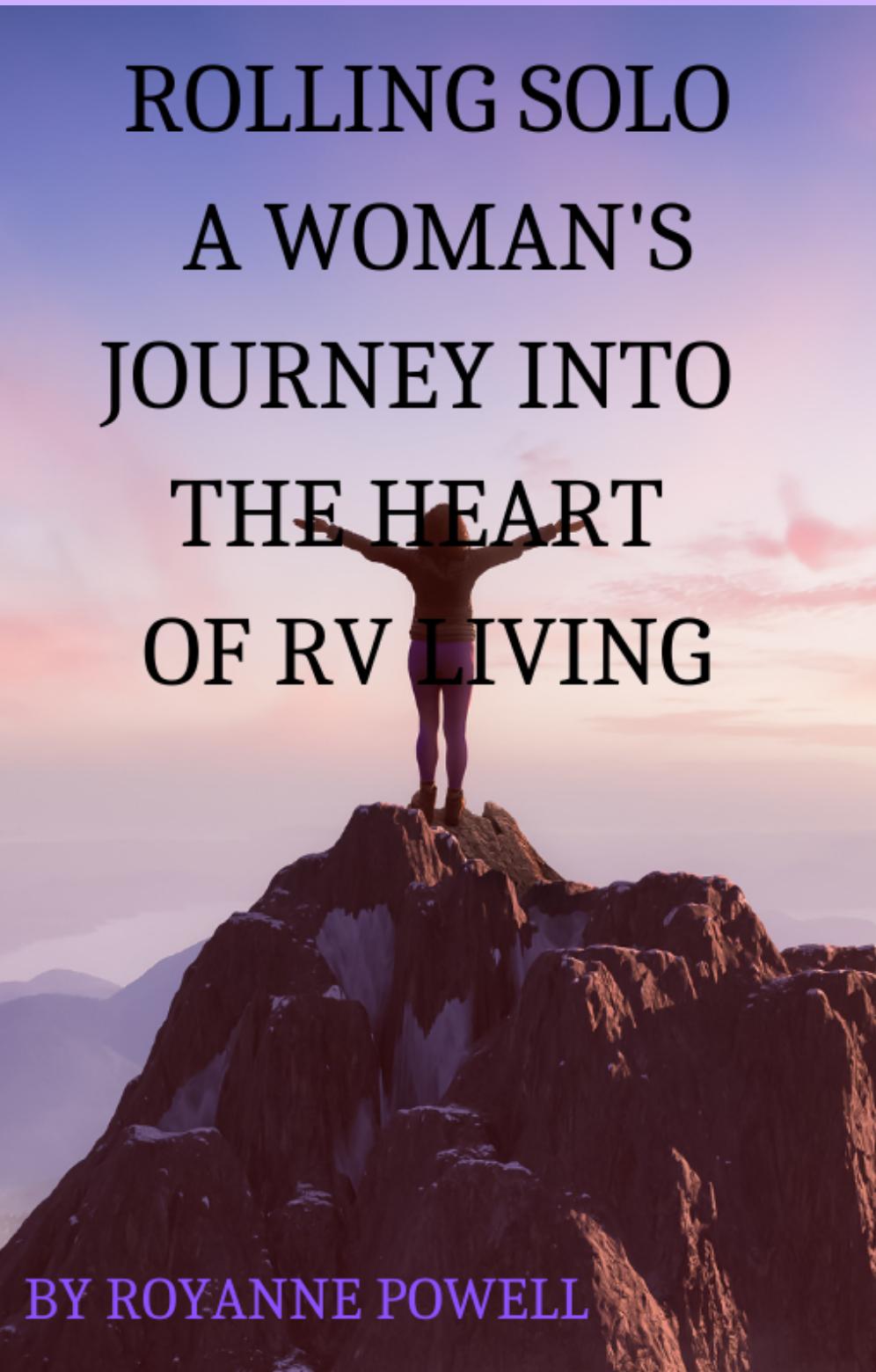


ROLLING SOLO A WOMAN'S JOURNEY INTO THE HEART OF RV LIVING



BY ROYANNE POWELL

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PROLOGUE

The open road calls to each of us in a unique way. For some, it is a whisper, a subtle nudge urging us to step outside our comfort zones and embark on an adventure. For others, it is a roar, a powerful force pulling us toward a life of freedom and exploration. For me, it was born out of necessity and grew into something so much more.

In this book, "Rolling Solo: A Woman's Journey into the Heart of RV Living," you are invited to join me on a journey—

one that is not just about traversing the highways and back roads of our beautiful country, but about personal transformation and discovery. This is not merely a guide about how to live in an RV; it's a guide about how to live with the challenges, freedom, independence, and a journey down a road that is much less travelled.

As you read these pages, you will find a blend of practical advice and insightful reflections that map out the landscape of full-time RV living. From choosing the right RV and planning your route to managing your budget and overcoming the challenges that come your way, this book is a comprehensive companion for your journey.

More than a guidebook, "Rolling Solo" is a testament to the power of this lifestyle. It is about discovering strength you never knew you had, facing challenges with courage and resilience, and finding a sense of home in the most unexpected places.

Whether you are already an avid camper, contemplating the leap into full timing, or simply a curious soul drawn to the lure of the open road, this book serves as a source of inspiration, guidance, and encouragement. It is a reflection of my journey, but also a call to find your path, embrace change, and discover the profound joy and freedom that the open road has to offer.

As you turn these pages, remember: every journey starts with a single step—or in the case of the RV lifestyle, the turn of a key and the roll of the wheels. The road is wide open, the horizon is endless, and the possibilities are limitless. All that's left is for you to answer the call, embrace the adventure.

Welcome to "Rolling Solo: A Woman's Journey into the Heart of RV Living." Let us begin this adventure together.

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CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

HOUSELESS NOT HOMELESS

Venturing into the nomadic lifestyle is like accepting an open-ended invitation to freedom and adventure. But, at the heart of this life lies a constant battle with adversity and challenge. It is not a static existence, but a vibrant journey of constant evolution and transformation.

Here, we provide a roadmap to navigate the undulating terrains that life on the road may present. From the ever-

evolving dynamics of relationships to career paths that twist and turn like the road beneath your wheels, this journey is one of personal growth and profound transformation.

The goal here is to help guide you through these transformative chapters in your life, offering practical tips and strategies to help you sail smoothly through these transitions. It is important to understand that embracing change might seem daunting, especially when the footprints of the past are washed away by the waves of uncertainty.

This journey is a delicate dance between welcoming the unfamiliar and finding comfort within it. Life on the road is not just about swapping the conventional for the unconventional, but about redefining what we perceive as ordinary. It is about embracing fluidity, inviting change, and opening your heart to the wonders that lie beyond the boundaries of routine.

Let us explore the art of resilience, learning to bend and not break under the weight of unexpected turns. It is about taking each bend in the road not as a detour, but as a new direction towards self-discovery.

This nomadic lifestyle is more than an adventurous way to live. It is a metaphor for life itself, a testament to the potential for personal transformation that lies within each of us. So, let us embark on this journey together, one mile at a time, exploring and embracing the beauty of transition.

