

What Is Your “Why”?

Whether you're planning to RV solo or as a couple or family, start by asking some questions about your reasons for wanting to do this, to define your top goals and priorities. The answers are going to be different for everyone, but it's important for you to understand your primary driving forces for wanting to live the RV lifestyle, because they will help you know what to focus on when creating your action plan and as you make decisions. Ask yourself:

What excites you most about living the RV life?

What is your primary financial goal while RVing—to save money, maintain your current financial status, or spend money?

What do you and your traveling companions want to experience together?

What places and people do you want to visit on your travels?

How social do you want your RV life to be?

What kinds of skills or experiences do you want to develop?

What do you want to change or improve in your life?

How do you imagine RVing will enhance your life?

How long do you see yourself doing this?

After you've hung up the keys, what do you want to look back on and know you have achieved through your RVing experience?

Your answers to these questions will have a very big impact on your approach to planning and preparation. We'll continue making references to this "why" exercise throughout the book to keep you on track in making the right decisions for you.

WHAT'S YOUR STYLE?

The better you know yourself, the better you'll be able to make decisions that support your values and priorities. Remember those big rocks in the jar we talked about earlier? When you plan and make decisions for your RV life based on what's most important to you (the big rocks), you'll be more likely to stay on track and not get swayed by less important things (the pebbles and grains of sand).

Consider the things that are important to you and ask questions like:

What's your style of RV travel? Are you a camper who likes the idea of staying out in nature and off the grid? Are you happy staying in average RV parks or more rustic campgrounds with only basic hookups? Or are you a gl camper who prefers modern RV resorts with nice amenities and the ability to hook up to utilities?

Are you someone who is okay with an RV with the standard basic necessities, or do you require additional creature comforts and luxuries, like a washer/dryer, residential fridge, or heated floors?

Who will be traveling with you—spouse, kids, and pets?

Will you be working on the road?

Do you like to be on the go frequently or move slowly and take your time?

RV TERMS TO KNOW

glamping: A fusion of *glamour* and *camping*, glamping is a more luxurious style of camping that allows you to enjoy nature and the lifestyle without having to sacrifice creature comforts.

WHEN CAN YOU HIT THE ROAD?

Most people have existing responsibilities to consider, such as family, home, job, and finances. If you don't currently have work you can do remotely, you might first need to find a role that you can fulfill from anywhere. Perhaps your kids are at an age where it's not ideal to take them out and roadschool. Maybe you are a year or two from retirement and it makes more financial sense to wait. Or, if you're already burned out mentally, physically, or emotionally, it may be a higher priority for you to make a life change as soon as possible.

No matter what your life circumstances, you can probably find a way to make the RV life work for you. Take some time to think about your priorities and what is realistic for you and your current situation by asking these questions:

What is your ideal timeframe for hitting the road in your RV?

Does your current job or financial situation support doing it now, or does it make more sense to wait?

What responsibilities do you currently have, and can these be managed remotely?

Are there ways you could change your current situation, such as your job, to do this sooner rather than later?

Would it make more sense to ease your way into the RV life with occasional or part-time travel before going full-time?

Whose needs must you consider when making this decision (e.g., spouse, kids, parents)?

On what date do you plan to hit the road?

SETTING A DATE TO BEGIN

Yes, that's right: you should set a date for beginning your RV life! There's nothing like a deadline to get you moving and to give you a sense of purpose and focus as you work toward what you really want.

We've met people who went from "regular" living to RV living in less than thirty days, and others who have spent ten or more years planning their dream. This timeline will be different for everyone and depends on how simple or