

DRIVING
DIXIELAND



RV THERE YET?

GRAB THE KEYS & FAMILY

Because it's time for another extended RV road trip filled

with all the Good Life you can handle! This trip consists of approximately 42 hours of wheel spinning fun, offering up lots of opportunities for you to explore classic stretches, check out some amazing scenery and study up on some historic hotspots along the way. Once you reach New Orleans, you'll get the good times rolling in no time. And they won't stop until you reach your final destination of Virginia Beach. This trip is sure to make memories of a lifetime.

That's right, you're in for close to 3,000 miles of tire turning fun while you travel down some of America's most scenic stretches, and you'll see some amazing sights along the way.

We know you will, because we're providing you with our fool-proof guide to living the Good Life while traveling through our trip packed with beads, beaches and hopefully plenty of sun! We've crammed this guide with fun facts, destinations and places to camp along the way.

We know you love the free wheeling nomadic lifestyle.

We do, too. So let us guide you on this trip, Good Life style.



Your journey will take you from NOLA through Florida, Georgia and North Carolina while packing in some of the country's best beaches. But, it's not all about sunscreen. We'll leave the choice of hundreds of beaches up to you. But we will provide plenty of historic nuggets for your noggin to soak up along the way. You'll be able to get your fill of photo ops, too, at some of the most scenic spots in the south.

So, are you ready? Let's rev her up and get ready to ask "RV There Yet?"



DRIVING DIXIELAND

- Des Moines IA
- ┆ Cape Girardeau MO
- ┆ New Orleans LA
- ┆ Tallahassee FL
- ┆ Fort Myers FL
- ┆ Cocoa Beach FL
- ┆ Savannah GA
- ↓ Virginia Beach VA

Our comprehensive map provides you our suggested legs of the trip, along with stops for each.

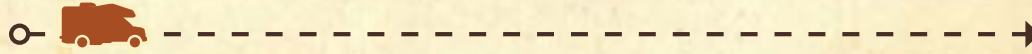
**Total trip and miles:
42 hours - 2,884 miles**



Driving the complete route takes about 42 hours, which we suggest you spread out so that you are not driving more than 8 hours each day. While you're out on the open road you may feel a spark of that good old American adventure spirit, and you may want to take detours or modify the route to fit your travel needs best.

Remember that you can take your time driving over four or five days, or longer, depending on how many stops you'd like to make. We include campgrounds along the way, but make sure you call and make reservations before you get rollin' to ensure your camping space.

LEG 1 Des Moines IA to Cape Girardeau MO



Mississippi River Tales Mural



Bogarts Smokehouse

WORTH A STOP

You'll get more than an eyeful when you head to the massive **Mississippi River Tales Mural**, located on the city's downtown floodwall.

If you're a history buff, be certain to stop by the **Fort D Historic Site** and the **Confederate War Memorial**. Enjoy the stories of Jesse James, Bonnie and Clyde, and the pioneer spirit that made the Iron Mountain and Southern Railway one of America's great railroads.

GREAT GRUB

The River Rock Cafe 1529 253rd St, Mount Pleasant, IA

Come hungry when you hunt down this small hole in the wall cafe, where the seating is limited but the portions are huge! Try the Pork Tenderloin one of the restaurant's top-sellers.

Bogarts Smokehouse 1627 S 9th St, St. Louis, MO

You can't drive through St. Louis without eating some good ole fashioned BBQ, right? Keep your napkin handy when you belly up to some smoked meats at Bogarts, recently named as one of the top ten barbecue places in the USA!

FUN FACTS

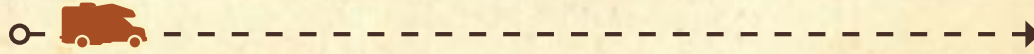
Cape Girardeau referred to by locals as simply "Cape", is an emerging college town. It is the home of Southeast Missouri State University. The 'Cape' referred to a rock promontory overlooking the Mississippi River. You can't see the rock now, as it was later destroyed by railroad construction.

