

BOONDOCKING BASICS

Boondocking is a lot of fun. Being able to not rely on others is very refreshing. We love boondocking and want to share just a few things with you in case you want to try it. The following are a few tips to keep in mind.

1. **Managing Power:** Know your power usage. We use the Victron BMV-712 monitor. Just knowing your voltage alone is not enough. This unit tells you how much power you have used and lets you know when it has all been replaced. Different types of batteries take more time to charge so it is important to know how much you have taken out so you can put that much back in. Also know that the standard converters/chargers that come with rigs are usually pretty low amps. So if you have a 30 amp charger and you use 100 amps you will need to run your generator for at least 3.5 hours to get a full charge again if you are using lithium. If you are using lead acid then it will take about double that time to get a full charge. Knowing this and watching your usage will help you from getting disappointed that your batteries seem to not last very long.
2. **Water is Gold:** Minimize your water usage by taking less showers. Buying drinking water can help also. Using baby wipes or mega towels will help you stay clean without using water. Investing in some type of bladder that you can fill up and bring back to your rig will make your life a lot easier.
3. **Grey Tank info:** Grey tank is your shower and sink water. Some places may allow you to dump this on the ground but most are restricting this now. Best to check before doing it. Washing dishes in a bowl and throwing that water away outside can save you a lot of tank space. Throwing out any water may be restricted though.
4. **Black Tank info:** It is never ok to dump your black tank on the ground. Major fine if you are caught so just don't do it. Most black tanks will last a lot longer than the grey tank so you will need to dump anyway. Don't restrict putting water into your black tank. It needs this water to dissolve the solids and keep things fluid.
5. **Finding places to park can be challenging.** The next page gives you a number of resources that we use. Note that you cannot park at a lot of Walmarts or rest stops as more and more cities are restricting this. Getting a knock at midnight might be a blessing as I know of cases where tow trucks show up and place a lock on your wheels until you pay them to remove it. Always check with store managers and look for signs. If there are signs then it doesn't matter what the store manager says.

FINDING BOONDOCKING SPOTS

There are basically 3 types of options when it comes to not parking at a RV Park. Boondocking, Moochdocking, and Lotdocking. This is how we look at things and others may not agree and just call it all boondocking.

Lotdocking:

Lotdocking is parking at Walmart, Cracker Barrel, Rest Stops, and using the Harvest Hosts program as examples.

Moochdocking:

Moochdocking is parking at a friend or family. It can also include the program called Boondockers Welcome.

Boondocking:

Boondocking to us is staying out somewhere away from everyone. It can also include remote campground areas. A place where there is nothing around but sunshine and fresh air.

Resources:

Here are some apps and websites we use in picking our areas to stay. We use Compendium the most. This list is not complete and is also always changing:

1. Compendium: Part of the togorv.com which also now includes Rvillage.com, RoadTrippers.com, OvernightRVParking.com for \$50 a year. TogoRV purchased Compendium. If you don't want to sign up for an account you may be able to use Compendium free. Not sure how long that will remain that way.
2. thedyrt.com Pro has Layers that show you BLM, USFS, etc. Land. This is helpful when planning your trip. You are not required to have a Pro membership to use some of the dirt resources however the layers are only available if you own pro. They do offer a 7 day free trial if you want to check it out.

FINDING BOONDOCKING SPOTS(Cont)

3. We also subscribe to Boondockers Welcome and Harvest Hosts. Recently Harvest Hosts purchased Boondockers Welcome. Not sure how this is going to all play out in the future but you can buy a membership to one or both. Boondockers Welcome is people that allow you to park at their home for a night for free if you don't plug in. Harvest Hosts sites allow you to park for a night but encourage you to check out the business you are staying at and buy something there if you were going to buy that product anyway. Boondockers Welcome is currently \$50 a year, Harvest Host Classic is \$99 and Harvest Host + Golf is \$139 a year.
4. Other Web Sites: freecampsites.net, freeroam.app, allstays.com, recreation.gov. These sites are free however not all the camping places are free. We found some nice places on freecampsites.net only to find out that they now cost. So just be aware that things do change and the site may even be closed. So check multiple resources.
5. Phone Apps: Boondocking, The Ultimate US Public Campgrounds, Recreation.gov, Freeroam, Allstays, Public Lands, Statelines, RVdump, Road Trippers, Freecamping, and Campendium. A lot of these apps will also show RV Parks. But they do have boon docking which is usually listed as Dispersed Camping. Using the apps is nice because it can pin point where you are and help guide you to the spot. Of course that requires cell service. The Public Lands app has layers that you can place on the map to show things such as BLM, USFS, Military areas. It also allows you to zoom in and look closer with the satellite view of the area. Statelines is nice app because it breaks down a lot of rules for each state by state.
6. Mapping Software: Google Maps, avenzamaps.com These web sites allow you to look at specifics about the area. The satellite view is nice to zoom in. These are only available using your web browser.
7. Planning Software: RVTripWizard.com This software leans more toward RV Parks but it works nice for planning your trip and placing all those boondocking sites on. Just pull the gps coordinates from what ever app or web site and enter that on the search bar. It will take you to that site and you can add it as a custom stop.

I'm sure there are more things I should include in this doc as things are always changing. We do have affiliate programs with a number of these places so if you can check out our Affiliate links. You could get a discount and we may get some credit for it also.

Thanks. Tigner Adventures.