

# How to Start Your Journey

Welcome to the world of full-time RV living! Michele and I have been living in our Montana 3763 BP for three years now. We didn't just drop everything one day and make our purchase. We did our homework. For a couple of years before my retirement, Michele and I went to different RV shows and dealerships. We both watched countless YouTube videos to prepare ourselves for this lifestyle.

**Step One:** Decide if full-time or part-time RVing is right for you. Weigh the pros and cons. Can you survive living in 400+ square feet? Is dumping the black tank once or twice a week not going to gross you out? All RVs need monthly, bi-yearly, and yearly maintenance. Again, watch RV videos on YouTube to get your answers.

**Step Two:** Go to multiple RV shows to understand the size of the rig that will meet your needs. Do not trust an RV salesperson; they will say what you want to hear because they need to make a sale. Understand the weight of different rigs. Motor coaches, both Class A and C, are also considered. Remember the maintenance involved. If you plan to work remotely from the road, you may want a rig with a separate office space like a toy hauler or a bunkhouse.

**Step Three:** After deciding on the rig you will be buying, make sure your tow vehicle (if needed) can safely tow it. Don't rely on the salesman about weights. They might tell you a Ford F-250 gas engine can pull a 17,000 lb. RV. It may pull your RV for a while, but the engine's lifespan will be short-lived. YouTube videos are a great guide but decide for yourself that you can tow without killing your truck.

**Step Four: Plan Your Routes and Stops:** Before hitting the road, plan your routes and stops. Use apps and websites to find RV-friendly campgrounds, rest areas, and fuel stations. This will save you time and reduce stress during your travels.

**Step Five: Stay Organized:** Living in a small space requires organization. Use storage solutions like bins, hooks, and shelves to keep your RV tidy. Label your storage containers to easily find what you need.

**Step Six: Maintain Your RV:** Regular maintenance is crucial for the longevity of your RV. Create a maintenance schedule and stick to it. Check your tires, brakes, and engine regularly. Don't forget to winterize your RV if you plan to store it during the colder months.

**Step Seven: Stay Connected:** If you plan to work remotely or stay in touch with family and friends, invest in a reliable internet connection. Consider mobile hotspots or satellite internet options to ensure you have connectivity wherever you go.

**Step Eight: Join RV Communities:** Connect with other RV enthusiasts by joining online forums, social media groups, or local RV clubs. You'll find valuable advice, support, and even make new friends who share your passion for RV living. We have several favorites that we will be making videos and reviews about.

**Step Nine: Be Prepared for Emergencies:** Have an emergency kit ready with essentials like first aid supplies, tools, and spare parts. Know the locations of nearby hospitals, mechanics, and RV service centers along your route.

**Step Ten: Enjoy the Journey:** Embrace the freedom and adventure that comes with RV living. Explore new places, meet new people, and create lasting memories. Remember, it's not just about the destination, but the journey itself.

Hope this helps you start your full-time RV adventure. The content of this article is my opinion only and not meant to serve as rules to go by.