light. The frontal view is magnificent and demands respect.

Waterfall was chosen as the exterior color for No. 01, with a brilliant blue, black and gray pattern flowing along the sides. The pattern moves and the lines rise and fall to mimic water and mountains around the coach. The bus can also be ordered in Cinderwood or Nasa.



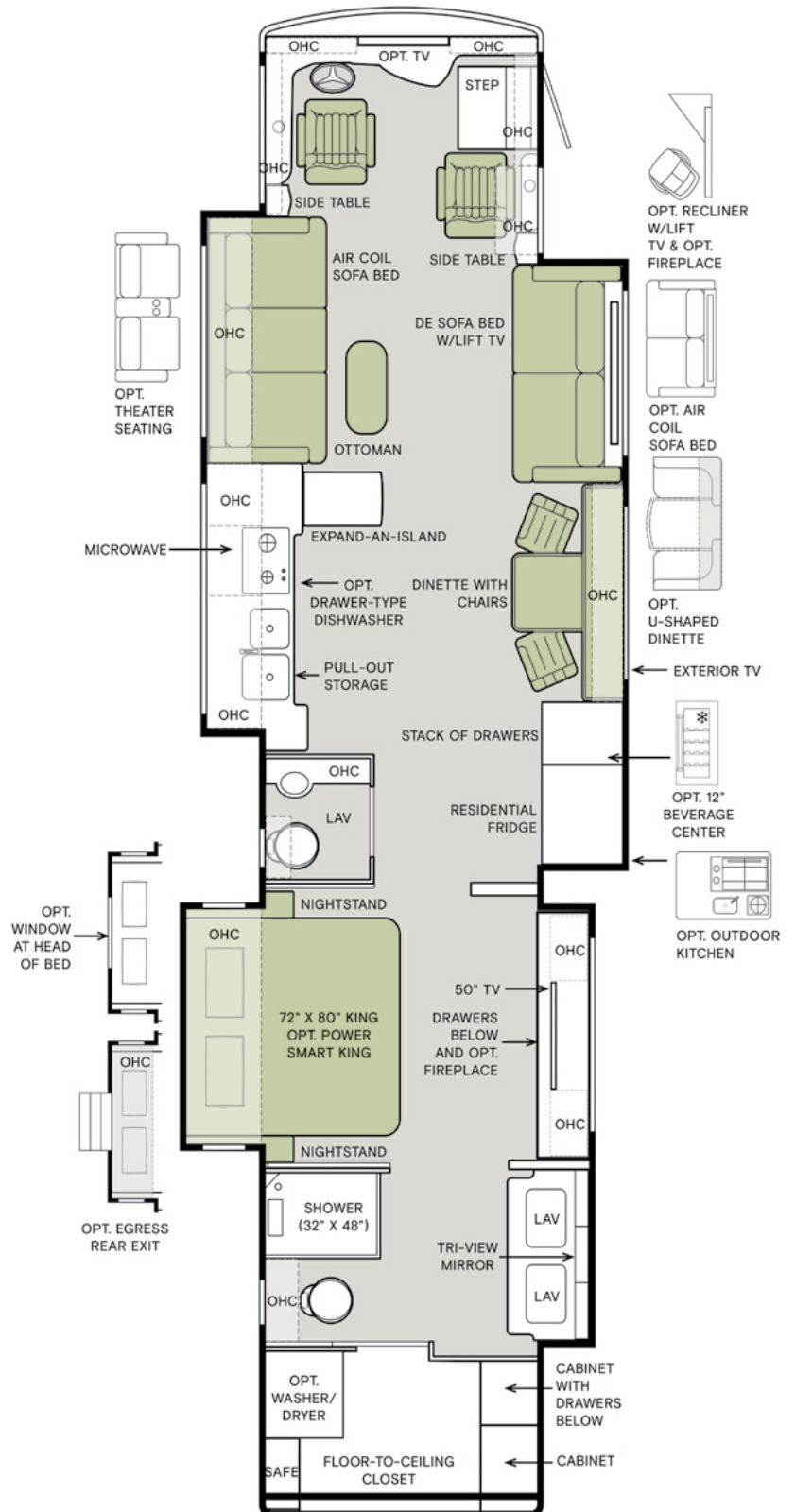
The XSP basement provides over 250 cubic feet of storage. Fun fact: Tiffin was the first manufacturer to build basement motorhomes, starting back in 1980.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS INSIDE THE BUS

With Bob at her side, Judy was about to see this personal expression of their lives for the very first time, and I was lucky enough to be there to witness it. As we opened the entry door, she smiled as she noticed the silver plaque on the left that said “Bob Tiffin, Limited Edition, Since 1972.” Anxiously ascending the beautifully crafted reflective steps, she asked Bob, “Did you do all this?” Bob replied simply, “Well, I had a lot of help.”

The overall color scheme is called Great Smoky Mountains, which suggests mountains and water, but Bob and Judy’s love of the Southwest is also sprinkled in. Both power front seats are plush, Ultrafabrics® Tottori Rice Paper, with Bob’s signature embroidered

45 BTP





The kitchen (top and above) has a double-bowl sink, a two-burner induction cooktop and a drawer-style dishwasher.

The shower (top right) measures 32x48 inches.

on the seat back. Cabinets and color options are still specified by the customer, so you have the best of both worlds.

As you stand and look back toward the door, a rectangular silver plaque proudly proclaims, “Bob Tiffin Limited Edition 001.” The living area is a spacious 440 square feet with slides extended. *Fun fact: Tiffin Motorhomes was the second manufacturer to introduce slides.* According to Bob, that was the industry’s single greatest innovation, increasing living space by 50%. “The first slide motor we tried



was one of those big satellite dish motors they had at the time, and it worked like a champ!”

A large, mirrored arrowhead graced the upper slide corners on the wood trim, a reference to the Native American culture of the western states. The pillows on the sofa follow that same theme.

INSPIRED BY CLASSIC CARS

The sound bar above the TV has a silver trim enclosure with rounded edges, a Packard-inspired design element taken from the windshield. In the middle of the living space, the slide trim element above offers a mirrored almost oval shape with vertical lines. This design incorporates the lines of the classic Packard front grill and is used throughout the coach. When forced to choose, Bob admitted his favorite new element in this entire coach was this Packard grill.

Initially Judy didn’t recognize the Packard correlation, but once she did, her jaw dropped. After all, she is the one who convinced Bob to buy his first classic car over 30 years ago. They were in California, and she suggested they stop by a local car show — she didn’t have to ask twice! That purchase along with his love of classic cars ultimately led to this collection.



When people found a unique car, they called Bob. I asked him about the 1956 Pontiac station wagon that looked like an ordinary family car. In addition to the rubber tires, however, it had a hi-rail setup, a set of flanged steel wheels that, when deployed, allow the car to travel on railways. He chuckled telling the story of driving down a short line track back in 2001 with Judy and 12-year-old grandson Leigh sitting on the front bench seat.

“We were cruising along around 35 mph from Red Bay heading to Burnsville, Mississippi. I wasn’t paying attention and didn’t notice the rail maintenance crew had switched

the track. We derailed in the middle of nowhere and were in a bit of a pickle. Thankfully the crew was nearby, and they were able to get us back on the track to get home.” He assured me he no longer drives on railways.

MORE PERSONAL TOUCHES

Like a kid opening birthday presents, Judy would dwell on each design element to understand it but couldn’t wait to get on to the next one. “That’s Maggie!” she exclaimed, looking at a framed Packard print. Bob and Judy name all their cars in order to remember them, and that name is used by anyone

Tiffin motorhomes always feature ample storage. The bedroom (above) offers a walk-in closet, overhead cabinets and under bed storage.

working on them. “That’s Mabel!” she affectionately nodded as she discovered the other print. This coach is very personal, indeed.

Judy paused for a while before speaking when we got to the bedroom. She continued looking around until the aha moment hit her. She finally said, “This is like New Mexico!”

As it turns out, the Land of Enchantment is one of their favorite places to visit, and she appreciated the connection. The pillows, arrowhead trim on the slide frame, and the headboard design created by leather cushioned squares hanging from straps connected the dots. This hanging design is also functional, giving quick access to the emergency exit door behind the bed.

END OF THE ROAD? NO WAY!

Somewhere along the way I asked if this was his last hurrah, an exclamation point

at the end of his unbelievable career. “Steve, people asked me if I was retiring when I was 65, and again at 70, 75 and 80,” Bob said. “My work is my life. I love coming into my office every day, talking to customers and helping folks out. I always believed in building the best product possible and having an open door if someone needs to talk about an issue. I still feel that way.”

Fun fact: Bob had never been in a motorhome until he built one in 1972. Since then, his company has built over 90,000 of them.

Everyone refers to him as Bob, but I still feel like a kid in front of him and want to call him Mr. Bob. He has earned so much respect and is a true legend. When he puts his name on a coach, it means something. When he puts his name on a Bob Tiffin Limited Edition Bus, there simply are no words. 🚐

BOB TIFFIN LIMITED EDITION 45 BTP SPECIFICATIONS

STARTING MSRP \$700,343

DIMENSIONS

Overall length (approx.) ¹	45'
Wheelbase	323"
Overall width ¹	101"
Overall height	13' 3"
Minimum garage height	14'
Interior height	83"
Interior width	96"
Square footage (approx.) ²	440
Basement storage (approx.)	257 cu. ft.

WEIGHT LIMITS (in pounds)

GAWR – front	18,000
GAWR – rear	23,000
GVWR	52,000
Max. trailer weight ³	15,000
Hitch Rating	15,000
GCWR	67,000

CAPACITIES (in gallons)

Fuel tank	150
DEF tank	10
Fresh water	100
Grey water	100
Black water	55

QUANTITIES

Number of Slideouts	4
Sleeping Capacity ⁴	2 to 5
Sleeping Areas ⁴	1 to 3
Seat Belts	4 to 9
Seating Capacity ⁴	7 to 11

¹ The approximated coach width and length does not include side view mirrors and rear ladders.

² Square footage calculated with the slide-outs fully extended.

³ Maximum trailer weight is dependent on the loading and towing variables, which include the GVWR, GAWR and GCWR, as well as adequate trailer brakes.

⁴ Dependent on furniture and dinette options.

Standard Chassis and Drivetrain: Cummins® L9 450 HP diesel engine with 1,250 lb-ft torque; 210-amp alternator; Allison® 3000 MH 6-speed automatic transmission with lock-up torque converter; (2) 12-volt flooded lead-acid chassis batteries; tag axle drum brakes; two-wheel drive; aluminum wheels; front and rear 315/80R 22.5 tires; combination Valid™ air-leveling system with hydraulic leveling jacks; integrated leveling controls through Valid™ instrument cluster; ZF Independent Front Suspension; front sway bar; custom tuned Koni shock absorbers; side-mounted radiator; full air brake system with automatic slack adjusters; three-stage compression brake; manual parking brake; Air Force One tow vehicle brake system; dual fuel fill capable; tire pressure monitoring; adaptive cruise control; automatic traction control; collision mitigation with forward warning and active braking; electronic stability control

Standard Construction: seamless one-piece gel-coat fiberglass molded roof cap; 5.25" formed roof insulation; tubular aluminum roof skeleton frames; Extraordinaire™ ducted air-cooling system; one-piece molded gel-coat fiberglass front and rear caps; steel cockpit overhead support frame; Crane® Composites Noble® select all-composite exterior sidewalls; tubular aluminum wall skeleton frames; high-performance thermal insulation in sidewalls; engineered wood sub-flooring; laminated elevated sub-flooring with 2.75" thick thermal insulation; steel basement construction; rust protective undercoating; hydraulic slide-out mechanisms; extra storage chassis construction

Standard Electrical: hydronic heating and electronic appliance equipped coach; Spyder Controls Multiplex System; Firefly Integrations Eclipse Module; centralized 10" Spyder System main monitor; passenger console Spyder

System color touchscreen; interior entryway Spyder System color touchscreen; exterior Spyder System color touchscreen; additional Spyder color touchscreens throughout coach; 10.0-kilowatt Onan® quiet diesel generator; generator slide tray; 2,800-watt Pure Sine wave inverter; charger with auto-gen start and interior remote control; (3) 15,000-BTU low profile air conditioners with heat pumps and condensation drains; Aqua-Hot® 450D heat exchanger; 50-amp shore power with powered retract reel; prep for solar panels; auxiliary solar port; energy management system; HD over-the-air antenna; park cable and ground satellite hook-up; Starlink® Pro for internet and phone; in-motion satellite dish; Blu-ray™ player; pre-wiring for Winegard® Trav'ler™ satellite; satellite receiver; 12-volt breaker panel; 12-volt disconnect switch; (6) 6-volt, 230-amp hours flooded lead-acid house batteries; rotary disconnect switches for house batteries, chassis batteries and inverter; GFCI outlets at galley, lavatories and sewer bay; 110-volt exterior receptacle; Surge Guard® transfer switch; USB receptacles throughout coach

