

The Ultimate American Road Trip.



For the dreamers, the artists, the history buffs and the music-lovers, this is about one of the coolest and exciting things you will ever do. There is no right or wrong way to do it, your options are endless, but hit the open road and start from one side of this great country and work your way across creating memories with friends and family that will last a lifetime.

Day 1

After spending a day or two in the 'City of Angels', collect your RV from our Cruise America depot and head a few hours east through the San Bernardino Valley towards Palm Desert for your first night's accommodation.

130 miles to Palm Desert. Take a trip up to the top of Mt San Jacinto on Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. Explore one of the best Zoo's in the country at the Living Desert Zoo & Gardens.

<https://www.emeralddesert.com/>

Day 2

Your first stop today should be the wonderful Joshua Tree National Park which is just a few miles east of your RV park. See where the 2 deserts of the Mojave and Colorado meet offering a huge variety of flora and fauna and of course the Joshua tree itself, an iconic symbol of the California desert. Carry on along Rte. 62 towards the scenic shoreline of Lake Havasu State Park and your accommodation on the California/Arizona border.

205 miles to Needles. Stop at the famous London Bridge, moved here from London in the late 1960's.

<https://www.piratescoveresort.com/>

Day 3/4

Today make your way to Williams where you will stay for the next 2 nights. Spend the next day at the magnificent Grand Canyon National Park and take in one of the original 7 natural wonders of the world. You can drive to the Grand Canyon in your RV, but you might also want to consider taking the fantastic Grand Canyon Railway which departs from Williams and takes you right to the rim of the canyon.

190 miles to Williams. If you get the chance, book a helicopter ride over the Grand Canyon for an unforgettable experience.

<https://koa.com/campgrounds/grand-canyon/>

Day 5

After your day at the Grand Canyon, drive east towards Winslow, take a slight detour south to see the Meteor Crater Natural Landmark. Just outside Holbrook, make sure you stop at Petrified Forest National Park with the world's largest concentrations of coloured petrified wood. Continue into New Mexico and to one of the highest rated RV parks in the state.

210 miles to Gallup. Drive the one-way self-drive roads through the Petrified Forest and see the breathtaking colours of the painted desert.

<http://www.usarvpark.com/index.html>

Day 6

Spend the morning in Gallup, which some say is the 'Indian Capital of the World' because of its location in the centre of the Native American lands with over 70% of all authentic Native America Art produced in this region. Continue to the largest city in New Mexico, Albuquerque. If traveling in early October, book well in advance as it is the world-famous hot air balloon festival in the city.

135 miles to Albuquerque. Stop and take a quick photo as you cross the Continental Divide just outside Gallup. Make a slight detour south from Interstate 40 to the ancient village of Sky City, the isolated mesa that sits 367ft high above the landscape.

<https://koa.com/campgrounds/albuquerque/>

Day 7

After exploring the sights of Albuquerque in the morning, head northwest to the state capital and one of the oldest and most beautiful cities in the country, Santa Fe. This is New Mexico at its finest, with stunning pastel colours, Native American adobe architecture and desert landscapes as far as

the eye can see. Once you have spent time exploring Santa Fe, head out of the mountains and back southeast and to your stop for the night in the tiny Route 66 town of Tucumcari.

225 miles to Tucumcari (via Santa Fe). Whilst in Santa Fe, visit the Palace of the Governors and its fabulous historical museum, the oldest public building in the United States constructed in 1610.

<https://koa.com/campgrounds/tucumcari/>

Day 8

You have a long drive today through the Panhandle region of Texas and into Oklahoma. Although this will all be along Interstate 40, there are still some interesting stops to break up the drive. Stop in Amarillo and visit the American Quarter Horse Heritage Centre & the Route 66 historic district featuring antiques, boutiques and eclectic dining.

248 miles to Elk City. Experience Palo Duro Canyon up close and personal, the ways the cowboys did: on horseback. The Old West Stables, located inside the canyon, offer guided tours.

<https://koa.com/campgrounds/elk-city/>

Day 9

This is your last day on the Mother road that is Route 66, but thankfully it is the beating heart of this legendary road, littered with typical Oklahoma townships and unmissable delights – like the mouth-watering fried onion burgers in El Reno and the historic Lucille's Roadhouse and Diner in Weatherford. Make your way to Oklahoma City and stop at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum to see historic displays and mock frontier villages at America's premier institution of Western History.

112 miles to Oklahoma. Stop in the pretty university town of Norman for small town charm and college town energy. Pay a visit to the evocative and poignant Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum dedicated to those that perished in the city bombing of 1995.

<https://koa.com/campgrounds/oklahoma-city/>

Day 10

Once past Oklahoma City, you will notice the scenery change from the flat expanses of Western Oklahoma to the rolling wooden hills of the east as you head towards the border with Arkansas and your night at the lovely KOA Sallisaw/Fort Smith

173 miles to Fort Smith. Take a slight detour to the Tahlequah, the capital of the Cherokee Nation and named one of the top 100 small towns in America and wonder through the original historic townsite district where street signs are in English and Cherokee.