WHY I CHOSE THIS LIFE

Embarking on a full-time RV lifestyle was primarily triggered by financial reasons. The housing market was chaotic, and much scarier than ever before. Paying someone else's mortgage month after month felt draining, almost like living as a second-class citizen. The battle with a greedy landlord added to the unpleasantness of the situation.

The economical yet daunting solution was to shift to life in an RV. As a small business owner, adding an unfamiliar element to life was terrifying. The temptation of freedom from

conventional landlords and constant roommate changes was irresistible.

With that, the first RV was purchased, professionally transported to an RV park, and remained stationary there for four years. Looking back, the decision to embrace the RV lifestyle brought many benefits. The heavy financial burden was significantly reduced. With the drop in living costs, more income could be directed toward the business, providing financial security, space, and freedom.

RV living brought a new level of independence and self-reliance. Without landlords or roommates, my home on wheels was a sanctuary operating on personal terms. However, the lifestyle change came with its challenges. Adapting to the limited RV space required significant lifestyle adjustments and the embracing of a minimalist mindset. Practicalities such as RV maintenance, efficient power and water usage management, and the transient feeling of mobile living had to be navigated.

While living in an RV park offered community and security, it had its issues. Managing park rules, handling noisy or inquisitive neighbours, and frequent arrivals and departures could sometimes be overwhelming.

Despite the challenges, there are no regrets about the decision. The RV life, a mix of freedom and responsibility, has been an enlightening journey. It reshaped the perspective on what it means to live on personal terms. It transformed the feeling of being a second-class citizen into being the captain of a ship, confidently steering through life's exciting voyage.

CHAPTER 2. PLANNING AND PREPARING FOR RV LIFE

WHAT IS IN YOUR BUDGET, FROM BUYING TO SURVIVING

One of the critical first steps in transitioning to an RV lifestyle is understanding and establishing your budget. This is not limited to just the initial costs of purchasing an RV, but extends to ongoing expenses and the inevitable unexpected costs that come with life on the road.

Selling my condo a few years previous left me with a small nest egg. This financial cushion provided me with the liberty to step into RV living without being buried in debt from the get-go. But not everyone is this lucky, and it is essential to evaluate your financial position thoroughly before leaping.

Buying an RV is just the start. There are countless other costs to consider. For instance, insurance, regular maintenance, fuel, campground fees, utilities, internet, groceries, and any monthly payments if you finance your RV. Remember, the more luxurious your RV, the higher your costs will be.

Having a contingency fund is vital. Unexpected hiccups are not a matter of if, but when. Trust me, things go wrong, and they often choose the most inconvenient times to do so. The time my water heater decided to spontaneously combust with a dead animal as evidence to why it was not so spontaneous. The daily walk to the RV shared bathhouse was not something to be enjoyed although many people chose not to use their RV bathrooms.

Having money set aside for these unexpected incidents can save you a lot of stress and allow you to continue enjoying your RV life without any significant disruptions. So, while planning your budget for RV life, make sure to factor in these hidden costs. Remember, the key to thriving, and not just surviving in your new lifestyle, lies in detailed planning and prudent financial management.

By establishing a well-planned budget and financial safety net, you will be well-equipped to navigate any financial hurdles that come your way, ensuring a smooth and enjoyable journey in your new RV life.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT RV FOR SOLO FEMALE RV LIFE

Taking the first steps into RV living in 2009, several questions needed to be addressed. The fate of personal belongings, the location to park the RV, and the need for a stationary lifestyle due to a retail pet accessories business all had to be considered.

When selecting an RV, multiple factors need to be taken into account. Considerations include whether the RV will primarily be on or off the grid, whether full hook-ups or boondocking will be used, or if there will be a mixture of both. For those unsure of which lifestyle might suit best, renting an RV for a trial period could be beneficial.

Boondocking is also known as living off the grid. This lifestyle can be the most cost-effective, but comes with the challenges of finding water, emptying tanks, and dealing with solar and generators for power.

There is an extensive range of RV styles, lengths, and layouts available. It may not be apparent how essential things like counter space are until spending a week in an RV kitchen without it.

After an extensive search, a 5th wheel was chosen for its home-like feel and its 'basement' storage area, perfect for storing irreplaceable belongings.

It is crucial to note that some RV parks implement an age rule - not just for the occupants but for the RV itself. Checking these rules with potential parks before purchasing the rig can avoid complications. Many parks may allow exceptions to this rule, provided the RV is well-maintained.

The first RV, a 36' 2002 Keystone Everest 5th wheel, suited the stationary lifestyle perfectly. It was leak-free, spacious, and comfortable. Several features were essential for the first full-time RV dwelling - a washer and dryer hook-up, a walk-around bed, and a winter package.

Having lived in apartments for a while, a washer and dryer were non-negotiable. Even small loads were preferred over public washing machines. A walk-around bed was another requirement, as making an RV bed nestled into a corner felt like a taxing event, probably burning more calories than a session of CrossFit.

A winter package was also on the must-have list. Despite being parked on Vancouver Island where temperatures rarely dip below freezing, any full-timer must invest in a four-season rig. Double-paned windows and adequate insulation prove beneficial both in summer and winter.

Now, to help you navigate your journey into RV life, here's a handy checklist for anyone looking to buy their first RV:

1. **Comfortable Height:** If you are thinking about doing van life, consider the height. If you are full timing your rig should be tall enough for you to stand upright. It might be different for folks under 40, but hunching over while prepping a meal is hard on the back.
2. **Washroom:** Everyone is different, many DIY van builders opt out of including a washroom, but a full bathroom is a must have for many full-timers.
3. **Climate Control:** Ensure it has a heating system and air conditioning, especially if you have pets.
4. **Kitchen Amenities:** Look for sufficient counter space, a refrigerator, and some kind of cooktop. An oven isn't necessary but you might want to have an alternative like an air fryer or multi cooker.
5. **Off-Grid Capabilities:** Your RV should be able to stay off-grid comfortably for several days unless you are stationary with full hook ups. Then it is only needed if you have frequent storms and power outages.

6. **Winter Package:** If you are planning to live in the RV full-time, consider a rig with a winter package. It matters in the summer too.

If we fast forward to 2013 the 5th wheel that was home for so long got traded in for a drivable RV to suit a new job. The motorhome felt safer travelling in a fully enclosed unit. The convenience of being able to access the bathroom and kitchen even with the slides in while travelling is an added benefit. Not to mention, if you ever feel the need to leave a situation in a hurry, you do not have to step outside.

As enchanting as the lifestyle may seem, it is crucial to remember that living full-time in an RV is not always a cheap and easy alternative. With the growing popularity of the lifestyle, the prices of rigs and RV park fees are skyrocketing. But if you are well-prepared, the joy of being able to travel around in your home can outweigh the costs.

Remember, choosing an RV is a personal journey, and there is no one-size-fits-all. Everyone's needs and lifestyles are different, so it is all about finding what suits you best. Whether you are planning to stay stationary or travel frequently, have children or pets, need office space or have outdoor gear, the variety of RVs out there means you can surely find the one for you.

THE PROS AND CONS OF NEW VS. USED

Embarking on your RV journey begins with a pivotal decision: should you invest in a brand-new rig, purchase a pre-owned one, or venture into building your own? New RVs offer the latest features, a warranty, and the peace of mind that comes with knowing your vehicle has a clean history. However, they also depreciate quickly and come with higher price tags.