Standard Plumbing: Aqua-Hot® 450D heat exchanger; Aqua View Showermiser™; water filter; water pump switch access from Spyder system and sewer bay board; low-point water drain lines; black holding tank flush system; gravity water fill; heated water and holding tank compartment; SeeLevel™ tank monitor; centralized exterior sewer bay with gravity black and grey evacuation ports; exterior rinse hose with shower head; sewer bay hand sanitizer and paper towel holders; fresh water hose with power retract reel; sewer hose storage

Standard Exterior: full-body paint with (4) layers of clear coat; striped slide-out endwalls; high performance protective film on front cap



In honor of Bob's 82nd birthday, only 82 Bob Tiffin Limited Edition Buses will be manufactured.

and select areas; Girard® roof-mounted powered patio awning with integrated LED lighting and dual pitch feature; Girard® powered door awning with integrated LED lighting; Girard® powered window awning package; Girard® slide-out toppers; side-swinging exterior storage doors with gas shocks; lockable handles on compartment doors; motion-sensor lights in cargo bay; basement freezer; 120-volt and 12-volt outlets inside cargo bays; pass-through basement storage; charcoal carpet cargo walls; fiberglass reinforced plastic basement floor; frameless, dual-pane windows; exterior patio light; fog lights; daytime running lights; docking lights; exterior ground effects lighting; chrome power heated side-view mirrors with integrated cameras; exterior TV with soundbar; fast charge USB ports within; exterior TV compartment; lightweight entry door with integrated screen; deadbolt front entrance lock; lighted entry door grab handle; automatic stainless steel double entry step; keyless entry system for front entrance and component doors; mud flaps; custom rock guard; Lippert™ On-The-Go™ telescoping ladder

Standard Interior: handcrafted overhead cabinetry; solid surface step well with tile inserts; powered step well cover; storage compartment within entry steps; recessed step well lighting; living area TV; solid surface galley countertop; handcrafted slide-out fascia; soft touch vinyl ceiling; Gold Heat® dual zones heated tile floor; dimmable LED lighting; prep for washer and dryer; stacked washer and dryer; carbon monoxide detector; LPG leak detector; smoke detector; fire extinguisher; powered solar and privacy shades; soft-closing drawers; powered roof vents; central vacuum system with VacPan® automatic dustpan; interior grab handle at entry door; egress windows throughout coach

Standard Driver's Compartment: Ultrafabrics® Tottori power driver and passenger seats; dual driver and passenger seat armrests; swivel bases for driver and passenger seats; powered passenger seat footrest; integrated seat belts on driver and passenger seats; lumbar support on driver and passenger seats; tilt and telescoping steering wheel with integrated controls; adjustable accelerator and brake pedals; ergonomic dash with carbon fiber accents; mounted dash fans; cupholders on driver and passenger side; Valid™ liquid crystal display instrument cluster with integrated leveling controls; (2) center storage drawers; generator start and stop rocker switch; USB dash receptacles; 12-Volt dash receptacle; backlit dash rocker switches; passenger console wireless phone charger; 7" passenger console advanced monitor system touchscreen; driver console stationary mount phone charger; driver and passenger map lights; one-piece panoramic windshield; single-motor intermittent windshield wipers; automatic LED headlights; side-view cameras; color back-up camera; 10" glass panel camera monitor for side-view, backup and 360° view cameras; blind spot monitoring system; advanced monitor system featuring media center, Bluetooth®, AM/FM/satellite radio; ceiling-mounted speakers; JBL® sound system; in-dash navigation system via advanced monitor system's 10"; glass panel touchscreen; overhead cabinetry with wooden panel doors; auxiliary start switch; concealed air horn; powered opening driver-side window; solid, non-opening passenger-side window; powered solar and privacy windshield shade; powered solar and privacy shades on side window

Standard Kitchen: 25-cubic-foot stainless steel residential refrigerator with French doors and bottom freezer; two-burner induction cooktop;

1.7-cubic-foot smart convection microwave with air fry; drawer-style dishwasher; double bowl kitchen sink with single lever faucet and pull-down sprayer; electronic release expand-an-island; built-in soap dispenser; galley overhead cabinets with pull-out drawers; panoramic galley window; task lighting; toe kick lighting; under counter LED accent lighting; pantry lighting; full tile backsplash; solid surface galley countertop, sink and cooktop cover; pull-out utility box under sink

Standard Bedroom: memory-foam king mattress with power smart lift; overhead cabinet with headboard; under bed storage; shoe rack; walk-in closet; solid surface countertops within storage spaces; bedside windows; bed comforter with throw pillows; handcrafted privacy door; LED reading lights; nightstand with solid surface tops; mounted bedroom TV; centralized entertainment center; ceiling fan; decorative handcrafted wood ceiling ring; safe

Standard Bathroom: (1) bathroom and (1) half bath; solid surface shower walls with inlaid tile and residential glass door (32" x 48"); (2) porcelain master bathroom sinks; solid surface lavatory top; teak folding shower seat; shower head with detachable hand-held shower wand; shower skylight; shower LED light with sliding cover; towel and toilet paper holders; medicine cabinet with tri-view vanity mirror; roof vent fan; base cabinet; (1) electric gravity flush toilet and (1) macerator toilet

Standard Driver's Side Furniture: 80" air coil sofa bed with lift TV

Standard Passenger's Side Dinette and Furniture: 75" dinette with chairs; 88" DE sofa bed

DESTINATION: DESTIN-FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA

Enjoy Florida's EMERALD COAST

SEAN BOARD / ADOBE STOCK



This gem of an area along the Gulf of Mexico offers gorgeous beaches and glimpses of regional wildlife.

BY KELLIE B. GORMLY

I took my first real trip to Florida — previous times confined to airport layovers and a trip to Walt Disney World as a toddler — last summer to visit a college friend from Texas who had moved to the Florida Panhandle, in the Destin-Fort Walton Beach area on the northwest coast of the Sunshine State. Oh my! Those pristine, sugar-white-sand beaches and emerald water were just gorgeous! The beautiful water gave the region its nickname, the Emerald Coast. I was enchanted by this beautiful area along the Gulf of Mexico and plan to go back.

With such gorgeous scenery and the therapy of the great outdoors, Destin-Fort Walton Beach — a region that includes the beautiful adjacent Okaloosa Island — is the perfect place to take an RV vacation while you explore the sights, food and entertainment of the surrounding area.

For more information about visiting this area of northwest Florida, contact the tourism office at www.destinfwb.com.

At Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park, you can feed sea lions.

Here are our suggestions for this part of the Emerald Coast.

HENDERSON BEACH STATE PARK

Beaches are everywhere in this region, and there are too many to list. One particularly popular spot is **Henderson Beach State Park**, a 200-acre gem that includes 60 campsites. This park is a haven for endangered plant and protected bird species, and a great place to go birdwatching and catch a view of some rare feathered friends like Snowy Plovers, Least Terns and American Oystercatchers. You can enjoy walking on a winding nature trail or taking a scenic bike ride on a paved road. And, of course, you can sunbathe and swim somewhere along the mile-long expanse of water.

17000 Emerald Coast Parkway; 850-837-7550; www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/henderson-beach-state-park

GULFARIUM MARINE PARK

With its proximity to the Gulf of Mexico, you can't visit northwest Florida without learning more about the vast sea life that swims under the water's surface. At **Gulfarium Marine Adventure Park**, you can learn all about marine life and conservation efforts and get up close with some of them. Animal Encounters at Gulfarium include Dolphin Doodle, where you can team up with a dolphin to create art; Discover Stingray Bay, where you can snorkel with stingrays, bamboo sharks and other tropical fish; and Discover Sea Lions, where you can team up with a trainer for a session and help feed California sea lions. You can also learn about reptiles like gators and turtles at this fascinating place, which is a must for animal and nature lovers.

1010 Miracle Strip Parkway; 850-243-9046; gulfarium.com

DESTIN DOLPHIN CRUISE

You can spot adorable dolphins in their natural habitat on a **Destin Dolphin Cruise**, which offers both daytime and sunset cruises on a catamaran around Destin Harbor, where dolphins congregate. The 90-minute cruises also include sights of the mansions of the rich and famous.

500 Harbor Blvd.; 850-200-2260; sunshine Destin.com/dolphin-tours-in-destin/



PETER / ADOBE STOCK



RUTH P. PETERLIN / ADOBE STOCK

Fishing is a big draw to the Destin-Fort Walton Beach area.

DESTIN DINING

The Destin-Fort Walton Beach area has a large selection of restaurants that will please every palate, style and pocketbook. The city of Destin has the nickname "The World's Luckiest Fishing Village," so, of course, the city offers numerous seafood restaurants along with all other categories.

Foodie Favorite: First, we will go with a top recommendation of Destin foodie blogger Jamie Kamber: **Harbor Docks**, open since 1979. Here, you can get sushi, seafood and even pad Thai. Kamber especially loves the Backdown roll, with ingredients including shrimp, tuna, avocado and cream cheese. (538 Harbor Blvd.; 850-837-2506; www.harbordocks.com; open 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Sunday through Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays)

Top-Notch Shanty: For award-winning, locally owned seafood, check out **Stewby's Seafood Shanty**, with restaurant locations in Fort Walton Beach, Okaloosa Island and Crestview. Stewby's does a lot of takeout and drive-through orders, so you can take your dinner back to your RV to enjoy in private; or, you



EMAS / ADOBE STOCK

can eat on the heated and cooled enclosed deck. Regular diners especially love Stewby's seafood gumbo. (stewbys.com; hours vary by location)

Seasonal Dining: For a fun, breezy, waterside dining experience, check out **Al's Beach Club and Burger Bar**, which is only open March through October because it is exposed outdoor dining. You can enjoy spectacular gulf views while dining on burgers, fries, sides, milkshakes and craft beers at this Okaloosa Island eatery in The Boardwalk, a complex that is the hub of island entertainment. This is the perfect place to go after a day at the beach and before heading back to the RV camp. (850-226-4100; www.alsbeachclub.com; hours vary)



KRISTINA BLOKHIN / ADOBE STOCK

HarborWalk (above) and Downtown Fort Walton (opposite page, top) offer an array of activities, museums and dining options to visit.

At the many beaches along the Emerald Coast, you might catch sight of a tiny Snowy Plover (opposite page, bottom).

HISTORY AND FISHING MUSEUM

If you're a history buff or an angler, check out the **Destin History and Fishing Museum**, which has preserved and taught the city's history — of which fishing plays a big role — since opening in 2005. The museum has exhibits about the big Fishing Rodeo tournament, and about the history of snorkeling and scuba diving in the area. The history covered in the museum goes back to the 1830s pioneers who explored the area.

108 Stahlman Ave.; 850-837-6611; destinhistoryandfishingmuseum.org

HERITAGE PARK & CULTURAL CENTER

Go back even further into history and focus on the Fort Walton Beach side of this region, by visiting the **Indian Temple Mound Museum**. This museum explores the history of the Indian Temple Mound, a 12-foot mound that the Pensacola Culture built between 800 and 1400 C.E. In 1883, the Smithsonian Institution examined the abandoned mound, and several excavations since have produced thousands of artifacts — bone, stone, clay and shell — that are on display at the museum

telling the story of more than 12,000 years of Native American history.

The museum is located in the heart of historic downtown Fort Walton Beach, and right next to other attractions including the Garnier Post Office Museum, Camp Walton Schoolhouse Museum, Fort Walton Temple Mound and the Civil War Exhibit Building. All of these are part of the **City of Fort Walton Beach Heritage Park & Cultural Center**.

139 Miracle Strip Parkway SE; 850-833-9595; fwb.org/330/Museum---Heritage-Park-Cultural-Center

HARBORWALK VILLAGE

In Destin Harbor, **HarborWalk Village** is a fun hotspot where you can spend a day or evening. HarborWalk has water adventures, dolphins, pirate cruises, ziplining, numerous restaurants and more.

10 Harbor Blvd.; destinflorida.com/things-to-do/harborwalk-village-destin-boardwalk 🚗

Kellie B. Gormly is an award-winning journalist who writes for publications including The Washington Post, Woman's World and the History Channel. Her website is kelliebgormly.com.

EMERALD COAST RV PARKS

The Florida coast is all about the great outdoors, so it's the perfect place to take your RV and enjoy the comforts of home right by the beach and water. The region has numerous campgrounds within about a 20-mile radius where you can take your RV. Check out www.destinfwb.com/plan-your-trip/where-to-stay/camping-and-rv-parks/.