<https://koa.com/campgrounds/sallisaw/>

Day 11

Today is your Arkansas day. You could stick to Interstate 40 the whole way but that would miss this often-unheralded state that is known for its abundant parks and wilderness areas such as the rugged

and beautiful Ozark Mountains region. We would also certainly suggest breaking the journey in the state capital Little Rock which sits figuratively and literally in the centre of the state. Continue east and across the Mississippi River into the state of Tennessee and make your way to the Graceland RV Park.

If you have the time, we would certainly suggest an extra night here to enjoy all that Memphis has to offer including Sun Studios, Beale Street and the Civil Rights Museum.

270 miles to Memphis. Visit Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site to learn how 9 African American students had such a profound impact on the US Civil Rights Movement. Stop at the Clinton Presidential Library and see a replica of the Oval Office and the largest collection of presidential papers in US history.

<https://www.graceland.com/rv-park-campground>

Day 12

Drive east to the other iconic city that calls Tennessee home, Nashville. The home of Country Music and the city that saw Dolly Parton and a host of other great singers become international stars. Just east of the city is Safe Harbor RV Resort which whilst only being a short drive from all the attractions, is situated on a beautiful peninsula overlooking Percy Priest Lake with many sites having lakefront views.

220 miles to Nashville. Visit Grand Old Opry, the Country Music Hall of Fame and much more.

<http://www.safeharborrvresort.com/>

Day 13

Having spent the last few days in and around cities, its time to get back to nature as you head through the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. Just a short drive outside Nashville, stop at Lebanon and its immaculately preserved town square, one of the best examples in the region. Continue to Knoxville, the gateway to the mighty Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Your stop for the night is just outside Gatlinburg, in this beautiful mountain region.

230 miles to Gatlinburg. Enjoy the nature trails and serenity of the Cumberland Plateau as you head east. On summer nights catch a free performance of Shakespeare in the Square in downtown Knoxville.

<http://volparktn.com/>

Day 14

You are now in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park area, world renowned for its diversity of plant and animal life and America's most visited national park! You have a short drive today across

the park into North Carolina so take your pick of the great attractions on offer in this region including scenic helicopter rides, whitewater rafting and Dollywood. Your stop for the night is in Asheville, so if you have the time, we would certainly suggest a visit to the Biltmore Estate, the largest privately owned home in the USA.

65 miles to Asheville. Enjoy wonderful hikes and magnificent scenic drives of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park as well as a host of attractions in this area.

<https://koa.com/campgrounds/asheville-east/>

Day 15

Before leaving North Carolina, we suggest a visit to nearby Lake Lure and one of the most famous scenes in movie history, the lake lift in Dirty Dancing! Head northeast along the Blue Ridge Parkway, one of the most scenic drives in the country as it winds its way along the roof of the Appalachian Mountains through the state of Virginia.

298 miles to Charlottesville. Stop in Bristol and learn why the city is known as the birthplace of Country Music. Visit the Courthouse National Historic Park in Appomattox where the confederate south surrendered to the Union ending the American Civil War.

<https://www.shenandoahfamilycampground.com/>

Day 16/17

As you head off today, pay a visit to Monticello in Charlottesville, the plantation home of Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the USA and author of the Declaration of Independence. Continue into the superb Shenandoah National Park with endless opportunities for hiking and wildlife viewing and drive one of America's favourite mountain drives, the iconic Skyline Drive. You have 2 nights booked at your campground just outside Washington DC so you can spend the next day exploring the museums, memorials and sights of the nation's capital. Both DC public transportation and scheduled sightseeing buses serve the campground.

175 miles to College park for Washington DC. Visit Capitol Hill, the Washington Memorial, the Air and Space museum and many more sights that would take days to explore.

<https://www.cherryhillpark.com/>

Day 18

Your drive for today will take you northeast close to the cities of Baltimore and Philadelphia before heading across the Garden State of New Jersey to your final night's campground just outside Atlantic City and just a few miles to the Atlantic ocean, you can say you have finally crossed this great nation.

175 miles to Atlantic City. Stop at the Fort McHenry Historical Park in Baltimore and learn how Francis Scott Key penned a poem about the British bombardment of the fort in the War of 1812 that would later become the lyrics to "The Star-Spangled Banner". Spend some time in Philadelphia and see the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall, where the US Constitution was signed which created the country we know today.

<https://www.atlanticblueberryrvp.com/>

Day 19

Time to return the RV to one of New York area depots approximately 80 to 120 miles away.

Depart: Los Angeles or New York. For a shorter trip, depart from: Las Vegas, Albuquerque, Dallas, Nashville, Charlotte, Washington or Philadelphia.

Duration: 19 days

Distance: 3141 miles.