Used RVs can offer great value, and the initial depreciation hit has already been taken by the previous owner. However, used RVs come with their own set of challenges. They may require more maintenance, and there could be hidden issues

that only become apparent once you are on the road. Thoroughly inspecting a used RV before purchase is essential, and we will dive deeper into this topic later in this chapter.

Choosing the right size and layout for your RV is crucial to your comfort and satisfaction. If you are planning on full-time RV living, you will want to ensure you have enough space to feel comfortable. This means considering not only sleeping arrangements but also living and cooking spaces. Do you need a full kitchen, or will a small cooktop suffice? Do you want a dedicated workspace? Do you need a washer and dryer onboard? Remember, bigger is not always better. Larger RVs can limit where you can go and add to your costs in terms of fuel and camping fees.

An RV is a significant investment, so it is essential to carefully consider your budget and financing options. Apart from the upfront cost of the RV, consider ongoing costs like insurance, maintenance, repairs, fuel, and spot rental fees. Financing an RV is similar to financing a house or car, and many lenders offer specialized RV loans. Before you start shopping, have a clear understanding of what you can afford and be sure to stick to your budget. Remember, the goal of RV life is to enjoy freedom and adventure, not to be burdened by financial stress.

UNMASKING THE WORTH

The allure of a second-hand RV can be strong, especially when you are hunting for a bargain. Used RVs often come with an attractive price tag, but they can also hide an array of potential problems beneath the surface. That is where professional RV inspections come in.

Affording a brand-new RV is an expensive option, and truthfully the amount of issues people have with their brand-new rigs is scary.

Just as you would not buy a home without a thorough inspection, the same rule applies when purchasing a second-

hand RV. These homes-on-wheels have their own unique set of possible complications ranging from mechanical to structural issues, electrical faults, plumbing problems, and more. The potential for unseen damage and hidden repair costs is significant.

That is where a professional RV inspection becomes invaluable. RV inspectors are trained to uncover hidden issues, evaluate the condition of the vehicle, and provide a detailed report that can help you make an informed decision. Even if an inspection reveals only minor problems, this information can give you a bargaining chip in price negotiations.

It is important to hire your an independent inspector, do not trust the dealership. It is also important to hire your own mechanical inspector if you are buying something with an engine.

So, what exactly does a professional RV inspection involve? This comprehensive check-up of your potential home-on-wheels can be broken down into key areas: structure, mechanics, interior, and safety.

GOING UNDER THE HOOD

The RV inspection process is a thorough examination that should leave no stone unturned. A professional RV inspector will look at various elements to ensure your potential RV is roadworthy and habitable. Here is a general breakdown:

1. **Structural Inspection:** This includes the roof, windows, walls, doors, and undercarriage. Inspectors are looking for signs of water damage, rust, or structural weaknesses that could compromise the safety and durability of the RV.
2. **Mechanical Inspection:** The inspector will examine the engine, transmission, brakes, suspension, and other major mechanical components. This is to ensure the RV runs smoothly and to identify any potentially costly repairs that might be looming.

3. **Interior Inspection:** Inside, the inspector will look at the plumbing, electrical systems, appliances, and general condition of the living area. They are checking for issues like leaks, faulty wiring, broken appliances, or signs of pests.
4. **Safety Inspection:** This part of the process includes checking the operation of safety features like smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers, seat belts, and emergency exits.
5. **Additional Systems:** Depending on the RV, the inspection could also cover onboard generators, solar power systems, heating and cooling systems, and other specialized equipment.

The detailed report you receive after this inspection will give you a comprehensive understanding of the RV's condition. With this information in hand, you can make an informed decision on whether to proceed with the purchase, negotiate for a better price, or continue your search for the perfect RV.

LOCATING A TRUSTWORTHY RV INSPECTOR

Finding a reliable RV inspector can feel like a daunting task, but it is an essential step in the used RV buying process. Here are a few tips:

1. **Research and Reviews:** Start by doing a simple internet search for RV inspectors in your area. Pay attention to reviews and ratings, keeping an eye out for inspectors who are praised for their thoroughness, professionalism, and knowledge.
2. **Certifications:** Look for inspectors who are certified by reputable organizations, such as the National RV Inspectors Association in the United States. This

certification means they have completed specialized training and adhere to recognized industry standards.

3. Interview Potential Inspectors: Do not be shy about reaching out to potential inspectors. Ask about their experience, what their inspection covers, and how they deliver their findings. A professional inspector will welcome your questions and be happy to address your concerns.

Learn about delimitation and what it means. If a seller tells you the RV leaked but it does not anymore they are very possibly lying. If the leak is fixed there is a really good chance that there is mould and rot behind the walls and under the flooring. If you have the time and money to invest in a repair down the road and you negotiate that expense into your deal it doesn't have to mean "run away". It is important to enter into these situations with your eyes wide open.

Until you spend a year in your unit you will not know what to expect from it, but by investing time and resources into a professional RV inspection, sure can help to ensure your journey to RV living begins on the right foot, steering clear of surprises down the road. Remember, the freedom and joy of RV life are worth the upfront diligence and expense.

TRADING SQUARE FOOTAGE FOR FREEDOM

Transitioning from a traditional house to a tiny home on wheels involves more than just a change in your physical surroundings; it is about adopting a new mindset entirely. Downsizing to a smaller space invites you to redefine your relationship with material possessions and embrace a lifestyle centred around simplicity, self-reliance, and freedom.

The act of downsizing can initially seem overwhelming. Traditional houses, with their expansive closets, attics, and

basements, often become repositories for years—sometimes decades—of accumulated stuff. We hang on to old clothes, books, appliances, and sentimental items, convincing ourselves that they might come in handy one day. However, in a tiny home on wheels, every square inch counts, and each item you bring onboard needs to earn its keep.

Start the downsizing process by conducting a thorough inventory of your belongings. Consider each item carefully: Do you use it regularly? Does it bring you joy? Does it serve multiple purposes? If it does not meet these criteria, it might be time to say goodbye. Hold a garage sale, donate to a local charity, or sell items online to give them a new lease on life. Selling the things you don't really need can be a great way to earn some extra cash to put toward your RV or your contingency fund. Donating things is also really good for you and your community.

For items you do not need daily but can not part with, such as family heirlooms or seasonal items, consider using a storage unit. A self-storage facility can be an excellent solution for keeping these items safe without cluttering your new tiny home. Alternatively, if you have a trusted friend or family member with extra space in their garage, basement, or shed, you might be able to arrange a storage deal with them.

If you find yourself frequently acquiring new things, try to adopt a "one in, one out" policy. Whenever you buy something new, try to identify an existing item that you can sell, donate, or recycle. This practice will not only help you maintain a clutter-free living environment, but it also fosters a mindset of thoughtful consumption, where every purchase is deliberate and justified.

Remember, your goal in downsizing isn't just about fitting into a smaller space—it is about making room for new experiences and adventures. Trading square footage for freedom means releasing physical objects that tie you down and embracing a lifestyle that values experiences over possessions. It is a journey that requires effort and thought,

but the rewards of a clutter-free life on the open road are truly priceless.