Henderson Beach State Park Campground: This lush setting along the Gulf includes 60 gravel-paved campsites for your RV, with electrical and water hookups, and air-conditioned showers and bathhouses. The campground includes hiking and biking trails, access to beach recreation, and nature galore. (www.destinfwb.com/little-adventures/camping/)

Destin West RV Resort: You can glamp in style at this resort, which is right on Choctawhatchee Bay and offers driveways with pavers, a picnic area, electrical and water hookups, and privacy from the landscaping. Guests at Destin West get full access to The Island Resort at Fort Walton Beach, which is across the road and offers a beach bar, restaurants and waterfall grotto pool. (850-200-4533; www.destinwestrvresort.com/)

Fred Gannon Rocky Bayou State Park: You can explore trails along calmer waters here at Fred Gannon, located in Niceville along Rocky Bayou. The park offers 42 RV spaces, and access to paddleboarding and kayaking. (850-833-9144; www.florida.stateparks.org/parks-and-trails/fred-gannon-rocky-bayou-state-park)

Bayview RV Campground: At this small campground, you can camp between the bay and beaches. It only has 10 sites and sells out quickly, but it might be worth contacting in case there's a vacancy. (850-837-5085; bayviewrvcampgrounddestin.blogspot.com)

Hurlbut Field FAMCamp: This simple, unassuming campground has space for 48 RVs, full hookups and picnic tables at each pad. They operate on a first-come-first-served basis but recommend calling ahead to check availability. (850-797-0103; www.myhurlbut.com/pages/famcamp.html)

Forest Grove RV Park: This cozy, 52-space campsite in Fort Walton Beach has extra-large concrete pads, a morning coffee bar, a dog park and more. (850-716-2892; forestgrovervpark.com)

A Cozy Corner RV Lodge: Cozy Corner is the new sister lodge to Forest Grove (see above), and the websites for each campground recommend checking the other when one is full. It is owned by the Light family, who have been in the RV-park business since 1956. The camp has WiFi, cable TV, a morning coffee bar and more. (850-716-2892; cozycornerrvlodge.com/)

Destin Village RV Resort: You can walk to the beach from this small, 27-lot, friendly campground. All lots are privately owned and rented. (850-960-2025; destinvillagervresort.com)

Destin Army Recreation Area: If you are active or retired military personnel, family or a Department of Defense civilian, check out this site. The 15-acre resort with an RV park, fitness facilities, fishing pier, a swimming pool and splash park stretches across Choctawhatchee Bay. (850-837-6423; moore.armymwr.com/destin)



ANDRIY BLOKHIN / ADOBE STOCK



RAHINNENESSY / ADOBE STOCK

BYWAY 38 CL: Affordable Diesel Luxury



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TIFFIN MOTORHOMES



From the cockpit to the bedroom, and every space in between, Tiffin has maximized space in a luxurious, yet affordable, motorhome.

BY STEVE BLUME

The 2024 Byway is Tiffin's most affordable Class A diesel motorhome, and it is uniquely designed and engineered around the Freightliner XCS strait rail rear engine diesel chassis with the efficient 340-HP Cummins B6.7 engine and Allison® 2500 MH 6-speed automatic transmission. It also comes with the 8.0-kilowatt Onan® Quiet Diesel generator on a slide tray. Tiffin Motorhomes President Leigh Tiffin frequently talks about developing features, floorplans and models through customer focus groups, and it's obvious that the Byway is a result of this process.

ENGINEERED UP

Production is standardized with select choices for efficiency and economy, and it pays off. This motorhome is not stripped down; it is engineered up. There are three models to choose from — the 35-foot, 2-inch Byway 33 FL with a single bath; and the two 39-foot, 6-inch options, the 38 CL with a bath and a half, and the Byway 38 BL, a bunk model with two complete

baths that can sleep up to seven people. The maximum towing capacity of the Byway is 5,000 pounds.

The Tiffin full body paint is standard on the Byway and has three layers of clear coat on top. Brilliant exterior paint options are Euro Blue, Nasa, Scarlett Thunder and Frosted Granite. The graphic design is clean, neat and modern. Girard® slide toppers and slide-mounted powered patio awning with integrated LED lighting are standard. That awning provides a perfect cover from the elements when you enjoy your favorite team or show on the built-in TV or relax to your favorite music playing through the Bluetooth-equipped soundbar.

The straight rail chassis allows full pass-through storage underneath in two compartments, so there is plenty of room for grills, chairs, rugs, lights and all the things we believe we need while “roughing it smoothly.” The longer models have approximately 118 cubic feet of basement storage, while the shorter 33 FL has 71 feet.



This 38 CL features the sofa bed and optional dinette with chairs behind the driver (above and top right).

The kitchen (bottom right) features a 15-cubic-foot refrigerator, a three-burner cooktop and a microwave with air fry.

This is a liquid propane (LP) designed coach that comes with (1) 35,000-BTU and (1) 30,000-BTU ducted furnaces and a Truma AquaGo™ Comfort instant water heater. There are also two 15,000-BTU air conditioners with heat pumps.

The Spyder Controls Multiplex System is awesome, and it now comes with the Firefly Integrations Mira Module, enabling you to control many coach functions directly from your phone.

CLASS-A COCKPIT

Walking in the door at eye level and up the steps, the first thing I noticed is the driver's cockpit. Freightliner makes around 80% of all Class A diesel pushers and the company knows what it is doing.

The digital dash cluster has all the latest technology and was created through their parent company Daimler Benz, which makes Mercedes Benz. The adaptive cruise control and collision mitigation system with forward warning and active braking are standard, a huge safety addition. The Byway comes with a tire pressure monitoring system, which displays right on the instrument cluster. The steering wheel and pedals are adjustable to make every driver comfortable.

If there was a problem on the road, I feel better knowing that Freightliner has my back with 24/7 customer service, almost 500 service centers and 100 Oasis dealers, which feature accommodations specifically for RV owners.



LUXURIOUS LIVING SPACE

All slides are hydraulic, and when extended create almost 400 feet of living space in the 38 CL. The traditional front TV that many customers never used is gone, replaced with beautiful Tiffin cabinetry across the front. An electric front overhead drop-down bunk is an option on all Byways, and it is a substantial improvement over previous manual versions in both access and comfort.

There are two luxury vinyl tile flooring choices (Seagrass and Monteano), three cabinet finishes (Sandstone, Shadow and White Linen) and two interior design collections (Moondance and Iron Mountain). These are all coordinated and elegant. The 38 CL that I toured had the White Linen cabinets with

panel doors, which made everything feel light and airy. Styles change over time, so the traditional heavy wooden boxes around the windows have been replaced with a softer coordinated custom valance.

The 72" booth dinette-sleeper is standard, but you can choose to go with table and chairs or a dinette bar, which is perfect for working on the road. This choice also affects your ability to add the optional fireplace and a disappearing TV on a lift. Sofa and theater seating options also vary by coach. If you want overnight visitors, choose the 68" air-coil sofa bed. If not, the theater seating sends an entirely different message.

SPACE GALORE IN THE KITCHEN AND HALF BATH

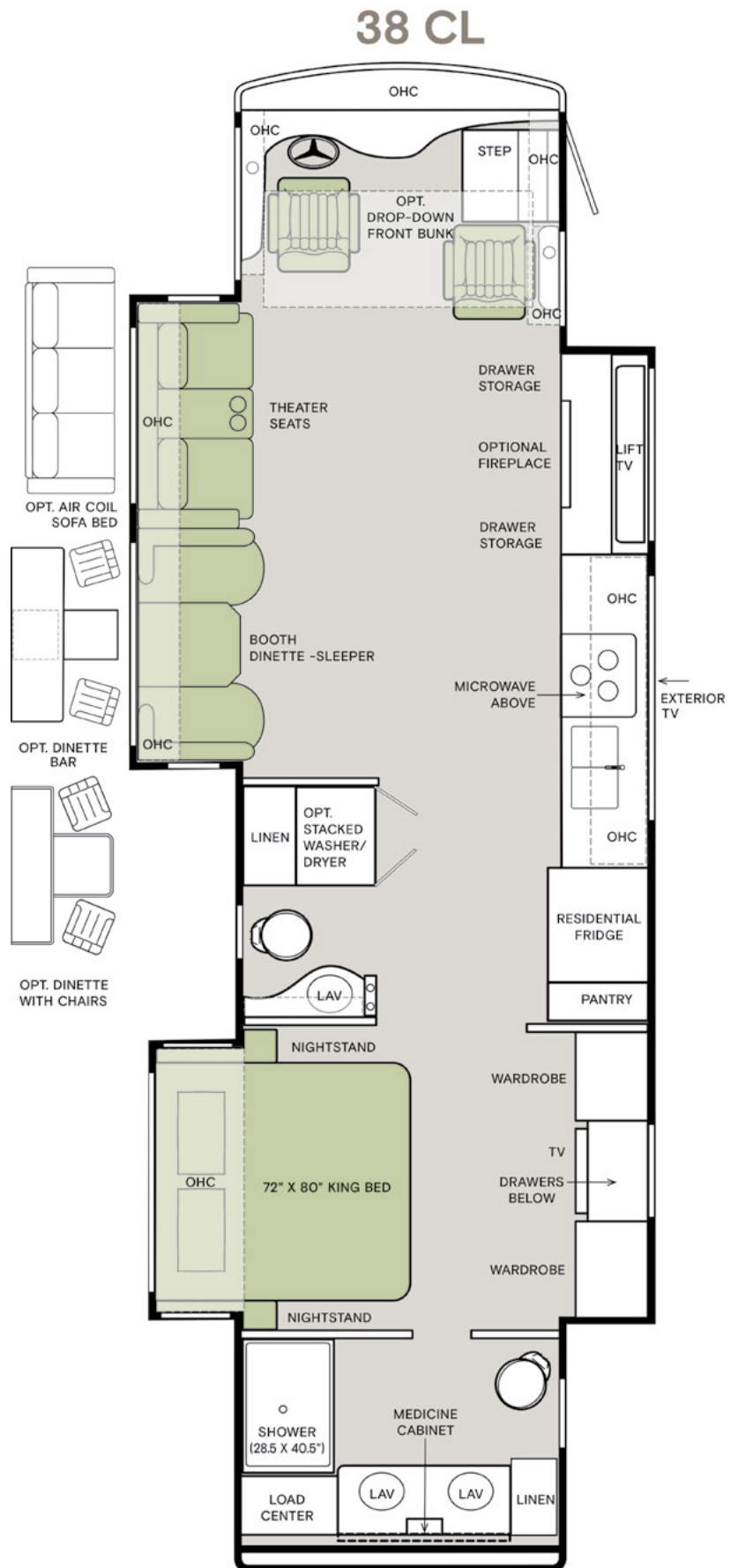
Cabinets are everywhere, providing much-needed storage where you need it. The solid surface countertop in the galley encompasses a large kitchen sink with a single lever faucet and pull-down sprayer. A 15-cubic-foot stainless steel residential refrigerator with bottom freezer is standard, along with a 1.7-cubic-foot smart convection microwave with air fry capabilities. A three-burner liquid propane cooktop is standard, and an oven range with liquid propane cooktop is an option. Behind it all is that huge, light-gathering panoramic galley window that all your neighbors will envy. The large pantry beside the refrigerator provides ample storage for even the most demanding cook.

Tiffin is creative with space planning, utilizing every square inch to its fullest. A stacked washer dryer combination is an option on all these coaches, but the 38 CL has it across from the galley rather than in the master bath. The result is a much bigger space in the master. More on that later.

The half bath is filled with beautiful cabinetry and a solid surface countertop. A full-length mirror across from the vanity mirror over the sink gives the illusion of a much larger space. This bath has a gravity flush toilet.

MAIN BEDROOM AND BATHROOM

Continuing down the hall to the bedroom, the beautifully finished track-mounted bedroom door slides out of the way to provide an unobstructed view from the front of the coach to the back, and easily closes for privacy.





2024 BYWAY 38 CL SPECIFICATIONS

STARTING MSRP \$321,293

DIMENSIONS

Overall length (approx.) ¹	39.6'
Wheelbase	252"
Overall width ¹	101"
Overall height	12' 10"
Minimum garage height	14'
Interior height	84"
Interior width	96"
Square footage (approx.) ²	395
Basement storage (approx.)	118 cu.ft.

WEIGHT LIMITS (in pounds)

GAWR – front	10,410
GAWR – rear	19,000
GVWR	29,410
Max. trailer weight ³ / Hitch rating	5,000
Hitch Rating	3,590
GCWR	33,000

CAPACITIES (in gallons)

Fuel tank	90
DEF tank	13
Fresh water	70
Grey water	65
Black water	65
LPG tank	24

QUANTITIES

Number of Slideouts	3
Sleeping Capacity ⁴	2 to 5
Sleeping Areas ⁴	1 to 4
Seat Belts	4 to 6
Seating Capacity ⁴	6 to 8

¹ The approximated coach width and length does not include side view mirrors and rear ladders.