In December 2003, a four-lane cable-stay bridge crossing the Mississippi River at Cape Girardeau was opened, replacing what was known as "The Old Bridge." The "Old Bridge" (now demolished) was completed in September 1928 to replace a ferry system and was only 20 feet wide.



Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge

LEG 1 Des Moines IA to Cape Girardeau MO



Riverfront Park

SAY CHEESE!

— Photo Opps —

Riverfront Park of Cape Girardeau

North Water Street, Cape Girardeau, MO

Behind the floodwall of Cape Girardeau (on the other side of the Mississippi River Tales Mural) lies the Riverfront Park of Cape Girardeau. This is a perfect place to dock and take some great selfies in front of a glamorous view of the Mississippi River.



WHERE to STAY

Cape Camping & RV Park

1900 N. Kingshighway, Cape Girardeau, MO

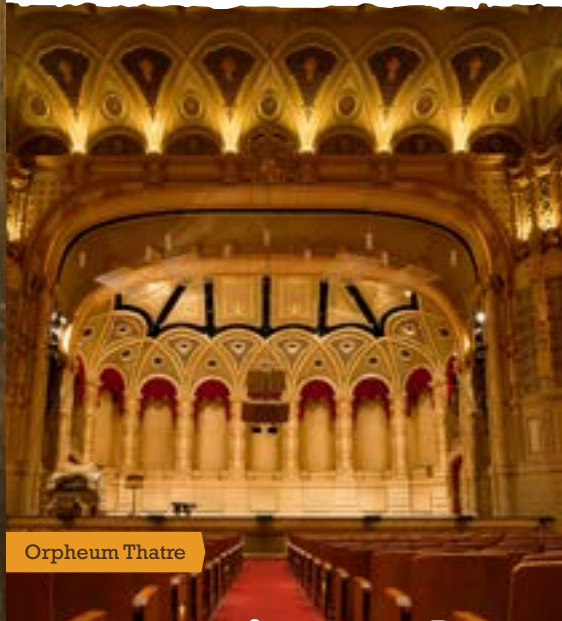
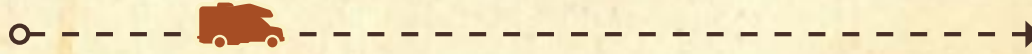
(573) 332-8888

www.capervpark.com

Close to shopping and restaurants, this RV park features a swimming pool, 2 bath houses and a plentiful offering of amenities.



LEG 2 Cape Girardeau to New Orleans LA



Orpheum Theatre

WORTH A



Trace the history of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States from the 17th century to the present at the **National Civil Rights Museum** in Memphis, TN.

The **Orpheum Theatre**, located on South Main Street at Beale Street in Memphis, Tennessee, USA, was built in 1928 and is one of the few remaining “movie palaces” of the 1920s.

If the last names Manning or Payton mean anything to you, you’ll want to be certain to stop off at the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame. Besides those gridiron greats, you’ll be amazed at how many professional athletes called Tennessee home.

GREAT GRUB



Memphis Barbecue Company

709 Desoto Cove, Horn Lake, MS

Home to the only female world BBQ champion, this Memphis joint serves up local favorites like the Crunch Burger, pulled pork and brisket. Don’t forget to try the cheese fritters!

Mother’s Restaurant

401 Poydras St., New Orleans, LA

You’ll find yourself in the middle of locals and tourists alike at Mother’s Restaurant. Known for down home comfort food and classic po’ boys, this Big Easy landmark is also known for some banging Bread Pudding!

Cafe Beignet

334-B Royal St., New Orleans, LA

Cafe Beignet prepares their beignets fresh daily and is often known to serve A-listers spending time in The Big Easy. A quick tip: dip that beignet in some milky coffee. Ooh-la-la.

FUN FACTS

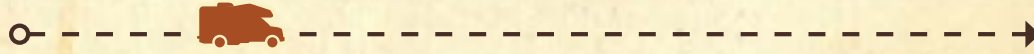
Many renowned musicians grew up in and around **Memphis** including greats like Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash, B.B. King, Al Green, Justin Timberlake and Aretha Franklin.