Although downsizing can seem like a really daunting task it can also be really cathartic and therapeutic. Be patient with yourself, not many people find this an easy thing to tackle.

CHAPTER 3: ROADMAP TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY

ESSENTIAL GEAR FOR SOLO FEMALE VAN LIFERS OR RVERS

Embarking on an RV journey as a solo female traveller requires not just courage but also thorough preparation. Choosing the right gear is essential for a safe, comfortable, and enjoyable experience. Here is a list of gear tailored to solo female van lifers or RVers from the basic to the excessive, it's a bit of everything.

- 1. Security Equipment:** Safety comes first, so invest in a high-quality security system for your RV. Door and window alarms, a security camera system, and a steering wheel lock are good starting points. Also consider personal safety items, such as a reliable can of pepper spray or wasp spray if pepper spray is illegal where you are.
- 2. Mobile Internet:** A reliable internet connection is crucial, especially when travelling solo. A good mobile

hotspot device can keep you connected wherever you go, making it easier to navigate, communicate, and work if needed. Consider Starlink, it is not cheap, but it is pretty fantastic.

3. **Portable Power:** A solar power kit or a portable generator is vital for keeping your electronics running. A solar power setup is a sustainable option that allows you to recharge your devices while off the grid.
4. **GPS and Maps:** Having both a reliable GPS and physical maps can ensure you will not lose your way. Remember, technology can fail or run out of power, so having a traditional map as a backup is wise.
5. **First Aid Kit:** Keep a well-stocked first aid kit for any medical emergencies. Include any personal medications, bandages, antiseptic wipes, tweezers, and a digital thermometer.
6. **Multi-Tool:** A good multi-tool can come in handy in countless situations, from making quick fixes to your RV to opening cans and bottles.
7. **Portable Heater and Fan:** Depending on the time of the year and your location, a portable heater or fan can help maintain a comfortable temperature inside your RV. There are options for off-grid and on. Propane heat or diesel heaters, and battery operated fans.
8. **Fire Extinguisher:** Safety again! RVs, with their combination of fuel, cooking equipment, and electrical systems, are vulnerable to fires. Make sure you have a fire extinguisher that's rated for the types of fires you might encounter in an RV.
9. **Portable Washing Machine:** If you are planning to be on the road for extended periods, a portable washing machine can be a lifesaver. This will save you from having to find a laundromat or wash your clothes by hand.
10. **Levelling Blocks:** These are vital for making sure your RV is level when parked, which helps everything

function properly – from your fridge to your comfort when sleeping.

11. **Cooking Essentials:** A compact and portable stove, lightweight cookware, and a cooler or fridge are essential for preparing meals on the road.
12. **Water Filter:** Whether you are filling up your tank from an unfamiliar source or you're not sure about the quality of your campground's water, a good water filter can provide peace of mind and protect your health.
13. **Emergency Roadside Kit:** This should include jumper cables, a flashlight with extra batteries, a tire pressure gauge, roadside flares, and a set of basic tools.
14. **Comfort Items:** Do not forget about comfort. Your RV is your home on wheels. Items like a comfortable pillow, your favourite books, a portable hammock, or a cozy blanket can add joy to your journey.

These items can make your solo RV life more convenient, comfortable, and above all, safe. This list is a starting point, so feel free to add or remove items based on your needs, your RV, and your travel plans. Always remember: Your RV journey is your own, so gear up in a way that makes the most sense for you.

TIPS FOR STAYING SAFE ON THE ROAD

We will talk about instincts and safety a lot. Honestly the thing that stops most women in their tracks when they think about embarking on this lifestyle is fear.

The concern expressed the most by loved ones when talking about this lifestyle is their safety concerns. It is hard enough being female in this world but it is even harder when you are a female travelling solo.

Do not let fear stop you. Just keep safety in mind at all times, like you were not doing that anyway!

Here is a list of some basic things to keep yourself safe on your journey.

1. **Regular Vehicle Maintenance:** Keep your rig in top condition by performing regular maintenance and timely repairs. This reduces the risk of breakdowns and accidents. Before any journey, ensure your brakes, engine, lights, and tires are in good condition.
2. **Plan Your Route and Stops:** Know where you are going and plan your stops in advance. Use a reliable GPS system and also keep physical maps on hand as a backup.
3. **Check Weather Reports:** Always keep an eye on the weather at your next destination and along your route. This can help you avoid dangerous conditions such as heavy storms or extreme temperatures.
4. **Secure Your RV:** Invest in high-quality locks for your doors and windows. Consider installing a security system with alarms and cameras. Never leave your keys in the ignition when you are not in the vehicle.
5. **Stay Alert and Avoid Fatigue:** Long drives can be exhausting, and fatigue can lead to mistakes or accidents. Take regular breaks, stay hydrated, and get a good night's sleep before hitting the road. Do not push yourself to drive when you're feeling tired.
6. **Park Wisely:** Choose your parking spots wisely. Try to park in well-lit areas and preferably in designated campgrounds with security measures.
7. **Trust Your Instincts:** If something feels wrong, it probably is. Trust your gut. If you feel uncomfortable in a particular location or situation, it is better to move on.
8. **Maintain Privacy:** Avoid sharing too much information about your travel plans, especially on social media. Letting the world know that you are travelling alone and where you are headed can make you a target.
9. **Emergency Preparedness:** Always keep a well-stocked first aid kit in your RV. Know the location of the nearest hospital to your campsite. Have emergency numbers programmed into your phone.

10. **Take a Self-Defence Class:** Knowing how to defend yourself can boost your confidence and could prove invaluable. There are many self-defence classes designed specifically for women.

11. **Carry a Personal Alarm or Pepper Spray:** Having a personal safety device, like a loud whistle or pepper spray, can give you an extra sense of security.

12. **Be Aware of Your Surroundings:** Stay vigilant and aware of your surroundings. If you notice anything suspicious, inform local law enforcement or your park management.

People often ask me were you scared? Yeah, of course, there were times when walking the dogs at some random rest stop that dawdling was not an option. A good amount of nerves is what keeps you the safest. It keeps you hyper-aware and diligent.

COOKING AND EATING ON THE ROAD

Cooking and eating on the road is an integral part of the full-time RV lifestyle. Whether your home on wheels is a luxuriously equipped RV or a creatively retrofitted van, having the facilities and capacity to prepare and cook your own meals is crucial to keeping your budget low. It is not just about sustenance; it is about maintaining a balanced lifestyle and taking control of your dietary needs. Eating out for every meal gets pretty tired and expensive.

If you are in the early planning stages, perhaps yet to purchase or build your mobile abode, consider your priorities regarding food preparation. Will you need a full kitchen, complete with an oven, stovetop, and ample refrigeration? Or could you manage with a simpler setup, perhaps a single burner and a 12 volt cooler?

This journey has taught me the value of a 'full kitchen'. Fresh food is a non-negotiable for me, both for my health and for my savings. Having the ability to prepare meals at home

gives you flexibility, comfort, and most importantly, control over your diet and budget.