² Square footage calculated with the slide-outs fully extended.

³ Maximum trailer weight is dependent on the loading and towing variables, which include the GVWR, GAWR and GCWR, as well as adequate trailer brakes.

⁴ Dependent on furniture and dinette options.

Standard Chassis and Drivetrain: Freightliner® XCS straight rail rear engine diesel chassis; Cummins® B6.7 340-HP diesel engine with 700 lb-ft torque; two-wheel drive, 160-amp alternator; Allison® 2500 MH 6-speed automatic transmission with lock-up torque converter; aluminum wheels; front and rear 255/80R 22.5 tires; (2) 12-volt flooded lead-acid chassis batteries; hydraulic leveling jacks with control panel; Neway® air ride front suspension; Freightliner® V-Series V-Ride rear suspension; custom-tuned Sachs® shock absorbers; rear radiator; front disc brakes and rear drum brakes; full air brake system with automatic slack adjusters; single stage Variable Geometry Turbocharger (VGT) engine brake; manual parking brake, driver side fuel fill; tire pressure monitoring, adaptive cruise control; automatic traction control; collision mitigation and forward warning and active braking; electronic stability control

Standard Construction: seamless one-piece gel-coat fiberglass molded roof cap; 5.25" formed roof insulation; tubular aluminum roof skeleton frames; quiet air cooling system; one-piece molded gel-coat fiberglass front and rear caps; steel cockpit overhead support frame; Crane® Composites Noble® Select all-composite exterior sidewalls; tubular aluminum wall skeleton frames; high-perfor-

mance thermal insulation in sidewalls; steel floor skeleton; engineered wood sub-flooring; 1.5"-thick thermal insulation in floor; steel basement construction; rust protective undercoating; hydraulic slide-out mechanism

Standard Electrical: liquid propane (LP) coach; Spyder Controls Multiplex System; Firefly Integrations Mira Module; centralized 5.5" Spyder System main monitor; interior entryway Spyder switch panel/ conveniently located Spyder switch panels throughout coach; 8.0-kilowatt Onan® quiet diesel generator; generator slide tray; 2,000-watt Pure Sine Wave inverter charger with auto-gen start and interior remote control; (4) 6-volt 230-amp hours flooded lead-acid house batteries; battery slide-out tray; (2) 15,000-BTU air conditioners with heat pumps; wall-mounted thermostat with built-in temperature sensor; (1) 35,000-BTU and (1) 30,000-BTU ducted furnaces; 50-amp shore power; prep for solar panels; auxiliary solar port; HD over-the-air antenna; park cable and ground satellite hook-up; prep for in-motion satellite; Blu-ray player; satellite receiver; prep for Wi-Fi booster; 12-volt breaker panel; 12-volt disconnect switch; rotary disconnect switches for house batteries, chassis batteries and inverter; GFCI outlets at galley, lavatories and sewer bay; 110-volt exterior receptacle; Surge Guard® transfer switch; USB receptacles throughout coach

Standard Plumbing: Truma AquaGo™ Comfort instant water heater; water heater bypass system; Aqua View Showermiser™; water filter; water pump switch access from Spyder

There are six large drawers in a wall-to-wall base cabinet that provide ample storage. A TV is mounted over the window in the center, with a wardrobe on each side. Once again, Tiffin made a brilliant design move by making these wardrobe doors slide rather than opening into the room.

A memory foam king mattress (72" x 80") is standard with a headboard and large storage cabinets overhead. The LED reading lights are within easy reach when your day is done.

The sliding bathroom door has a full-length mirror facing the bedroom. In the 38 CL, the solid surface countertop is wider than the other Byway models, and even has a double sink. The designers reclaimed some of the space typically reserved for the stacked washer, which is located in the middle of the coach on this floorplan. There are three

cabinets over the sink, two with mirrors. This bath utilizes a macerator toilet.

The shower is one-piece molded fiberglass (28.5" x 40.5"), with a skylight that not only brings in light but provides extra head space for a taller person. There is a handheld shower head with a slide bar to raise or lower it. The Aqua View Showermiser™ routes the cold water when you start the shower back into the fresh tank until it gets hot, saving your water and not filling your grey tank unnecessarily. If you ever dry camp, this is fantastic.

This article's title says it all: affordable diesel luxury. The Byway is a very well-designed coach loaded with features normally associated with much higher priced coaches. Perhaps this is the one you have been waiting for? 🚐

The 38 CL's bedroom (opposite page, left) has a memory-foam king mattress with overhead and under bed storage.

The bathroom (opposite page, right) features a double sink and lots of cabinet space.

system and sewer bay board; low-point water drain lines; black holding tank flush system; gravity water fill; heated fresh and holding tank compartment via heat duct; tank level monitor system; centralized exterior sewer bay with gravity black and grey evacuation ports; exterior rinse hose with shower head; sewer bay hand sanitizer and paper towel holders

Standard Exterior: full-body paint with (3) layers of clear coat; single-colored slide-out endwalls; high-performance protective film on front cap and select areas; Girard® side-mounted powered patio awning with integrated LED lighting; Girard® slide-out toppers; side-swinging exterior storage doors with gas shocks; lockable handles on compartment doors; motion-sensor lights in cargo bay; 120-volt and 12-volt outlets inside cargo bays; charcoal carpet cargo walls; fiberglass reinforced plastic basement floor; frameless, single-pane windows; exterior patio light; daytime running lights; docking lights; chrome power heated side-view mirrors with integrated cameras; exterior TV with soundbar; fast-charge USB ports within exterior TV compartment; lightweight entry door with integrated screen; entry door grab handle; deadbolt front entrance lock; automatic double-entry step; mud flaps

Standard Interior: handcrafted overhead cabinetry; carpeted step well with composite steps; manual step well cover; recessed step well lighting; living area TV; solid surface galley countertop; treated carpet in slide-out

floors; handcrafted slide-out fascia; soft touch vinyl ceiling; dimmable LED lighting; prep for washer and dryer; carbon monoxide detector; LPG leak detector; smoke detector; fire extinguisher; solar and privacy shades; soft-closing drawers; powered roof vents; interior grab handle at entry door; egress windows throughout coach

Standard Driver's Compartment: Ultrafabrics® Montage power driver and passenger seats; dual driver and passenger seat armrests; swivel bases for driver and passenger seats; adjustable seatbelt brackets; passenger seat footrest; tilt and telescoping steering wheel with integrated controls; adjustable accelerator and brake pedals; ergonomic dash with graphic accents; mounted dash fans; cupholders on driver and passenger side; digital dash cluster; (1) center storage drawer; generator start and stop rocker switch; USB dash receptacles; 12-volt dash receptacle; backlit dash rocker switches; passenger console controls for map light, fan and step well light; driver and passenger map lights; one-piece panoramic windshield; single-motor intermittent windshield wipers; automatic LED headlights; side-view cameras; color back-up camera; 7" high-definition LED multichannel monitor for side-view and back-up cameras; stereo with AM/FM radio, CD player and satellite radio; ceiling-mounted speakers; in-dash navigation system; overhead cabinetry with wooden panel doors; auxiliary start switch; concealed air horn; manual opening driver side window; solid, non-opening passenger side window; powered solar and privacy windshield shade; manual solar and privacy shades on side windows

Standard Kitchen: 15-cubic-foot stainless steel residential refrigerator with bottom freezer; three-burner liquid propane cooktop; 1.7-cubic-foot smart convection microwave with air fry; large kitchen sink with single-lever faucet and pull-down sprayer; galley overhead cabinets; panoramic galley window; task lighting; full tile backsplash; solid surface galley countertop, sink and cooktop cover

Standard Bedroom: memory-foam king mattress; under bed storage; bedside windows; overhead cabinets with headboard; bed comforter with throw pillows; handcrafted privacy door; LED reading lights; nightstand with hardwood finished tops; mounted bedroom TV; centralized entertainment center; wardrobe with drawers underneath

Standard Bathroom: (1) bathroom and (1) half bath; (1) porcelain master bathroom sink; solid surface lavatory top; handheld shower head with slide bar; shower skylight; towel and toilet paper holders; mirrored medicine cabinet, roof vent fan; one-piece molded fiberglass shower (28.5"x40.5"); (1) gravity flush toilet and (1) macerator toilet

Standard Driver's Side Furniture: 72" booth dinette with sleeper, plus 68" theater seating

Standard Passenger's Side Dinette and Furniture: 75" booth dinette/sleeper or 75" dinette with chairs

Tour Bus Home

After finding fame on “The Voice,”
Casi Joy Lankford enjoys making music and friends on the road.

BY STEVE HUTTON

When you think of the word “joyride,” what comes to mind? Sneaking out in your parents’ car as a teenager and praying that you wouldn’t get caught? Or maybe the word evokes memories of a beautiful meandering drive through the countryside.

For Bryan and Casi Joy Lankford, the word not only describes their whirlwind life of travel, but it is also the name of their Allegro Bus, which serves as their official tour bus, The Joyride. If Casi Joy’s name sounds familiar, it’s probably because you watched her on the 2017 season of NBC’s “The Voice.” With over 40 million video views and 350,000 social media followers, Casi has captured the fascination of music fans around the world.

CAREER TURNAROUND

According to Rolling Stone, Casi had one of the top 10 best blind auditions of all time, getting a four-chair turnaround with her signature yodel while singing Patsy Cline’s “Blue.”

“Most of the heated arguments among ‘The Voice’ coaches were unaired but went on for about 35 to 40 minutes,” Casi said. “I’m like, do I smile? Is this real? Is this a funny little skit we’re doing?”

She soaked in every moment as she tried to stay calm on stage while the judges threw insults at each other fighting for her to join their team. Casi decided on Blake Shelton as her coach.

Shelton, the nine-time winning coach of “The Voice” said, “She has this electric energy when she’s on stage and has these unique things that she can do vocally. She’s an edgier version of a country artist. She’s old school but has a youthful energy about her. There’s no stopping Casi Joy.”

And Shelton was right. After impressing fans across the nation, Casi worked hard to keep the momentum going, along with her husband, Bryan. “We were striking while the iron was hot. We had shows set up and we had music ready to release once I was out of contract with ‘The Voice,’” Casi said.

FINDING THEIR HOME

With Bryan’s sales background, it wasn’t hard for him to pitch Casi’s music to venues. Not only did they have plenty of videos from the show to showcase her skills, Casi had great name and face recognition from being on season 12 of “The Voice,” which had more than 12 million people tuning in on some of the episodes.

“It was pretty simple for me to say that this gal from ‘The Voice’ is coming through town — can we make something work? As long as we could fill the calendar, we could make a living,” Bryan said. “We were chasing gigs, and finally it was starting to work. It was clear how I could help — basically do anything but sing.”

Not only did Bryan provide managerial support, but he also ran live sound at her shows and produced several of her music videos with no formal training. Little did he know that he was about to add “tour bus driver” to his list of responsibilities.

Bryan and Casi owned a home in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, which sat empty most of the time as they traveled from gig to gig, cranking out the miles in their pickup truck and staying in hotels. Often, it’s one spouse or the other who is eager to downsize or eliminate their sticks-and-bricks home and move into a



Allegro Bus

CASI
JOY



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRYAN AND CASI JOY LANKFORD

Casi Joy and Bryan Lankford (and their pets) live full-time in their Tiffin Allegro Bus and travel to her various singing gigs.

Casi appeared on season 12 of "The Voice" and was on Blake Shelton's team.



If Casi Joy's name sounds familiar, it's probably because you watched her on the 2017 season of NBC's "The Voice."

traveling home, but in the case of the Lankfords, they equally were excited to find an alternative to how they were currently living.

Most tour buses utilized by artists aren't configured as a home for a couple. Instead, most have multiple bunks and are designed for several people to rest as they get from point A to point B.

"We were looking for our home," Casi said.

After exhaustive research, they determined that Tiffin provided the quality they were looking for. They knew some basic things they wanted: an Aqua-Hot system, a washer and dryer, and a king-size bed. In October 2019, they settled on a new-to-them 2009 Tiffin Bus 43QBP and affectionately named her The Joyride.

Things were looking fabulous for the Lankfords. They were finishing a strong year of engagements in their new traveling home. The holidays were approaching, and the 2020 calendar was overflowing with shows, gigs, festivals and concerts.

"It was going to be a great, great year, and it was something that we had built — just us two," Bryan said.

AFTER THE PANDEMIC

Early in 2020, the couple felt under the weather, battling what they assumed was the flu. Then more and more news came out about this new COVID-19 virus that was sweeping the globe, and it strongly resembled the illness they had just experienced. As January rolled into February, and February into March, the world began to shut down.