Johnny Cash

New Orleans, also known as “The Big Easy” and “NOLA” is home to numerous celebrations, the most popular of which is Carnival, often referred to as Mardi Gras.

LEG 2 Cape Girardeau to New Orleans LA



Graceland Mansion



SAY CHEESE!

— Photo Opps —

Graceland

3734 Elvis Presley Blvd, Memphis, TN

From his famous jungle room to the meditation garden where he was buried, Elvis Presley's Graceland boasts too many photo opportunities to miss. If you're a fan of the King, or just a fan of music, this is a must see. This is one busy "hunk-a-hunk-a" home tour.



WHERE to STAY

Pontchartrain Landing

6001 France Rd, New Orleans LA

(504) 286-8157

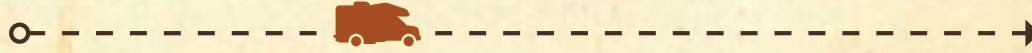
www.pontchartrainlanding.com

Pull your rig up to Pontchartrain Landing, which boasts luxury casual living at its finest with a swimming pool, hot tub, satellite and daily shuttles to the French Quarter.



Elvis Presley

LEG 3 New Orleans LA to Tallahassee FL



WORTH A STOP

See what life was like during the 19th century at a historic plantation. Be sure to look for the unique French Creole style of the **Laura Plantation**.

The Blue Angels call Pensacola and this place home. It's the **National Aviation Museum**, and if you play it right and check the schedule, you'll have free access to bleachers on practice days. While you're there, take time to explore the museum and have fun with the hands-on exhibits and simulators.

Dock the RV and take a glass-bottom boat tour at **Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park** in Tallahassee. The freshwater here is so clear you can see 100 feet down.



Blue Angels

GREAT GRUB

Cochon

930 Tchoupitoulas St, New Orleans, LA

Home to the only female world BBQ champion, this Memphis joint serves up local favorites like the Crunch Burger, pulled pork and brisket. Don't forget to try the cheese fritters!

Flora-Bama Lounge & Oyster Bar

17401 Perdido Key Dr, Pensacola, FL

Trek on over to the iconic Flora-Bama, a combination lounge, package store and oyster bar situated on the western border of Florida and the eastern border of Alabama. If you're an oyster lover, try the Oysters McClellan, one of the top-sellers on the menu.

Kool Beanz Cafe

921 Thomasville Rd, Tallahassee, FL

Cafe Beignet prepares their beignets fresh daily and is often known to serve A-listers spending time in The Big Easy. A quick tip: dip that beignet in some milky coffee. Ooh-la-la.



Marie Laveau

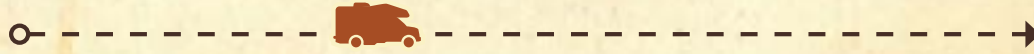
FUN FACTS

New Orleans is known to be the birthplace of voodoo in the US thanks to people like Marie Laveau, who performed numerous exorcisms and voodoo rituals. Because of this, she became known as the Voodoo Queen.

Because it has been under rule by Spain, France, Britain, the Confederacy and the United States, Pensacola has earned the nickname **"The City of Five Flags."**

It is believed that the first Christmas celebrated in the US was at the site of the DeSoto encampment in what is now **Tallahassee**.

LEG 3 New Orleans LA to Tallahassee FL



SAY  CHEESE!

— Photo Opps —



Dolphin/Wildlife Tours

*Premier Dolphin Cruise - 400 Quietwater Beach Rd.
Pensacola Beach, FL*

Spy on and snap some pics of the dolphins, birds and other marine life that make their home along the protected Gulf Islands National Seashore. There are lots of tours available. Be sure to check the schedule for times and dates!

The Museum of Florida History

500 S Bronough St, Tallahassee, FL 32399

Say “Cheese!” while making memories in front of a massive mastodon! The Museum of Florida History’s showcase item welcomes you when you walk in. “Herman” is an 11-foot mastodon skeleton that was originally found in one of our spots to seek out, Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park.