Cooking on the road offers substantial savings. While the allure of roadside diners and local cuisine can be tempting, eating out frequently can quickly become a hefty expense. Cooking your meals, on the other hand, allows you to maintain a healthier budget and diet.

Truthfully, there is something profoundly satisfying about cooking your meal in the middle of nature, perhaps by a lake or overlooking a mountain range. It adds a unique flavour to the food, a sense of freedom and connection with the environment that no restaurant can replicate.

If you decide to only have fireside meals that is ok, but think about your long-term plans before you buy or build your rig.

CHAPTER 4: MY LIFE AS A SOLO FEMALE RVER

NAILING DOWN THE PERFECT FULL-TIME RV PARK

Whether you plan to settle into a park and be stationary or you are hitting the open road utilizing RV parks as an occasional luxury for a long shower or to do laundry. It is important to understand you have to be mindful of the rules and regulations in your area. Some RV parks have age restrictions on the RVs and do not allow Tiny Homes due to the park or community bylaws. However, as tiny homes gain

A great location with affordable pricing is a win-win! Choosing an RV park isn't just about the physical space; it is about the community and the ability to make the area your own. Understanding the park's rules about modifications to your spot - from fencing for pets to porches and stairs - is critical.

RV parks differ greatly when it comes to rules about pets and children. Some parks may allow pets but have restrictions on the breed, size, or number of pets. Similarly, rules for children's activities and play areas can vary.

Facilities and amenities can significantly influence your RV park choice. Essential services like electricity, water, sewer hookups, and additional features like Wi-Fi, Cable TV, laundry facilities, etc., enhance the living experience. Recreational facilities like swimming pools, fitness centres, and playgrounds can also be a deciding factor for some.

The idea of full time RV living can be daunting initially. As a newcomer, it is completely normal to be nervous about this lifestyle. However, finding the right location and having wonderful neighbours can help the journey go smoother. Regardless of whether you are alone or with a partner, the RV lifestyle can be an incredible experience, although it has its own set of challenges.

FINDING CAMPSITES AND OVERNIGHT PARKING

Any full-time RVer who travels has probably spent a night in a Walmart parking lot. The first time you do this might be terrifying, but it gets easier. There is no shame in researching campsites to stay along your route. Whatever works.

Planning your journey is a good idea some Walmarts do not allow overnight parking and if you have the iOverlander

app on your phone it is really helpful for finding safe spots to park from free street spots to bounce RV resorts.

Boondocking, Moochdocking, or renting a spot with full hookups, there is no right or wrong way to travel.

My Class A motorhome has all the creature comforts, it has everything, but when it comes to a trip that is anything less than two weeks the thought of moving it, packing it, parking it, or setting it up feels like so much work for one person.

Venturing into the realm of solo RV living can be a liberating and transformative experience. As a solo female RVer, one of the essential aspects of your journey will be discovering campsites and locating overnight parking options. Having a strategy for this not only helps ensure your comfort but also plays a significant role in shaping your RVing experience. Let us delve into some helpful tips for finding campsites and overnight parking spots.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

Your intuition is one of your strongest allies on your solo RV journey. When selecting a campsite or an overnight parking spot, trust your gut feeling. If a particular location does not feel right or comfortable, consider other options. It's better to have peace of mind and security over having to deal with potential problems.

While on the move, it can be challenging to understand the character of every area you pass through. Nevertheless, doing a bit of research about the neighbourhood can provide valuable insights into safety, amenities, and the overall environment. Look for reviews online or use dedicated apps and websites for RVers.

There are several websites and applications designed to help RVers find safe and suitable campsites and parking spaces. Platforms like Campendium, Boondocks Welcom, iOverlander, and AllStays can provide comprehensive information about various locations, complete with reviews

from other RVers. These tools can be incredibly helpful in your quest for the perfect spot.

Joining RV clubs and associations can grant you access to a wide network of RVers who share their experiences and advice. This network can provide invaluable insights into the best campsites and overnight parking spots, often based on personal experiences. Good Sam Club, Escapees RV Club, and Harvest Hosts are a few examples of RV clubs that offer various resources, including discounted rates at certain parks and campgrounds.

In many instances, retail stores like Walmart, Cabela's, and Cracker Barrel allow RVers to park overnight in their lots for free. However, always check the specific store's policy or ask a store manager for permission before settling in for the night. Apps like AllStays can also inform you about which retail locations allow overnight parking.

Fitness memberships can be a great resource. Many locations are open 24 hours. It is a clean safe place to have a shower. Some even allow overnight parking. There are many locations across North America and membership pricing is reasonable.

As we discussed earlier boondocking, or dry camping, refers to camping without hookups to power, water, or sewer services. This can be a fun and affordable way to experience RV living, and there are many resources online that can guide you toward the best boondocking spots.

Navigating the world of RV camping and overnight parking as a solo female RVer can seem scary, but with the right resources and a bit of research, it can become an exciting part of your RV lifestyle.

BUILDING A SUPPORT NETWORK

Life on the road does not have to always mean you are alone. It is important to have a network to help you through rough or challenging times. Leaning on friends and family

and keeping them in the loop about your travel plans is a great way to stay safe and feel supported.

A roadside assistance program of some kind is definitely a good idea. They can be pricey, but the peace of mind that comes with that price tag is well worth it particularly if you're not mechanically inclined.

Apart from professional services, building a support network also involves connecting with fellow RVers. Attend meetups, join online communities, and engage in forums where you can exchange stories, advice, and support. You will discover a wealth of knowledge and camaraderie among like-minded individuals who understand the joys and challenges of the RV lifestyle.

Remember, your support network is there to celebrate your successes, lend a helping hand in times of need, and provide a sense of belonging. By nurturing these connections, you will create a support system that enhances your solo RV experience and makes it even more fulfilling. They can also help with feelings of loneliness and isolation.

CHAPTER 5: NAVIGATING SOLO RV LIFE AS A WOMAN

DEALING WITH LONELINESS AND ISOLATION

As a woman embarking on a solo RV journey, it is essential to address the potential challenges of loneliness and isolation. While the freedom and adventure of the open road can be exhilarating, there may be moments when you long

for companionship and connection. Here are some insights and strategies to navigate this aspect of solo RV life:

1. **Embrace Community:** Seek out communities and gatherings specifically designed for solo female RVers. These spaces provide an opportunity to meet like-minded individuals who understand the unique experiences and concerns of women travelling alone. Whether it is joining women's RV clubs, attending meetups, or participating in online forums, connecting with others can alleviate feelings of isolation and create lasting friendships.
2. **Stay Socially Engaged:** Engaging in social activities is vital for your well-being and personal growth on the road. Attend local events, join hobby groups, or take part in volunteer initiatives. Not only will this allow you to meet new people and form connections, but it can also expose you to diverse experiences and cultures. Stay open to new friendships and meaningful encounters that can enrich your solo RV journey.
3. **Connect Virtually:** Technology has made it easier than ever to stay connected with loved ones, even while on the move. Regularly reach out to family and friends through video calls, social media, or instant messaging. Share your adventures, seek their support, and let them be a part of your journey. Having a support system back home can provide comfort and reassurance, making you feel connected even when physically apart.
4. **Seek Out Safe Camping Options:** When choosing your camping spots, consider locations that offer opportunities for socializing and interaction. Look for campgrounds with community areas, organized activities, or common spaces where you can engage with fellow RVers. Some campgrounds even host social events or potluck dinners, fostering a sense of camaraderie among travellers. Being in a welcoming

and sociable environment can help combat feelings of loneliness.