"We were still holding on, thinking that because concerts are outside, we will be able to make it through this. Sure, some of the events were scheduled for indoors, but we thought we might be able to slip through it." Bryan recalled. "Then it kind of kept going, and we started getting cancellations. Sometime in February or March it became a reality — our ability to make a living was totally shot."

The Lankfords spent a month or two during the height of the lockdown inside The Joyride,

parked in front of a friend's house. As the lockdown subsided, there were still many restrictions in place where the traditional idea of putting on a show was simply not possible. That's when they got creative.

"We thought, 'Well, camping is something we can do,'" Bryan said. "Why don't I call a bunch of campgrounds, and we will put on a Casi Joy show. You can see Casi from 'The Voice,' fresh off TV, and we will cut you a deal if you give us a place to stay."

These shows were special because they provided a small revenue stream for the Lankfords as well as a place for them to stay for a while, but they also allowed Casi to bring a sense of normalcy to so many people who had been isolated for an extended period of time.

"My set list changed," Casi said. "I wasn't just playing my own music. I was singing covers of a wide array of genres from Fleetwood Mac to Led Zeppelin to Taylor Swift. I just tried to give a dose of everything to make sure everyone left feeling a little fuller than before they got there."

"We made a lot of lifelong friends on this journey," Casi continued. "I remember Debbie and Sharon. We met them at my first show at Red Bay Acres, and we got to be real buddy-buddy with them and would hang out with them at the dog park. I think it was over a year later we were going to play in Red Bay again, and they changed their route and came to see us again. And there was Blake and Whitney in Auburn. I'm wearing the Crocs she gave me right now actually! They ended up inviting us to their home."

Blake Shelton said it best: "There's no stopping Casi Joy." And with her new album, "Miles and Maybes," there is no end to her and Bryan's love for the road in their beautiful Tiffin home. 🚐

Steve Hutton is a former PGA Professional and PGA Tour event tournament director. He and his wife, Joni, travel 30 to 40 nights per year in their Tiffin. They reside in Central Mississippi along with two adult sons, a grand baby and two furry companions.



BOURBON AND BLUEGRASS

We quenched our thirst for history and whiskey over three days exploring parts of Louisville, Bardstown and Lexington, Kentucky.

ARTICLE AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEVE BLUME





THE WORLD'S No. 1 BOURBON WHISKEY

JIM BEAM



KENTUCKY
D. BEAM

LUCKY STRAIGHT
BURBON
WHISKEY

Jim Beam

alcohol content by volume
alc. 40% vol.



At Frazier History Museum (above), visitors can see a bootlegger-era Model T that was modified to hold barrels of bourbon.

Tastings (opposite page) usually have four or five precisely measured samples at every seat.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, “It’s not the destination, it’s the journey.” And that was definitely true with the Kentucky Bourbon Trail — there is no destination, but rather a series of warm experiences scattered along the way, limited only by the time allotted to it. You don’t have to drink to enjoy the trail. If you are a lover of history, tradition, perseverance, small-town culture and admire a quest for perfection in a product, there is plenty for you to see here. Like bourbon, this trail needs to be sipped.

What is the Kentucky Bourbon Trail? It is not an actual trail, but a series of stops that showcase the history, proud tradition and culture of the signature bourbon distillers in the Bluegrass State. The Kentucky Distillers’ Association, a non-profit trade association, was formed in 1880 to do anything and everything that elevates the industry. In 1999, the group searched for ways to attract more visitors to the area and looked at similar in-

dustries, such as the California wine country and the Whiskey Trail in Scotland. And so, the Kentucky Bourbon Trail was born.

In 2012, the association also created the Kentucky Bourbon Trail Craft Tour, highlighting smaller and newer distilleries, to complement the original Kentucky Bourbon Trail experience. Due to the growing bourbon demand — since the trail opened, bourbon production in the state has increased 170% — there has been an explosive growth in visitors who want to see and learn more. Combined, the bourbon distilleries draw 1.5 million visitors each year from around the world and have become leading educational and tourism attractions. Of the more than 60 distilleries in the state, 18 are featured on the official trail and another 28 on the craft tour.

Noticeably missing from the Kentucky Bourbon Trail are two major brands — Buffalo Trace and Barton 1792 — that left due to a trademark dispute between their parent



company, industry giant Sazerac Co., and the Kentucky Distillers Association over a decade ago. Both have outstanding tours but are not part of the official trail.

It takes years to make this golden-colored liquid, so the scarcity of bourbon today is a result of decisions made years ago. There are almost 11 million barrels of bourbon aging in Kentucky, waiting for their time.

TRIP TIPS

A trail usually isn't traveled in a single direction, and neither is this one. With so many options, where do you start? First, spend some time on the official website, kybourbontrail.com. This site is a huge resource when planning a visit, including links to distilleries to schedule your tours. There could be as much as 70 miles between distilleries, and tour times and length require some planning. While on the website, order a Bourbon Trail Passport & Field Guide, which is full of re-

BOURBON, THE PRODUCT

All whiskey is spirit made from fermented grain and then aged in barrels, but the kind of grain and barrels determines the variety of whiskey. Bourbon is a type of whiskey, and what makes it distinct is the way it is manufactured and aged. In order for whiskey to be bourbon, it must be made with a minimum of 51% corn, aged in new, charred oak barrels, stored at no more than 125 proof and bottled at no less than 80 proof. What is proof? It is defined as twice the alcohol (ethanol) content by volume. For example, a bourbon with 50% alcohol is 100-proof bourbon.

A mash bill is the mix of grains used to make bourbon. These grains are cooked and fermented to begin the bourbon-making process. There are typically three grains in every bourbon mash bill: corn, rye or wheat, and malted barley.

Bourbon doesn't have to be made in Kentucky, but 95% of the world's bourbon is produced here. Kentucky has a huge shelf of limestone that runs right under the state, which happens to be a natural filter for water, which has little iron and contains calcium and magnesium. Corn, one of the ingredients of mash bill, thrives here and is plentiful.

Once charred oak barrels are filled with bourbon, they are stored in racks in warehouses called rickhouses. You can see them in the cities, on the outskirts, in the countryside — everywhere. Many more are under construction to keep up with the bourbon demand. The older warehouses hold around 11,000 barrels, but the new ones hold upward of 65,000 barrels. Many rickhouses are painted black for several reasons. One is to attract heat, but the biggest reason is to hide black distillery fungus. While the barrels are in storage, some ethanol evaporates, referred to as the "angel's share," and creates an environment where black fungus grows and although unsightly, it is not harmful. Painting the buildings black keeps the fungus from showing up as much.

Aging is affected by temperature. The summers must be hot enough for the bourbon to seep into the oak in those barrels, and the winters cold enough to extract it, helping it breathe and age, giving it a deep, consistent flavor.



Black fungus is a fact of life on rickhouses (top) across the state, which store over 11 million barrels of bourbon.

Bubbles rise as the fermentation of the mash bill begins (bottom).



sources to help you plan your trip, plus each distillery will stamp it to keep track of your progress. You can also pick up the passport in any of the distillery visitor centers.

Tip: Don't take every tour. You will enjoy this adventure much more if you schedule just a few tours and allow plenty of time to "drop in" on the others. Tours vary in price, last around an hour and usually cover bourbon production, barrel filling and storage, bottling and labeling, followed by a sampling — all the stuff history lovers like me love!

All the distilleries have visitor centers and gift shops, and most allow you to walk around the grounds within reason, so you can still see a lot without taking a full tour. The tastings are a great way to understand the product differences and are included at the end of most tours but can also be booked separately without taking a tour. Don't worry, portions are tiny and tightly controlled, so impairment is not likely.

PLANNING OUR JOURNEY

Every journey is personalized and requires planning, which is akin to piecing together a jigsaw puzzle to work around the available tour times and distances between them. Most distilleries are also in small towns.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE KENTUCKY DISTILLERS' ASSOCIATION



Visitors marvel at the “Chihuly at Maker’s Mark” (opposite page, left), a gorgeous glass installation.

The statue of Jim Beam (opposite page, right) was unveiled on what would have been his 150th birthday.

Buffalo Trace is the country’s oldest continuously operating bourbon distillery.

For example, there are 11 distilleries in and around Bardstown. There are also 11 in downtown Louisville, most within walking distance. Make sure to allot time to walk around the streets and take in the sights and sounds of rural America at its best.

On this trip, my wife, Nancy, and I wanted to enjoy the journey but not wear ourselves out. We elected to minimize RV travel days by staying in centrally located Bardstown, the “Bourbon Capital of the World,” which was first settled in 1780 and is Kentucky’s second oldest city. We opted to use our tow vehicle to roam freely, spending a day each in the Louisville (45 minutes away) and Lexington (an hour away).

Great experiences are better when shared, so we invited our long-time RV travel friends John and Kim to join us. Neither wife drinks distilled spirits, but that didn’t dampen their enthusiasm because there was so much to see and do. The only caveat: They would be subjected to my constant chatter about bourbon and historical facts as we navigated the state.

STARTING DOWN THE TRAIL

Many of the Kentucky Bourbon Trail distilleries were built off the beaten path long ago,

and we enjoyed driving on one-lane roads that wended for miles through farms, fields and rolling hills. Yellow wildflowers in endless meadows blessed us with color around every turn. We recommend driving your car, not your RV, unless you are absolutely sure of your routes.

We started our journey in Louisville at the **Frazier Kentucky History Museum** (829 W. Main St.), an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institute, on the original Whiskey Row. At the entrance, a Model T welcomes visitors, which is the official starting point of the Kentucky Bourbon Trail. The vehicle was modified to haul bourbon barrels, much like bootleggers did during Prohibition. Inside the museum, the Bourbon Bottle Hall displays every bottle of bourbon currently in production in the state of Kentucky, which is now over 250.

The very first tax levied in the new country was on distilled spirits to pay for the Revolutionary War. Now there are seven taxes on every bottle of Kentucky bourbon — 60% of every bottle goes to taxes and fees. That tax revenue has become vital to Kentucky’s bourbon-producing communities that use the money to help fund local fire departments, police departments, emergency medical services, school districts and more.

DINING IN THE BLUEGRASS STATE

Kentucky Staple: No trip to Kentucky would be complete without trying the famous Hot Brown sandwich, and we wanted to experience it in downtown Louisville at **The Brown Hotel** (335 W Broadway) where it all started. In the 1920s, The Brown Hotel drew over 1,200 guests each evening for its dinner dance. After hours of dancing, weary guests had worked up an appetite and made their way to the restaurant. Chef Fred Schmidt set out to create something new — an open-faced turkey sandwich with bacon and a delicate Mornay sauce. A Louisville tradition with worldwide appeal, the Hot Brown has been featured on many network shows and is a regular entry in many of the world's finest cookbooks.

Chocolate Nut Pie: You can also try **Kern's Derby-Pie**, another Kentucky tradition, at The Brown Hotel. Leudra and Walter Kern, along with their son George, created this unique chocolate nut pie in 1956. Premium chocolate and choice walnuts are blended into a decadent filling, then baked in a delicate crust. **Kern's Kitchens** still makes these today one at a time using the secret family recipe. You can find restaurants that serve it or have one shipped to your home at www.derbypie.com.

Step Back in Time: The historic **Old Talbott Tavern** (107 W Stephen Foster Ave.) in Bardstown was built in 1779 and has an illustrious list of visitors, including Daniel Boone, Andrew Jackson, Henry Harrison and Gen. George Rodgers Clark. History oozes from the walls, with a dozen bullet holes still visible in the plaster, a reminder of the

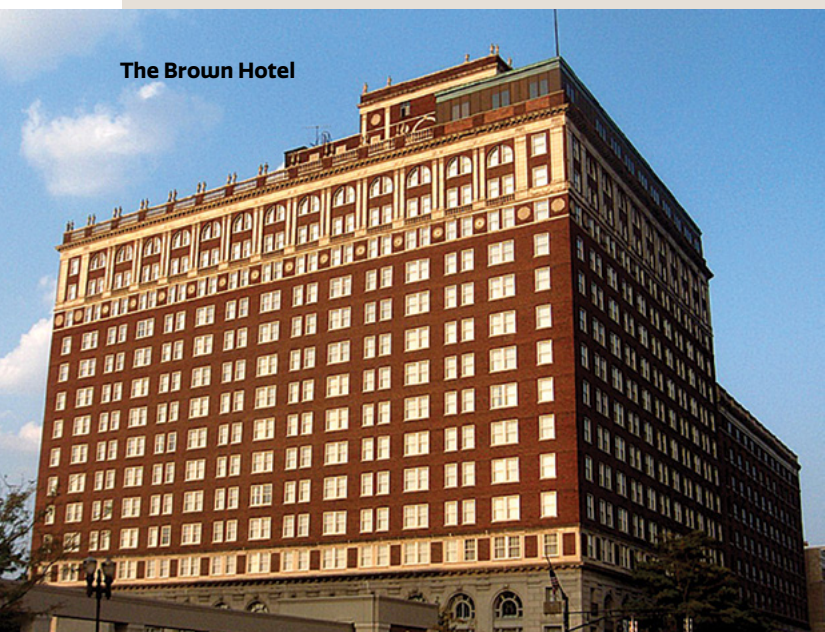


night Jesse James decided a little indoor target practice was in order. When Abraham Lincoln was 5, he stayed at the Tavern with his parents while they were involved in a land dispute. The Lincolns lost the case and moved to Indiana. The Tavern is the oldest western stagecoach stop in America, and it also lays claim to be the oldest bourbon bar in the world, with a bourbon menu that covers three pages. Dinner did not disappoint with the simple but spectacular Heinrich's Fried Catfish and the walnut crusted Walnut Bourbon Chicken, which was crunchy and sweet.