WHERE to STAY

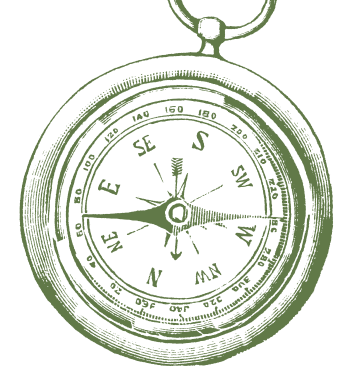
Tallahassee RV Park

*6504 Mahan Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32308
(850) 878-7641
[/www.tallahasseervpark.com](http://www.tallahasseervpark.com)*

Conveniently located, this RV park offers up plenty of Southern traditions, gracious hospitality, and lush topography.



LEG 4 Tallahassee FL to Fort Myers FL



WORTH A STOP



Apalachicola National Forest is the state's largest featuring 571,088 acres and 67 miles of trails. Its wilderness areas offer a step back in time, from wildflowers and longleaf pine, to the caverns of Leon Sinks.

It's Africa in Florida at the **Giraffe Ranch** in Dade City. At the ranch, you'll experience the lives of giraffe and other species living under huge live oaks and open grasslands.

Edison Ford Winter Estate spreads across an area of more than 13 acres. The facility features a laboratory and botanical gardens and a Model T Ford.



GREAT GRUB



Lucy and Leo's Cupcakery

1123 Thomasville Road Tallahassee, FL 32303

Ready to take care of that sweet tooth? Take a drive over to Lucy and Leo's and sink the old molars into some of the tastiest cupcakes around. Featuring an ever-changing menu of toppings and flavors, it's easy to see why this spot has been featured on national TV.

Owen's Fish Camp

516 Burns Lane, Sarasota, FL

It's called a fish camp for a reason. Owen's brings in the freshest fish from the Bay so be sure to check for their daily specials.

Farmers Market Restaurant

2736 Edison Ave, Fort Myers FL

With a name like Farmers Market, you'd imagine the freshest ingredients to be featured on their menu. And, you'd be right!

FUN FACTS

In 1899, Tallahassee recorded the only below-zero reading in the area. That year it hit -2 during a historic blizzard. On average, the city gets a measurable quantity of snow once every 17 years.

You're in good company! The first tourist to visit Southwest Florida, specifically **Pine Island**, was Spanish explorer Ponce de Leon, who visited in 1513. Later, he was killed in the same waters by a Calusa Indian arrow.

Thomas Edison spent a lot of time in **Fort Myers**, perhaps dreaming up some of his inventions. He's known as the most inventive man ever, holding 1,093 patents from light bulbs to cement.



Edison Ford Winter Estate

LEG 4 Tallahassee FL to Fort Myers FL



SAY  CHEESE!

— Photo Opps —

Sanibel Shelling/National Wildlife Refuge

31 Wildlife Dr, Sanibel, FL 33957

Snap a selfie with sea shells by the sea shore! Close to Ft. Myers is Sanibel Island featuring stretches of beaches with an abundance of Gulf shells. It truly is a sight to see and one that you'll probably want to store in your scrapbook.