5. Embrace Solo Exploration: While connecting with others is important, don't overlook the value of spending time with yourself. Embrace the solitude and use it as an opportunity for self-reflection, personal growth, and pursuing your interests. Engage in activities that bring you joy and fulfillment, such as hiking, writing, painting, or practicing mindfulness. Cultivate a sense of independence and learn to enjoy your own company.

Remember, feelings of loneliness and isolation are natural parts of any solo journey, but they do not have to define your experience. By actively seeking connections, staying socially engaged, and embracing both community and solitude, you can navigate the challenges of loneliness and isolation with resilience and create a fulfilling solo RV life as a woman.

FINDING LOVE ON THE OPEN ROAD

There are days when it seems easier to be solo than to try to find someone who understands this lifestyle and could find a way to fit into it. Living this way often includes being on the move, exploring new horizons, and adapting to ever-changing landscapes. It is a lifestyle that requires flexibility. Navigating this landscape leaves you wondering if there is someone out there who can seamlessly integrate into this unconventional way of life.

Finding a partner who understands your yearning for freedom, the desire to embrace nature's wonders, and the need to wander off the beaten path can feel like searching for a needle in a haystack. It requires not only finding compatibility but also uncovering someone who shares the same zeal for exploration and discovery. It is about discovering a person who not only accepts but celebrates the quirks and challenges that come with living on the road.

Deep diving into the RV community, you will hear tales of inspiring connections forged on the journey. Hearing stories

of fellow solo travellers who have found their kindred spirits, their travel companions, and even their life partners can leave you feeling a bit more optimistic. These stories give hope and encourage the belief that somewhere out there, amidst the vast landscapes and winding roads, there exists a person who will understand, appreciate, and seamlessly merge with this nomadic way of life.

There are several groups out there dedicated to helping nomads make connections with other nomads. Romantic connection or just travel buddy connections. Women who are nervous about traveling alone can make connections with other women to create a safe caravan. The world is so much smaller these days thanks to the internet and social media.

Being content with the freedom, independence, and self-discovery that solo RV life offers might be enough. Travelling with a partner was nice and although it was wonderful to have someone take on some of the challenges faced on the road, it's just as enjoyable travelling on my own.

MANAGING MENTAL HEALTH ON THE ROAD

Life on the road is a dream come true for many solo RVers but there are challenges as well. The nomadic lifestyle can present unique challenges to one's mental well-being. As we navigate the highways and byways, it is crucial to prioritize and actively manage our mental health. Here are some insights and strategies for maintaining emotional well-being on the road:

- 1. Embracing Self-Care:** The key to managing mental health starts with prioritizing self-care. Take time for yourself, engaging in activities that bring you joy and promote relaxation. Whether it is practicing meditation, journaling, taking long walks in nature, or indulging in a

favourite hobby, make self-care an integral part of your routine.

2. **Cultivating a Routine:** Establishing a sense of structure and routine can provide stability and a sense of grounding amidst the ever-changing landscapes. Set regular sleeping patterns, incorporate exercise into your day, and create a balanced schedule that allows for both exploration and downtime.
3. **Connecting with Nature:** Nature has a profound impact on our mental well-being. Take advantage of the breathtaking surroundings and make time to immerse yourself in natural beauty. Whether it is hiking in national parks, stargazing under the vast night sky, or simply enjoying a peaceful sunset, let nature be a source of solace and rejuvenation.
4. **Seeking Social Connections:** While solo RVing offers freedom and independence, it is essential to maintain social connections for mental well-being. Attend RV gatherings, join online communities or forums, and engage in conversations with fellow travellers. These connections can provide a sense of belonging and support during times of loneliness or isolation.
5. **Prioritizing Internet Access:** In today's digital age, staying connected with loved ones and accessing mental health resources is vital. Ensure you have reliable internet access to communicate with family and friends, participate in virtual support groups, or seek professional help when needed.
6. **Practicing Mindfulness:** Mindfulness is a powerful tool for managing stress and enhancing overall well-being. Incorporate mindfulness practices into your daily life, such as deep breathing exercises, guided meditation, or mindful eating. By staying present and fully embracing each moment, you can reduce anxiety and cultivate a sense of peace.

7. **Recognizing Signs of Distress:** It is crucial to be aware of the signs of distress and seek help if needed. Pay attention to changes in mood, sleep patterns, or appetite, and reach out to a healthcare professional if you experience persistent feelings of sadness, anxiety, or hopelessness.
8. **Planning for Personal Space:** If you are not a solo nomad, living in a confined space can sometimes lead to feelings of claustrophobia or the need for personal space. Plan ahead by identifying areas or activities that allow you to have alone time. Whether it is finding a quiet spot at a campground, visiting local libraries, or setting up a cozy reading nook inside your RV, having personal space can contribute to a healthier mindset.

Managing mental health is an ongoing process whether you live conventionally or unconventionally. Be kind to yourself, practice self-compassion, and seek support when needed. Prioritize your well-being and implement strategies to nurture your mental health so you can truly thrive on your journey.

It's not always easy having no roots, it can be particularly challenging on those rainy days when you can not get outside to enjoy your surroundings. E-readers can hold hundreds of books and are a total compact source of hours of entertainment.

HANDLING CONFRONTATIONS AND HARASSMENT

While solo RVing can be a rewarding and empowering experience, it is essential to be prepared for potential confrontations and instances of harassment that may arise. Here are some insights and strategies to help you navigate these situations, including the dreaded knock on your RV door:

1. **Trust Your Instincts:** You must be getting sick of hearing about your instincts by now, but our intuition is a powerful tool. If something feels off or you sense danger, trust your instincts. It is better to prioritize your safety and take precautionary measures rather than ignoring potential risks.
2. **Stay Vigilant:** Awareness of your surroundings is crucial. Pay attention to any suspicious activities or individuals nearby. Trustworthy neighbours and fellow RVers can also be valuable sources of information and support.
3. **Secure Your RV:** Implement security measures to safeguard your RV and belongings. This includes investing in quality locks, installing an alarm system, and utilizing security cameras if possible. Keeping doors and windows locked when inside the RV and using window coverings for privacy can act as deterrents.
4. **Plan for Privacy:** Create boundaries and prioritize your privacy. If you encounter unwanted attention or feel uncomfortable, politely but firmly assert your boundaries. Use curtains, shades, or blinds to ensure privacy inside your RV, and consider using exterior window coverings or screens when needed.
5. **Communicate Assertively:** In situations where you face confrontations or harassment, it is essential to communicate assertively. Maintain a calm demeanour, express your boundaries clearly and firmly, and avoid escalating the situation if possible. Trust your judgment on whether it is better to engage or remove yourself from the situation.
6. **Seek Support:** If you experience harassment or confrontations that you are unable to handle on your own, do not hesitate to seek support. Reach out to campground management, park rangers, or local authorities to report incidents and seek assistance. Many campgrounds and RVing communities prioritize

safety and are prepared to address such issues promptly.