Country Breakfast at Its Best: Enjoy an authentic country breakfast at the popular **Mammy's Kitchen & Bar** (116 W. Stephen Foster Ave.) right in the heart of downtown Bardstown. This family-owned restaurant offers authentic southern hospitality and the best country cookin' around. Portions are large and the prices reasonable. The barn decor gives it a homey feel, and the smell of that wood combined with country ham and bacon cooking will drive you wild. It seems that every employee I spoke with has some connection to the bourbon industry, either as farmers, employees or just proud of feeding all of them.

Along the Kentucky River: We stopped at Glen Willis in Frankfort, which houses **Limewater** restaurant (900 Wilkinson Blvd.), named in homage to the limestone-filtered water in the area. Originally built on the land of Leestown Fort as a two-story log home in 1793, it was upgraded to brick in 1815. The shady back porch overlooking the tree-lined Kentucky River was quiet and peaceful. The spicy roasted red pepper hummus appetizer was the perfect introduction for the special, a takeoff on the Kentucky Hot Brown. The chicken wraps and homemade salad dressings were superb.

The Brown Hotel



DEREK CASHMAN / CREATIVE COMMONS



Inside a rickhouse at Woodford Reserve. The two red barrels (on the fourth shelf from the bottom) are for the 150th anniversary of the Kentucky Derby.



The Field Guide (above) is a great resource for planning your trip.



Evaporation (left) is constant and is called the "angel's share."

WHISKEY ROW AND BOURBON HISTORY

I caught up with Carla Carlton, who recounts the history of bourbon from the pioneer days to the current boom in her book, "Barrel Strength Bourbon: The Explosive Growth of America's Whiskey." According to her, whiskey has been part of American culture since the beginning. In the 1770s, just about every farmer distilled excess grain into whiskey, making a product they could barter like currency.

George Washington understood that soldiers were granted a daily portion of whiskey, and the new government needed suppliers. He built a distillery at Mount Vernon that in 1799 produced nearly 11,000 gallons, making it one of the largest whiskey distilleries in America at the time.

The Louisiana Purchase eventually opened up trade from Louisville to New Orleans, where flatboats were used to float whiskey and everything else down the river. Before steam-powered riverboats enabled an up-river return, the cargo and boats were sold, and the travelers started their journey back north. Loaded with their bounty, many used the Natchez Trace, a well-traveled trail, but robbers also knew the routes and seemingly lurked around every turn. Sometimes fast

horses were purchased specifically for the trip to help outrun the thieves and they ended up in Kentucky, perhaps contributing to the thoroughbred heritage today.

The French had been aging cognac and brandy in charred oak barrels for years to give them flavor and color, so during the 1800s, Kentucky distillers began using this process to add the distinctive amber color and flavor to their whiskey. People started asking for the whiskey coming out of Kentucky because it tasted better. Eventually, it was called bourbon.

During the late 1800s and early 1900s, a 12-block stretch of Main Street in Louisville along the Ohio River became the center of this new industry. Whiskey Row exploded with thriving whiskey distilleries, warehouses and other businesses.

In 1920, when the National Prohibition Act made it illegal to manufacture or sell alcohol, 8,000 jobs were eliminated in Louisville



Woodford Reserve continues to use copper pot stills for distillation.

alone. Across the state, 25 distilleries closed, but six were granted a license to produce whiskey for medicinal purposes. Doctors were allowed to prescribe up to one pint of whiskey every 10 days. Physicians wrote 11 million prescriptions per year through the 1920s. Prohibition lasted until 1933, and Whiskey Row melted away along with all the once-thriving bourbon businesses. After years of neglect, the new bourbon craze is changing all that, bringing renewed interest to smaller local distilleries, and this area of Louisville is where they are opening.

BACK ON THE TRAIL

We started down the row of distillery visitor centers, all within easy walking distance. First was **Michter's Fort Nelson Distillery** (801 W. Main St.), where its legendary pot still and cypress wood fermenter system have history dating back to 1753. We also visited two mod-

ern facilities, **Angel's Envy** (500 E. Main St.) and **Old Forester** (119 W. Main St.) — named for Dr. William Forrester, a Union Army hero, and the first bourbon to be sold exclusively in bottles.

You can't be here on old Whiskey Row and tell bourbon history without getting into Prohibition, so we booked the **Evan Williams Experience** (528 W. Main St.), which was literally a walk through history, with full-size street scenes and storefronts showing life along the river and historical Whiskey Row during its heyday. It is more of a museum experience, but there is actually a small distillery there, and you still finish with a tasting.

IN AND AROUND LEXINGTON

We ended our first day on the Bourbon Trail with a stop at the visitor center for **Jim Beam** (568 Happy Hollow Road, Clermont), the No. 1 selling bourbon in the world, which is located just off I-65.



Bourbon must be stored in new charred oak barrels (far left).

The Bourbon Bottle Hall (above) showcases every bourbon currently made in Kentucky.

Morning brought sunshine and mild temperatures, which only fueled our excitement. Our first scheduled full tour of the day was the historic Woodford Reserve Distillery in Versailles, 60 miles away, but our plan was to stop along the way in Lawrenceburg and check out the grounds and visitor centers of Four Roses Bourbon and Wild Turkey before ending the day with a tour of the historic Buffalo Trace Distillery in Frankfort. With these four major distilleries just outside Lexington, this would be another good location to stay in your RV if you don't want to stay in Bardstown.

Four Roses Bourbon (1224 Bonds Mill Road, Lawrenceburg) dates back to 1860 and doesn't look like the others with its yellow mission-style buildings. The origin of its name comes from the time when Paul Jones, Jr., the founder of Four Roses Bourbon, became smitten by a southern belle. It's said that he sent a proposal to her, and she replied that

if she accepted, she would wear a corsage of roses at the upcoming ball. She arrived wearing a corsage with four roses, and Jones later named his bourbon "Four Roses" as a symbol of his love and devotion. I celebrated that story by purchasing a rose-shaped ice-cube mold in the gift shop.

Inspired by the silhouette of a Kentucky tobacco barn, the new **Wild Turkey** (1525 Tyrone Road, Lawrenceburg) visitor center is an architectural marvel with incredible views of the Kentucky River. Sadly, it was closed for renovations during our visit, but we still stopped at the temporary gift shop. This distillery opened in 1869 by the Ripley brothers, and their bourbon was chosen to represent Kentucky at the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago. However, the bourbon did not get the name "Wild Turkey" until 1940 when a company executive on a turkey hunt shared his bourbon with his friends, and the iconic name stuck.



Maker's Mark labels are printed on the original 1935 press (above). A tour highlight is dipping your own bottle into the iconic red wax (right).

Woodford Reserve Distillery (7785 McCracken Pike, Versailles) is Kentucky's oldest and smallest major brand distillery, operating since 1812, and the only one still making bourbon in copper pot stills with a triple distillation process. The grounds are pristine, with the modern visitor center on a hill offering views of both the ancient rickhouses below and the tops of the massive new ones in the background. Since 1999, it has been the "Official Bourbon of the Kentucky Derby," and in 2018, it became the presenting sponsor of the "Greatest Two Minutes in Sports." On our tour, there were two barrels with red ends that were pointed out. According to our guide Tony, "These were specially created to be the 150th Anniversary Edition of the Run for the Roses next year, and are expected to sell for \$5,000 per bottle, with proceeds going to a designated charity."

Buffalo Trace Distillery (113 Great Buffalo Trace, Frankfort) has been in operation for more than 200 years, making it the country's oldest continuously operating bourbon distillery. During Prohibition, it was one of the few distilleries allowed to make medical whiskey. Years ago, buffalo roamed this area, and their trails were called "traces." They frequently crossed the river here, so in 1999 the distillery was renamed Buffalo Trace to reflect that heritage. Just about every family in



the area has had someone work here, passing the torch among family members, from one generation to the next. In 2013, the distillery was designated a National Historic Landmark. Most historic landmarks are buildings or monuments, but this is an actual living, breathing one. The sight of these full heavy barrels gently rolling on their own along tracks throughout the distillery is something to see, as gravity propels them from one stop to the next. Legendary Colonel E.H. Taylor Jr. was a descendant of two U.S. presidents, James Madison and Zachary Taylor, and many consider him to be the founding father of the bourbon industry. One of Buffalo Trace's premier products bears his name. There have been only six master distillers here since the Civil War. The previous master's tenure dates back to Prohibition!

LAST STOP

Our touring trip ended with the unforgettable **Maker's Mark Distillery** (3350 Burks Spring Road) located on Star Hill Farm in Loretto. This brand is credited with starting the trend that led to the explosive growth in bourbon that we are seeing today. In 1933 when Prohibition ended, the return of bourbon was short-lived. During World War II, the federal government once again halted bever-

The Kentucky Distillers' Association, a non-profit trade association, was formed in 1880 to do anything and everything that elevates the industry.

age alcohol production, so distilleries could switch to 190-proof industrial alcohol for use in ammunition, plastics, antifreeze and other needed products.

In the 1950s bourbon was making a comeback, and in 1964, Congress passed a resolution that declared bourbon whiskey to be “a distinctive product of the United States.” By the '70s, things were changing again, but not for the good. Warehouses were full of aging products, but the younger generation wasn't interested in it. They were drinking lighter distilled spirits like tequila and vodka along with beer and wine. Price drops further weakened bourbon's perceived value. The industry had to make bourbon cool again.

Enter Maker's Mark, which raised its profile and then its price. The Samuels family distilling history goes back 250 years and through eight generations. In 1953, T. William “Bill” Samuels Sr., a fourth-generation distiller, purchased Burks' Distillery in Loretto for \$35,000 to produce his new softer and sweeter bourbon. Five years later, while looking for a name for his new bourbon, his wife Margie, who collected fine pewter, each piece bearing the mark of its maker, proposed the name “Maker's Mark.” She also designed the bottle and the label, and suggested they dip each one in red wax as a seal similar to expensive cognacs. Over time and with creative marketing, those bottles with the red seal became instantly recognizable. Incidentally, one of the highlights of the tour is dipping your very own bottle in red wax at the end.

Other distillers took note of how Maker's Mark had positioned itself as special and sophisticated and began to follow suit, introducing new premium products like small batch or single barrel bourbon. Over time it worked.

Black buildings with red shutters dot the lush green grounds. The original quart house is still on the grounds at Maker's Mark Distillery as a National Historic Landmark. The original 1935 label printer is still used today for that authentic look.

Cooperage is the process of building barrels. Since 100% of the color and 60% to 70% of the bourbon flavor comes from the charred oak barrels, just about every distillery tour talks about them, but our tour here spent a little more time going through their construction, use and variations.

Back in Bardstown as we packed up the RVs to head home, I asked our friend Kim, “As a non-bourbon-drinker, what did you think?”

She replied, “I had more fun per dollar spent on this trip than on any other trip. The days were full of nonstop things to see and do, plus I learned way more than I ever expected. I never felt rushed, and it actually turned out to be very relaxing. I'm still not a bourbon drinker, though.”

Fair enough! 🗨️

RV CAMPGROUNDS

There are many beautiful state park campgrounds ([reserveamerica.com](https://www.reserveamerica.com)) and Army Corps of Engineer campgrounds ([recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov)) around the state of Kentucky.

For this trip, I chose **White Acre Campground** (3022 Boston Road; whiteacrescampground.com) located right in Bardstown at \$55 per night with full hookups. It is family-owned and -operated, was easy to reserve and had large, level gravel sites. It's not a resort by any means, has an older bathhouse, which we didn't need, and it was safe and quiet. When Allen White checked us in, he began telling me all the places we needed to visit, including the Tourist Commission in the old courthouse on the square. “Are you the mayor?” I joked. “No, I just go there every Thursday to pick up new brochures and find out everything going on during the week to share with our customers.” I love small-town folks promoting their small towns.