WHERE to STAY

Orange Grove RV Park

647 Nuna Avenue Fort Myers, Florida
(239)-694-5534

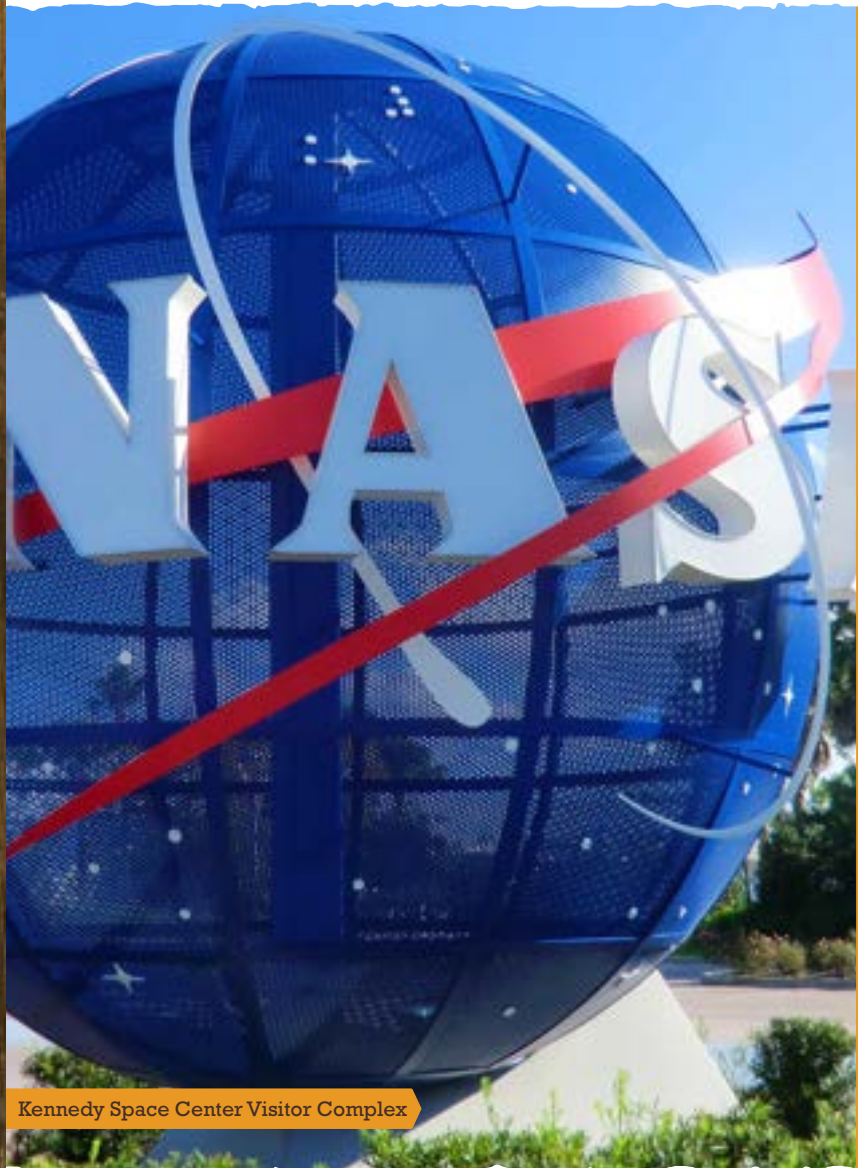
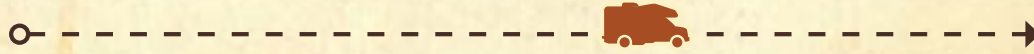
www.orangegroverv.com

This RV park is located close to the beaches, boating, fishing, MLB spring training, and casinos. It's a park worthy of betting on!



Sanibel Island

LEG 5 Fort Myers FL to Cocoa Beach FL



Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex

WORTH A STOP

Plenty of scuba and snorkeling activities are dotted all along the coast. But if you're ready for something different, why not try the increasingly popular **Segway tours of West Palm Beach**. Yep - you read that right... segways.

It wouldn't be a trip through Florida's East Coast without a visit to the **Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex** in nearby Titusville. Your kids minds will take off into orbit when they lay their eyes on an actual Saturn moon rocket. They'll probably enjoy the new Angry Birds Space Encounter as well.

GREAT GRUB

Relish 401 Northwood Road, West Palm Beach, FL

At Relish, re-invented burgers and loaded potato skins are their specialty, but the locals will tell you they have the best shakes in town, too!

Fat Kahunas 8 Minutemen Causeway, Cocoa Beach, FL

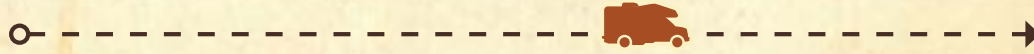
This pint-sized shack offers up anything but pint-sized portions. Their house specialty is the Coconut Shrimp with Sweet Chili Marmalade.