7. **The Dreaded Knock:** The unexpected knock on your RV door can be unnerving. Before opening the door, assess the situation through a peephole, or window, or by speaking through the closed door. If you feel uneasy, it is perfectly acceptable to ask for identification or clarification before opening up to strangers. Get on the phone with someone before you open the door. Feel free to not open the door and just drive away. Unless it is police, respect authority figures.
8. **Emergency Preparedness:** Prepare for emergencies by having a plan in place. Keep important phone numbers readily available, including emergency services and campground contacts. It is also beneficial to have a trusted friend or family member whom you can contact in case of an urgent situation.
9. **Document Incidents:** If you encounter harassment or confrontations, document the incidents with as much detail as possible. Take note of dates, times, descriptions of individuals involved, and any other relevant information. This documentation can be helpful if you decide to report the incidents or if they persist.

Remember, your safety and well-being are paramount. It's essential to be proactive, assertive and prepared when handling confrontations and instances of harassment. By trusting your instincts, establishing boundaries, seeking support when needed, and staying vigilant, you can better navigate these challenging situations and continue to enjoy your solo RV lifestyle with peace of mind.

Having embarked on this journey quite some time ago, it appears that approximately 80% of my time is spent parked somewhere conventional. But there have been numerous nights spent by the roadside or in rest areas. The dreaded knock has only been encountered once, and no incident has ever compromised my sense of safety.

CHAPTER 6: UNSPOKEN REALITIES OF FULL-TIME RV LIFE



A REALISTIC VIEW OF FULL-TIME RV LIFE

While the alluring appeal of full-time RV life often stems from the idea of boundless freedom and affordability, it is critical to understand the realities beneath the surface. Just like any lifestyle, living on the road comes with its own unique set of challenges and expenses. Whether you are stationary in a park model or hitting the road in a compact van, it's essential to maintain a contingency fund for unexpected scenarios.

In the realm of RV living, the adage 'expect the unexpected' holds more truth than you might imagine. RV life can be incredibly economical, with many cost-saving opportunities that traditional living simply doesn't provide. However, when unforeseen obstacles arise, repair costs can quickly escalate. From engine troubles to a suddenly malfunctioning water heater, the unexpected has a knack for making an appearance at the most inconvenient times.

Seasonal changes also present their own set of challenges. Winters can cause your heating bills to climb, while summers can do the same with cooling costs. The idealized notion of an eternally mild climate rarely plays out in

reality, and as an RVer, you are directly at the mercy of these weather patterns.

However, these realities should not deter you from pursuing the full-time RV life. Instead, consider them valuable insights to help you prepare better. It is vital to embark on your journey with a clear and realistic understanding of what lies ahead. By doing so, you can effectively plan and budget for these eventualities, ensuring that you are able to handle the financial ebbs and flows that come with full-time RVing.

Squirreling away a few months of living expenses is a really good idea. Something sudden and unplanned, like mechanical issues or a crazy vet bill, can derail you financially whether you are a road warrior or you live in a conventional home.

Remember that every lifestyle has its highs and lows, and full-time RVing is no exception. In the face of challenges, the community, the freedom, and the ever-changing scenery provide an unmatched rewarding experience. Stay realistic, stay prepared, and most importantly, stay excited for the extraordinary journey ahead.

WHAT YOU WEREN'T TOLD ABOUT FULL-TIME RVING

The dreamy allure of full-time RVing often centres around perceived affordability. However, beneath this facade of cost-efficiency, there lurks a variety of hidden costs that often go unmentioned in casual conversations or glamorous Instagram posts.

Let's begin with the initial investment - the RV itself. While you may already have budgeted for this, it's important to factor in the cost of insurance, registration, and potentially, a loan payment. Depending on the age, type, and size of your RV, these costs can add a considerable amount to your initial outlay.

Maintenance and repairs are another major area of unexpected expenditure. Unlike a house, an RV is a vehicle that endures constant motion and vibration, which leads to quicker wear and tear. Everything from tire replacements and brake work to more significant issues like engine or transmission repairs need to be accounted for.

If you are dependent on RV parks or campgrounds for your stays, the nightly fees can quickly add up, particularly in popular areas during peak season. On top of that, you may also have to pay for utilities, like electricity, if they are not included in your camping fees.

Most campgrounds have unreliable WiFi and in this day and age we are all very dependent on this amenity, you may have to pay for your service if you are stationary and invest in something like Starlink if you are on the road.

Another not so hidden cost is fuel. Even if you have factored in fuel for travel, it is easy to underestimate the amount you'll need, especially as prices fluctuate. Do not forget to account for generator use if you will be boondocking or if your site does not provide electrical hookups.

While boondocking or 'free camping' can help you save on lodging expenses, it often requires off-grid living arrangements. This could mean investing in solar panels, portable power stations, and extra water storage tanks.

Lastly, do not overlook the small, everyday things that add up over time. Propane for cooking and heating, internet connectivity for staying in touch with the world, and laundromat fees are some examples.

Understanding these hidden costs doesn't mean you should abandon your RVing dreams, far from it. Arm yourself with the knowledge to plan better, budget smarter, and embrace the full-time RV lifestyle with a clear understanding of what it truly entails. After all, forewarned is forearmed!

RV MAINTENANCE 101

Embarking on the full-time RV lifestyle requires more than just an adventurous spirit - it requires a specific skill set, particularly when it comes to RV maintenance. But this is something anyone can learn thanks to YouTube. Much like owning a house, owning an RV means you will need to perform regular upkeep to keep everything in top shape.

Starting from the top, roof and seal maintenance is crucial to prevent costly damage from water leaks. Examine your roof at least twice a year, look out for cracks or holes, and reseal as needed with an appropriate sealant. Do not forget to check around vents, skylights, and air conditioners as well.

When it comes to tires, a blowout while driving can be dangerous and costly. Regularly check tire pressure, inspect them for wear or damage, and rotate them as recommended. Know the signs of aging tires, and replace them when necessary.

Engine maintenance is another key area. Regular oil changes, fluid checks, and inspections are essential to keep your RV running smoothly. Do not neglect your generator either - it needs similar care. You should 'exercise' your generator once a month or so. This means unplugging from shore power and turning your generator on. Let it run for half an hour or so 'under load'. This means while running a large draw system like your air conditioning or a space heater.

Your RV's holding tanks - fresh, gray, and black - also require regular maintenance. Keep your fresh water tank sanitized. Use a water pressure regulator to protect your onboard system. Many RV parks have fluctuating pressure that can do damage to your pipes.

Regularly empty and clean the grey and black tanks to avoid unpleasant odours and sensor malfunctions. Consider using RV-specific tank treatments to keep things flowing smoothly. It is important to remember never to leave your black tank open. It is important to be diligent about not allowing food waste to go into your sink drain. These tanks are just not designed to flow like a home system. Improper care of your tanks can be a real nightmare to deal with.

Every time you empty your black tank you should rinse it either by filling it and emptying it again or using a back flush or wand to clean it out. Once it is empty you want to put at least a gallon of water and your RV chemical of choice. I highly recommend 'Happy Camper'. It is important to always use a lot of water when flushing this will help keep things flowing freely and keep odours at bay. I wrote a blog post about this that covers all the basics, please check it out here.