My Old Kentucky Home State Park Campground (kentuckys-tateparks.reserveamerica.com) is also located in Bardstown. It has a golf course and is only \$27 per night with electricity and water, but most of the sites were sloped and too short for our Tiffin.

Harvest Hosts (harvesthosts.com/kentucky) has several sites that were attractive, but moving each day was not an option for us.

DESTINATION: ROCKY MOUNTAINS, COLORADO

ELEVATED ADVENTURES



The mountain towns in and around Rocky Mountain National Park offers scenic wonders, history and lots of fun!

BY JOANN HIGH



F11 PHOTO / ADOBE STOCK

Colorado is known for the Rocky Mountains, its rich history and urban sophistication. People flock to the Centennial State because they love the outdoors, wellness and culture. The small mountain towns that dot the state embrace their pioneer past while creating their own hip vibe with festivals, farmers' markets, gastropods and breweries. We selected a handful of towns to stop by during a visit to Rocky Mountain National Park. All of these towns are located in higher elevations creating the perfect summer getaway to cooler weather — so plan now!

First determine the time of year you plan to visit; be mindful of the months where snow or high heat are possible. Then check each location's availability and read the cancellation policy carefully. You must book your lodgings in advance because popular campgrounds and hotels fill up quickly (some are booked six months in advance!) during peak season. Then decide on the number of activities you want to do in each location.

There are new national parks access permits, with many requiring a "timed-entry" ticket system to alleviate overcrowding. Several months before your trip, go to **recreation.gov** for the up-to-date rules of the park(s) you plan to visit. These rules are different for every national park, and they change often.

In addition to the timed-entry ticket, most national parks require a park pass. You can buy an annual park pass at the first park you enter. *Tip: Get a park map at every park entrance.*

FIRST STOP: ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

Enjoy **Rocky Mountain National Park's** (www.rockymountainnationalpark.com/) 415 square miles of spectacular vistas that includes 350 miles of hiking trails. Start your wildlife watch list — there are 270 bird species (including birds of prey, owls, woodpeckers and hummingbirds) and 67 mammals that call the park home.

A drive along the paved Trail Ridge Road begins at the warm lower meadows, climbs up to the Continental Divide with the highest paved road in any state park at 12,183 feet, and then meanders back down into the streams and meadows. There are two other drivable sections of the park: the paved Bear Lake Road with endless hiking options and the Old Fall River Road, a well-maintained one-way dirt road.

The park has two timed-entry ticket systems from late May to late October in two areas: "Park Access + Bear Lake Road" (tickets are for two-hour increments from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and "Park Access Only" (good for two hours from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.). Permits can be obtained in advance for rolling days, and 40% of tickets are released the day before at 7 p.m. *Tip: If you enter the park before 9 a.m. or after 2 p.m., you won't need a "Park Access" timed-entry ticket!*

Bear Lake Road winds 11 miles into the park and ends at beautiful Bear Lake. Many popular trailheads begin along this route. With the timed-entry permit system, parking is a lot easier. *Tip: Consider catching the hiker shuttle at the Estes Park Visitors Center (500 Big Thompson Ave.), which does not require a permit or parking space.*

If you're entering the park from the east, you can stay at **Estes Park**, a small mountain town which was established in 1859 by Kentucky-born pioneer, Joel Estes. The town offers shopping, views of the majestic mountains and pristine lakes, and sightings of free-roaming wildlife. But mostly, it's known for being just a few miles from the entrance to Rocky Mountain National Park.

If you dare, stay at the Stanley Hotel (www.stanleyhotel.com/), a grand landmark that opened in 1909 and is perched on a hill over-



MARTIN KUBIK / ADOBE STOCK

The small Boreal Owl is found in the Rockies and is known as a sit-and-wait predator, hunting for rodents and small mammals from perches.



ZEHNDER/ADOBE STOCK

looking the town. Take “The Shining Tour” and find out about the reported haunting and paranormal activities in and around the hotel. Novelist Stephen King spent one night here, which inspired him to write “The Shining.” Other places to stay include Manor RV Park (trouthavenresorts.com/manor-rv-park) or Elk Meadow RV Park (elkmeadowrv.com/).

If you prefer to enter the park from the west entrance, you can make **Grand Lake and Granby** your home base. You can park your Tiffin at Sun Outdoors RV Resort (www.sunoutdoors.com/) or Grand Lake Lodge (www.grandlaketodge.com/).

From this area, you can see the stark devastation from the October 14, 2020 East Troublesome Fire, which burned 193,000 acres. During our visit, we witnessed the undergrowth returning, but it will be decades before the land will heal.

Inside the park, the Trail Ridge Road runs along the Kawuneeche Valley before beginning the rise in elevation and switchbacks. This valley is home to herds of elk, yellow-bellied marmots and bighorn sheep. Stop at the Continental Divide, which sep-

arates the river systems and water flowing to the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean basins, at Milner Pass at 10,759 feet. Continue north on Trail Ridge Road to the Alpine Visitor Center.

SECOND STOP: IDAHO SPRINGS AND CENTRAL CITY

Both these historic mining cities are convenient to I-70. Idaho Springs is in the valley along Clear Creek, while Central City is on the mountain. **Idaho Springs** is where the Colorado Gold Rush began on January 7, 1859. You can relive that history with Argo Mill Tours (argomilltour.com/) or enjoy modern life at the town’s various shops and restaurants.

Drive up the Mount Evans Scenic Byway to the peak of 14,265-foot Mount Evans for breathtaking views. Be on the lookout for marmots and mountain goats. If you prefer an exciting adventure, try Mount Evans via ferrata for rock climbing, rappelling and ziplining.

Hungry? Plenty of choices in Idaho Springs, including Beau Jo’s (www.beaujos.com/), Tommyknocker Brewery (www.tommyknocker.com/) or

The Stanley Hotel in Estes Park opened in 1909 and was the inspiration for the haunted Overlook Hotel in Stephen King’s “The Shining.”



Peak 8 in Breckenridge is a popular ski resort.

PHOTO: SHONSTOCK / ADOBE STOCK

DO'S AND DON'TS

- DO** get up early to see wildlife and avoid crowds.
- DO** pack a good lunch and find that perfect view for lunch.
- DON'T** expect to have cell service or internet.
- DO** carry a map to navigate your drive or hike.
- DO** stay hydrated by drinking LOTS of water. The heat is tricky, and you may need more water than usual. Pack extra water bottles in the car or your backpack, and remember to bring snacks.
- DO** check the weather each morning and watch for pop-up thunderstorms. Rain can make some roads and hiking trails impassable. Flash floods are natural in this area.
- DO** use SPF lip balm and wear sunscreen, a hat and sunglasses. The sun is more intense at higher elevations. Dress in layers because hot days can turn chilly quickly.
- DO** know the effects of higher elevation. Your body may need a few days to adjust, and you may experience altitude sickness (headache, dizziness, shortness of breath, problems sleeping). Take it easy for the first couple of days and drink more water (and less alcohol).
- DO** know your limits and your vehicle's on mountain roads because many are not paved. Consider renting a four-wheel drive, riding the shuttles or joining a tour.

The Buffalo Restaurant (www.facebook.com/p/The-Buffalo-100069093261696/) for a bison burger.

Established in 1859 as a mining town, **Central City** takes you back in time with an Old West charm, complete with three houses of worship and seven gambling houses. Try your luck at the quarter drop slots at The Famous Bonanza Casino (famousbonanza.com/) and Dostal Alley Brew Pub and Casino (dostalalley.com/).

Central City also celebrates Colorado's Gold Rush with Hidee Gold Mine Tours (www.hidee-goldmine.com/). If you prefer hiking, trek up the moderate 1.5-mile round trip to Saint Mary's Glacier, which isn't a glacier but a semi-permanent snowfield and beautiful lake. The views are breathtaking, making the hike worthwhile.

THIRD STOP: BRECKENRIDGE AND FRISCO

Breckenridge is known for its world-class ski slopes, but it has a small mountain-town feel with many historic landmarks and buildings. The locals call it "Breck" for short. You'll enjoy browsing the shops and enjoying the perfect weather and clear mountain air during the summer.

Try one of these overnight accommodations: Grand Colorado on Peak 8 (grandcolorado.com/), Hyatt Residence Club at Main Street

MELISSAMN / ADOBE STOCK



Idaho Springs celebrates its history with gold mine tours.

ZACK FRANK / ADOBE STOCK



Take in the scenic beauty of Hanging Lake (left) in Glenwood Canyon.

STELLAMC / ADOBE STOCK



Frisco (right) was built during the Colorado silver boom.

Station (www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/colorado/the-residences-at-main-street-station/bresh), The Willoughby Cottage (www.facebook.com/willoughbycottage/) or Tiger Run Resort (www.tigerrunresort.com/).

Activities abound in Breckenridge. You can cycle down the Blue River Riverwalk or enjoy a round of golf at the Breckenridge Golf Club (www.breckenridgegolfclub.com/) that boasts three Jack Nicklaus signature championship nines with mountain views. Drive up Highway 9 to the 11,500-foot Hoosier Pass (between Breck and Fairplay). Hike the stunning loop trail, a 2.8-mile loop with views of three gorgeous peaks: Mount Cameron, Quandary Peak and Mount Bross. Another scenic drive is 11,990-foot Loveland Pass, where you have spectacular views above the treeline. This highway runs from I-70 to Keystone, Colorado.

Take a free gondola to the ski area known as Peak 8, which has three on/off locations before the top. At the very top, you'll find hotels, restaurants, shops and the Epic Discovery Park (www.breckenridge.com/explore-the-resort/activities-and-events/summer-activities/epic-

[discovery.aspx](http://www.breckenridge.com/explore-the-resort/activities-and-events/summer-activities/epic-discovery.aspx)). Kids will enjoy searching along Trollstigen Trail for Isak Heartstone, a 15-foot tall wooden troll sculpture made from recycled materials that was created as part of the Breckenridge International Festival of Arts.

Our favorite places to eat at Breck include Blue River Bistro (www.blueriverbistro.com/), Giampietro Pasta & Pizzeria (www.giampietropizza.com/), Breckenridge Distillery (breckenridgedistillery.com/) where you must try the bourbon whiskey, Whiskey Star Smokehouse (www.whiskeystarbreck.com/) where the ribs are incredible, Olive Fusion store (olivefusionstore.com/) where you can taste olive oils and balsamic vinegars, and breakfast at the Blue Moose (www.bluemooseatbreck.com/).

Just 10 miles away and surrounded by mountains and the Dillon Reservoir, **Frisco** has a small-town charm with big 1873 history. The town started with a Frisco City sign on a cabin because the locals were hoping to get a train route through the city. By 1882, there were two railroads! Today, the mountain city is surrounded by outdoor adventures, great weather and easy access from I-70.

Take a day trip from Glenwood Springs to see the Maroon Bells, which are named for their unique color and bell-shaped ridges.



ANDRIY BLOKHIN / ADOBE STOCK

Adventurers will enjoy renting an ebike from Rebel Sports (rebelskiandbike.com/) to tour around Dillon Reservoir or a morning sea kayak tour with Adventure Paddle Tours (adventurepaddletours.com/). Landlubbers will enjoy the Dillon Farmers Market (www.townofdillon.com/events/dillon-farmers-market) on Fridays.

Best dining options in Frisco: Butterhorn Bakery & Café (butterhornbakery.com/) for breakfast, margaritas and tacos at Nuevo Vallarta (www.nuevovallartafrisco.com/) and BBQ and a brew at Highside Brewing (highsidebrewing.com/location/frisco/).

Our preferred places to stay: Frisco Lodge (www.friscolodge.com/), Hotel Frisco (www.hotelfrisco.com/) and Dillon Comfort Suites (www.choicehotels.com/colorado/dillon/comfort-suites-hotels/co001).

FINAL STOP: GLENWOOD SPRINGS AND MAROON BELLS

The historic town of Glenwood Springs has it all. Located on I-70 along the Colorado River, the town is even an Amtrak train stop. From top-rated chefs to therapeutic hot mineral springs and outdoor activities, this mountain town will inspire your soul!

Must-do activities include a visit to Glenwood Hot Springs Pools (www.hot springspool.com/) or Yampah Spa (yampahspa.com/), where you can go to the hot springs vapor caves,



JOANN HICH

In Breckenridge, look for this 15-foot sculpture of a troll, which was created as part of an art festival.

get a private mineral tub soak or a massage. Spend an afternoon riding up scenic gondola to Glenwood Caverns Adventure Park (www.glenwoodcaverns.com/) and enjoy rides and a cave tour. Don't forget to hike up to Potter's Field Linwood Cemetery's (www.glenwoodrec.com/272/Cemetery-Information) Potter's Field



and look for famous gunslinger Doc Holliday's grave marker!