FUN FACTS

Cocoa Beach came to life during the 1960s and the prominence of America's space program. NASA's John F Kennedy Space Center is located approximately 15 miles away so the city became home to many young families of the space program.



LEG 5 Fort Myers FL to Cocoa Beach FL



SAY CHEESE!

— Photo Opps —

Blowing Rocks Preserve

574 South Beach Rd, Hobe Sound Palm Beach County, FL

If your memory card isn't completely full, grab the camera bag and head here. The preserve gets its name from the phenomenon that occurs when waves hit the eroded limestone landscape, sending plumes of water sometimes 50 feet into the air!



WHERE to STAY

Carver's Cove

4 North Carver Drive, Cape Canaveral, FL

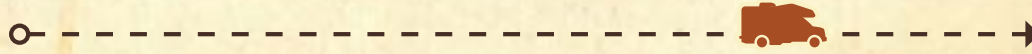
(321) 799-0343

www.carverscoveflorida.com

This quaint and quiet RV park located right on the Banana River offers full hook-up sites and is situated just a few blocks from the beaches and the cruise terminals at Port Canaveral.

LEG 6

Cocoa Beach FL to Savannah GA



WORTH A



Your engines will rev big time if you're able to book yourself one of many **NASCAR experiences** in which you drive an actual car (or ride along if you're chicken) around the 2.5 mile track.

Located near historic Savannah, you'll find **Skidaway Island State Park**. The park lies on the borders of the Skidaway narrows, a part of Georgia's intracoastal waterway. Watch for deer, fiddler crabs, other wildlife and for the giant 20 foot replica of... a sloth!



Skidaway Island State Park



GREAT GRUB

Jazzy's Mainely Lobster & Seafood

210 N. Orlando Ave. Cocoa Beach, FL

Jazzy's is a favorite of the locals and offers up some great fresh seafood with an emphasis on lobster. There are plenty of other options, too, including a couple of their best sellers - fried green tomatoes and onion rings.

Icy Paradise

1033 Mason Ave., Daytona Beach, FL

Icy Paradise is just a bit of a drive from the beach but well worth it if you're an icy fan, with flavors ranging from Bahama Mama to Wedding Cake.

Mrs. Wilkes

107 West Jones Street, Savannah, GA

This food will fool you into thinking your Grandma was in the kitchen. The menu changes daily but the setting never does. You'll be seated at tables of ten and served family-style.

FUN FACTS

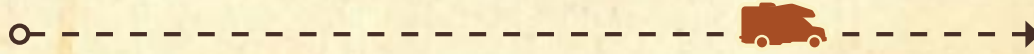
The inaugural **Daytona 500** was held in 1959 coinciding with the opening of the speedway. Since 1982, it has been the season-opening race of Nascar's Sprint Cup series.

Savannah was founded in 1733 by General James Edward Oglethorpe. He organized Savannah into grids, making it **'America's First Planned City,'** with wide streets and 24 public squares. Twenty one of the original squares still exist today.



Daytona International Speedway

LEG 6 Cocoa Beach FL to Savannah GA



SAY CHEESE!

— Photo Opps —

Friendship Fountain

1015 Museum Cir, Jacksonville, FL

Nighttime is the best time to head to the fountain to take a snap of the multi-colored neon water display. It's still beautiful in the daytime. Just a short walk away is the entrance to the Acosta Bridge, where you can capture the Friendship Fountain as well as the bright blue Main Street Bridge.



WHERE to STAY

Red Gate Campground

36 Red Gate Farms Trail, Savannah, GA

(912)272-8028

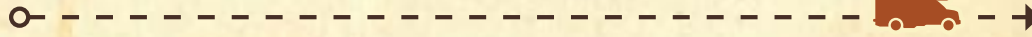
www.redgatecampground.com

This oasis of Southern Charm is the closest RV park to Savannah and features beautiful fishing ponds and horseback riding programs.



Friendship Fountain

LEG 7 Savannah GA to Virginia Beach VA



WORTH A STOP



Get your fill of fine art at one of the nation's best museums to daydream in, **The Chrysler Museum** in Norfolk.

Also in Norfolk you will see **the last harbor-front fort** authorized by President George Washington. Most structures in the fort date back to 1810 and helped protect Norfolk during the War of 1812.

The **Virginia Aquarium** located on Virginia Beach will have your family singing 'Under The Sea' in no time with its massive displays of aquatic life.



Virginia Beach

FUN FACTS

After **General Sherman** marched through Savannah during the Civil War and was taken aback by its beauty, he reportedly sent a letter to President Abraham Lincoln to offer Savannah to him as a Christmas present.

Virginia Beach holds the titles in the Guinness Book of World Records as "**The World's Longest Pleasure Beach.**"

GREAT GRUB



The Fried Turkey Sandwich Shop

32 Person St. & 4582 Cumberland Rd., Fayetteville, NC

The locals will call you a turkey if you tell them the only time you eat it is at Thanksgiving. With a delicious and unique menu centered around, yes, you guessed it, fried turkey, you'll be offering up thanks when your belly is full!

Norfolk Walkabouts Food Tours

259 Granby St Ste 250 Norfolk VA

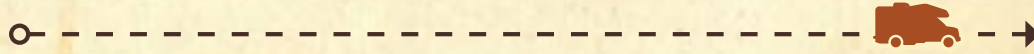
Have a taste of Mercado's creative Mexican cuisine located just one block from the beach. They also offer 70+ tequila options!

Blue Seafood & Spirits

2181 Upton Dr. Suite 420, Virginia Beach, VA

From the 'Catch Of The Day' to the regular menu items, Blue's food is frequently regarded as some of the best in Virginia Beach. If you're feeling crabby, the crab soup will surely cheer you up.

LEG 7 Savannah GA to Virginia Beach VA



SAY CHEESE!

— Photo Opps —

USS Wisconsin *Nauticus - 1 Waterside Dr, Norfolk, VA*

Go back in time and experience this majestic ship that earned five battle stars during WW II.

Berthed at Nauticus, the Battleship Wisconsin is one of the largest and last battleships ever built by the U.S. Navy. You can experience the Battleship with self-guided tours or with a Nauticus tour guide. Grabbing a selfie with this WWII gem behind you is a must.



WHERE to STAY

Holiday Travel Park

1075 General Booth Blvd, Virginia Beach, VA

(757) 425-0249

www.campingvb.com

The closest campground to the Virginia Beach resort area, Holiday Travel Park features a beach parking lot, concrete padded “SuperSites” and 4, count them...4 pools! Those amenities along with a variety of entertainment are just a few of the reasons why camping is different here.



USS Wisconsin

DRIVING DIXIELAND

We hope that you enjoyed your journey as much as we enjoyed putting this guide together!

After a heck of a lot of time on the road racking up the miles, we hope that your exploration of the South East was packed with fun, food, scenery and history.

Are you ready for more RVing? If you are, head on over to glrv.com and you'll

be livin' more of the Good Life in no time. From small weekend trips to bigger extended journeys, we offer travel guides that will make memories for lifetimes to come. Until then, we'll be looking for you on the road!

LEG 1 Stephanie Wauters - Flip Flop Icon
Nathan Reed - The Bean
Paul Sableman - Bogarts
Nathan Reed - Riverfront Park
Nikonian Novice - Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge
GoRVing - Family skipping stones

LEG 2 Colin Knowles - Orpheum Theatre
GoRVing - RV driving
GoRVing - Unloading RV

LEG 3 GoRVing - Couple in forest
William Warby - Dolphin

LEG 4 Roger W - Edison Ford Winter Estate
GoRVing - RV on beach
Jeremy T. Hetzel - Sanibel Island

LEG 5 Reinhard Link - Kennedy Space Center
GoRVing - Kids hool-a-hooping

LEG 6 Grand Dawson - Skidaway Island
GoRVing - Group around campfire
Jaxbot - Friendship Fountain

LEG 7 GoRVing - RV on bridge
GoRVing - Kids in RV night
Rain0975 - USS Wisconsin

GoodLife
RV