To take in the scenic beauty of the area, go on the five-mile round-trip hike to Hanging Lake (visitglenwood.com/hanginglake/), which requires a time-entry reservation. Or drive to picturesque Glenwood Canyon (visitglenwood.com/things-to-do/glenwood-canyon-path/) and bike along the river.

If sports are more your thing, check out Glenwood Springs Outdoors (www.glenwood-springsoutdoors.com/) where you can book a guided water trip or try the indoor archery range. For a white-water adventure, contact Colorado Whitewater River Rafting Company (coloradoraftingcompany.com/). Enjoy a round of golf at the Glenwood Springs Golf Course (glenwoodspringsgolf.com/).

Our top dining choices are The Bluebird Café (bluebirdcafeglenwood.com/) for breakfast and the Riviera Supper Club and Scratch Kitchen (www.rivieraglenwood.com/), where the beef wellington and crème brûlée are perfect.

Overnight accommodations that we recommend include Glenwood Springs West/Colo-

rado River KOA Holiday (koa.com/campgrounds/colorado-river/), The Hotel Denver (thehotel-denver.com/), Glenwood Hot Springs Lodge (www.hotspringspool.com/lodge/) and Hotel Colorado (www.hotelcolorado.com/).

A bonus day trip to **Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness of the White River National Forest** (www.fs.usda.gov/whiteriver/) is a great way to end your Colorado adventure. The Maroon Bells are two jagged, colorful mountains — Maroon Peak (14,163) and North Maroon Peak (14,019). These twin peaks were named for their unique color and their distinctive bell-shaped ridges.

You can reach Maroon Bells via a one-way road that can be driven, hiked or biked. However, the best way to get there is the shuttle operated by the Aspen Chamber of Commerce (aspenchamber.org/plan-trip/trip-highlights/maroon-bells/reservations/). 🚗

Mountain towns like Glenwood Springs offer many sporting activities, including white-water rafting.

This article was first published in "Summertime Adventures in Colorado" by Joann High, a part of the "Planning Made Easy Series." See all her books at her website, www.WanderBusTravels.com.



Solo RV Living

Some soul-searching along with these four tips will help you transform your life as you embrace nomadic independence.

ARTICLE AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY JENELL JONES



The author about to hike the spectacular sandstone formations known as The Wave, which is part of Coyote Buttes North. You must be chosen via a lottery to gain access to the area.



Embarking on what I hoped would be the journey of a lifetime, I steered my brand-new Tiffin Allegro Open Road 34 PA out of the dealership lot. I looked over and saw that exhilaration and trepidation were riding shotgun. Having just shed the weight of possessions, I downsized my life to the bare essentials.

I stood at the edge of realizing my long-held dream of traversing the country full-time. Prior travels in a modest 21-foot Class C had whetted my appetite for exploration, but the allure of this Class A was irresistible. However, as dusk fell, an unexpected wave of panic swept over me, casting shadows of doubt on my bold decision.

UNENCUMBERED LIFE

Retiring a year earlier marked a profound shift in my life. Suddenly, I was unencumbered — no children to care for, no husband to consider and no demanding job to tie me down. The sweet taste of freedom enveloped me. With a desire to explore the world, I sold my house and stowed my belongings in storage. Armed with two large suitcases — one

with clothes suitable for warm climates, the other for colder destinations — I embarked on a nomadic journey that saw me living out of airports for the better part of the next six months.

During this period, I hiked the Amalfi Coast, canoed the historic Lewis and Clark Trail, immersed myself in the culture of Paris and indulged in the beauty of the Champagne region of France. A two-week sojourn in London added another layer to my new-found freedom, yet the thrill began to wane as fatigue set in and my savings rapidly dwindled.

FINANCIAL FREEDOM

Amidst the whirlwind of experiences, I had ample time for reflection. It became clear that while the attraction of constant travel was undeniably appealing, what I truly yearned for was a sense of home on the road. The realization sparked a new dream — to travel with the comfort of having my own house accompany me, a sanctuary amid the ever-changing landscapes of my adventures.

This would also provide the financial freedom I sought. Financial people tell you to



build wealth by increasing your income. I did that for many years. At my stage in life, however, the option to make more money was no longer a reality. However, I knew that the simple act of decreasing my living expenses had the same effect as an increase in my income. I could control my expenses by getting rid of my sticks-and-bricks house, the pool and yard maintenance, HOAs and taxes.

I made a strategic decision to invest in a superior RV and high-quality solar equipment; a choice that has proven immensely rewarding because I minimized my reliance on RV resorts and conventional power sources. This investment not only translated into significant cost savings but also afforded me the freedom to explore off-the-grid, natural havens of beauty.

EMBRACE THE UNKNOWN

Amidst the busy-ness of getting ready for this new chapter, there lingered a daunting element — the uncertainty of the unknown. It was this ambiguous future that whispered doubts and fears in my ear, reminding me that even with my sense of adventure, the

journey ahead remained an enigma waiting to unfold. The endless “what-if” scenarios that plagued my mind were the source of stress and worry.

After all, the majority of us have experienced a daily regimen since infancy, initiated by our parents to synchronize our sleep and feeding schedules with their own. This routine may be monotonous, but at least it’s familiar. Throw an RV into the mix and everything is new and unfamiliar. There is so much new terminology and skills to learn. Remember when someone had to explain the difference between black and grey water? Or my favorite: GVW, GVWR and GCCC.

To be sure, this newness was fascinating, and I wanted and was ready for a big change. But like most people, I didn’t realize how pervasive this uncertainty could be. Life on the move means dealing with daily surprises. In the ever-changing rhythm of the road, flexibility must be your constant companion.

ENJOY A SLOWER PACE

Do you need your patience tested repeatedly? The RV lifestyle has been an unexpected

The author's adventures have included climbing down a slot canyon (left) and hiking the Wire Pass Trail (right), both in Utah.

teacher of patience in my life. Before, even a microwave felt too sluggish, and I'd hurriedly interrupt when I felt that stories were meandering. Now, I've reshaped my perspective thanks to this RV life. Embracing a slower pace on the road has unveiled a new-found appreciation for patience — an invaluable lesson that took an entire life to learn.

Navigating the sheer magnitude of my new RV, its length spanning nearly 60 feet when combined with my car, also physically scared me. Remember when the salesperson suggested camping near your house for a couple of days to figure out how to operate all the motorhome's bells and whistles? I didn't do that. Departure loomed in just three days, the maiden journey would be from Fort Worth, Texas, to rendezvous with fellow solo RVers in California.

WHEN IN DOUBT, RESEARCH!

Research can be a beacon in moments of uncertainty, a torch to dispel the shadows of the unknown. I sought solace in facts, delving into information that could calm the grip of fear tightening around me. What I discovered echoed a familiar truth: Much like the irrational fear of flying despite its safety compared to driving, RVing emerged as a remarkably safe mode of travel.

Empowered by internet knowledge, I found reassurance in statistics, calming my RV

driving worries. Several factors play a role in RV accidents. Elements such as lack of experience, driving at high speeds, fatigue, overloading the RV, misjudging turns, and struggling to come to a stop were within my sphere of control.

SOLO WOMEN TRAVELERS

Embracing these internet finds felt like clutching a lifeline, reassuring me that I wasn't embarking on something entirely insane. I expanded my search to include safety specifically geared for women traveling solo. Amidst the logistical worries of breakdowns and wrecks and the labyrinth of unknown roads, a more profound fear gripped me: the vulnerability of traveling alone.

What if I got lost? What if someone followed me?

The weight of these uncertainties bore down on me. Safety concerns, particularly among single female campers, often loom as the paramount reservation when embracing the RV lifestyle. Once more consulting the all-knowing web, I stumbled upon a trove of useful tips, and among them, I found these particularly relevant for the solo traveler.

TIP 1: KNOW YOUR RV

Mastering the art of driving an RV demands respect more than fear. It's a skill to cultivate, not a daunting task to avoid. Maneuvering an

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

The notion of adaptability often carries a positive connotation, suggesting a willingness to embrace change and diversity. However, in reality, our capacity for flexibility is often tested when faced with the unknown or the unfamiliar.

Examine the following questions and respond to them based on your current state, rather than projecting how you anticipate being once you embark on your full-time RV life.

- Do you find contentment in solitude and can you go for days without engaging in meaningful conversations with others?
- Do you have the desire to truly live independently?
- Do you have an adventurous spirit? What is the last thing you did that was adventurous?
- Are you ready to learn new things? New terminology?
- Can you adapt and overcome?
- Can you eat by yourself in a restaurant? And I mean a real one with napkins and low lighting, not fast food.
- Do you look forward to what is next, or do you dread it?



RV may be reminiscent of the tentative moments behind a car's wheel when you were a teen. Yet, as familiarity blooms with time, so does confidence — it's a matter of practice.

Learning basic RV maintenance can be a cost-effective game-changer and confidence builder. I've honed skills like changing engine and generator oil, swapping filters and even carrying spare parts like a water pump — an unexpected savior during a Pennsylvania parking lot pit stop. Swiftly swapping it out was a breeze.

Essential tools like a portable battery jumper pack and a portable tire air compressor have proven to be invaluable. Additionally, channel-lock pliers and rubber gloves with extra grip make tackling tight caps a whole lot easier.

TIP 2: FIND YOUR TRIBE

The moment you opt for the RV life, you're seamlessly embraced into the camping community. Countless forums exist where questions find eager responses, and an abundance of websites house a trove of insightful information.

For solo campers, groups such as the Tiffin Chapters and the Wandering Individuals Network offer camaraderie, support and group travel opportunities. I follow the Facebook pages of Tiffin RV Solo Travelers, Tiffin Allegro

Open Road, Full-time RV'ers and Dreamers, and Solo Women RV. There are also some great podcasts — I listen to "RV Life," "Permission to Pivot" and "The RV Entrepreneur."

TIP 3: GET SOME EXTRA SECURITY

I've never felt more secure than when I'm in my Tiffin. It's been my haven at rest stops, truck stops and parking lots. Those high-set windows act like a natural barrier — bad guys would have to carry a step ladder to breach them. As for the front door, it's a fortress; it would take a crowbar and a lot of effort to open it. I'd likely catch any unusual sounds before anyone could get close. The market is also brimming with an array of affordable security products tailored for RV safety.

However, creating a secure perimeter around the RV isn't just about physical measures. Being alone on the road demands a heightened sense of self-sufficiency, where you must anticipate and be equipped to address a range of potential issues, from minor inconveniences to more significant hurdles.

Every RV should have the standard list of first aid kits, flares, warning lights and battery chargers. I also encourage you to create and keep a backpack of essentials in the trunk of your tow; keep it separate from the RV. Mine is always stocked with food and water that will last for three days.

The author invested in an Allegro Open Road (left) equipped with solar to give her the freedom she wanted. She also learned some basic RV maintenance, including changing the oil (right)!



Living and traveling solo requires flexibility and patience, but the rewards are definitely worth it.

I also have a pair of comfortable walking shoes, pants, shorts, medical supplies and copies of important paperwork. I want to be ready if I ever have to leave my RV in minutes or on the side of the road. Of course, I hope to be uber close to a fabulous hotel that has a vacancy and offers a senior discount.

TIP 4: USE COMMON SENSE

This should really be the No. 1 tip for safety. That gut feeling, that subtle alarm bell signaling discomfort, should never be ignored. Women are generally pretty attuned to their inner voice. Acknowledge any sense of unease and don't dismiss it. I removed myself from a camping spot once, and to this day I cannot tell you why. I looked and walked around, and although I didn't see anything unusual, I just knew to move.

Mastering the mechanics and safety is two-thirds of the preparedness for solo RVing. The mental game is just as vital. Uncertainty is stressful, and many new RV adventurers underestimate how they will be affected by being so disconnected. We are, after all, social beings.

When you start a full-time adventure, you trade the familiar for the unfamiliar, and many full-time RVers express frustration with the superficial interactions between RVers that are common in this lifestyle.

EMBARK ON YOUR PATH

Living full-time in an RV means making a serious adjustment to your mindset and lifestyle. It helped me zero in on what was important. If the prospect of this lifestyle is a dream, take the initiative and begin to make it a reality. Resist the influence of naysayers or well-intentioned friends and family who may seek to dissuade you.

To echo the sentiments of Barbara Bush, consider that, in the final chapters of your life, regrets are more likely to stem from unfulfilled experiences rather than unrealized achievements. Embrace your desires and embark on the path that resonates with your true aspirations.

Get a Tiffin and start traveling! 🚐

Jenell Jones lives and travels extensively in her RV. She has looped the U.S. three times and visited 41 of the 62 national parks. She owns and operates the Wandering Individuals Network (wanderingindividualsnetwork.com), an RV club for the solo traveler.

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