Your grey tank can be just as smelly as the black tank if it is not cared for properly. It is important that you not rinse things down your sink. Scrape all food waste and oils into the garbage or compost. Use a straining catch in your sinks at all times. It is ok to leave your grey tank open if you have full hook ups, but only if you are very careful and extremely diligent about not letting items get down the drain.

The day before you empty your black tank, close your grey tank and use that water to give your 'stinky slinky' septic hose a rinse after emptying it. Once you are done emptying and rinsing your black tank, close the valve and then pull the valve on your grey tank. This will help keep your systems clean and fresh.

Maintenance is not just about the big-ticket items. It is also about taking care of minor things that can become major if left unattended. Check your appliances regularly, keep an eye out for any potential electrical issues, and do not let a minor leak turn into a significant water damage problem. Have your propane systems checked regularly by a certified professional.

Remember, routine maintenance not only ensures the longevity of your RV but also helps guarantee your safety on the road. Equip yourself with the knowledge and tools necessary for these tasks - it will save you time, money, and the stress of unexpected issues during your travels. Embrace the fact that being an RVer means being part handyman, part driver, and part homemaker. It is all part of the journey.

CHAPTER 7: WEATHERING THE SEASONS

BRAVING THE WINTER MONTHS AS A SOLO RV ADVENTURER

Winter is hard in any kind of RV. Winter is a relative term, maybe your temperatures never dip below freezing, but even if they do for just a few hours a few times a month, you still need to plan for the season. If you are lucky enough to be able to stay warm all year just skip this section.

As idyllic as the full-time RV lifestyle can seem from behind the filters on social media, it is not all sunsets and serene vistas, especially when the colder months roll in. The reality is, winter can be one of the most challenging seasons for any RVer.

The plunging temperatures can bring about a variety of hardships, from frozen pipes to slippery, ice-covered roads. Limited daylight can throw a wrench in your travel plans, and the increased need for heating can put a strain on your resources. However, with these challenges also come unique joys and learning experiences.

Wintering in an RV requires preparation, adaptability, and resilience. You will need to learn how to insulate your rig, keep your water supply from freezing, and choose routes that are safer for travel during inclement weather. You will become adept at managing your power usage and staying warm without depleting your fuel supplies. You will also discover

that there is a special kind of peace in watching the snowfall from the cozy interior of your RV, a mug of hot cocoa in hand.

One crucial factor in surviving winter as a solo RVer is having a strong support network. Whether it's online communities of fellow RVers or friends and family who understand and support your lifestyle, their tips, advice, and moral support can be invaluable when the going gets tough. They can also provide practical help, like a place to park your RV during a storm, or aid if you need emergency repairs.

Winter RVing as a solo female traveller can be a test of strength and endurance. Yet, with the right preparation and mindset, it can also be an incredibly rewarding experience. Cold comfort, indeed, but comfort nonetheless.

Most RV groups will tell you the best way to spend the winter in your RV is to head south, they are not wrong.

TACKLING WINTER HEAD-ON

Living full-time in an RV is an adventure filled with its unique challenges and joys. But when winter rolls around, the game changes entirely. How does one prepare for the frigid season while maintaining the RV lifestyle, particularly in a place as winter-intensive as Canada? Temperatures as low as minus 40 degrees Celsius are not for the faint of heart. Driving through the Rocky Mountains solo in December is also a white-knuckling experience.

- 1. Select the Right RV:** The Winter Package. When choosing your RV, make sure to invest in one with a four-season package, also known as a winter package. This will often include heated tanks or an enclosed basement where furnace ducting runs through, and double-paned windows. Although this does not exempt you from taking extra steps for winter living, it is a critical foundation for the cold months.
- 2. Use Supplemental Heat:** To supplement your furnace and reduce high propane bills in the winter, consider electric heaters if you have access to power.

There are numerous space heaters suitable for RV living which can help keep you toasty without breaking the bank.

3. **Skirt Your Rig:** Skirting your RV helps to prevent the cold air from circulating underneath it. Some RV parks even require skirting, while others have rules against it or prefer specific materials. Be sure to check with your RV park for their regulations before proceeding.
4. **Protect Your Water Source:** Freezing temperatures can spell trouble for your water supply. Ensure that your water spigot and hose are adequately insulated. A simple solution like wrapping the spigot in a towel and duct tape can suffice but usually is not enough. Alternatively, you can use a heated hose, or DIY one with pipe heating cable and insulated tubing. Filling up your tanks and disconnecting the hose is often the best plan for cold winter days.
5. **Secure Your Water Inlet:** The water inlet compartment should have some heat source to prevent freezing. Installing a thermometer can give you a real-time update on its temperature, helping you take necessary precautions. Not all RVs have an enclosed compartment, so you might need to DIY an enclosure or wrap heat tape around your city water intake.
6. **Insulate Windows:** In a place like Canada, extra insulation on your windows is a must. You can use Reflectix or clear plastic film with double-sided tape. This not only helps in winter, but it also keeps your RV cooler in summer. Blankets can also provide insulation around your entrance door, which tends to be a common source of drafts.
7. **Maintain Your Tanks:** During winter, your tanks are susceptible to freezing. If your rig is skirted, this can help prevent freezing, but if your tanks are exposed, consider using RV-friendly anti-freeze in your black and grey tanks. It is also advisable to leave the cupboard

doors open if there is plumbing inside to allow warm air circulation.

8. **Winter Bedding:** Consider investing in a heated mattress pad or heated blanket for those particularly chilly nights.

Living full-time in your RV during the winter can be tough. When you have been outside with a heat gun trying to thaw out the water spigot in your house coat you'll be able to understand fully how tough.

Preparation is the key to a cozy winter living experience in your RV. Being prepared for the cold not only ensures your comfort but also the proper functioning and longevity of your RV's systems.

EMBRACING WINTER

Living on the road presents its own set of unique challenges that are only heightened during the cold, winter months. Everyday conveniences, like electricity and heating, become luxury commodities as they rapidly deplete your RV's battery and propane supplies. After all, with a propane-dependent furnace and fridge, each cycle guzzles not only propane but also sips precious battery power. Surviving winter as a solo female RVer without solar panels or a generator can feel akin to a Herculean feat.

Boondocking in the winter will likely send you hunting for an alternative heating source. Many RVs come equipped with a propane heater but the fan will often cycle on and off all night long and for any light sleepers that disturbance is very disruptive. Powering through precious propane.

There is one winter essential that should not be overlooked – a heated blanket. A heated blanket and a portable power bank are a cozy cure for a cold night. Many blankets come with timers, offering the convenience of pre-setting warmth needs, and shutting off when required. As the day begins, power up the blanket's warmth for extra coziness,

possibly turning on the furnace for a brief period to get rid of the morning chill.

Maintaining running water is challenging during winter. If not skirted and stationary, preventing pipes from freezing becomes an impossible task. Unpredictable weather poses a threat, with a frozen pipe being a RV dweller's nightmare. One way to combat this is by winterizing the RV and adding antifreeze to all holding tanks. Keep a sprayer of water mixed with antifreeze handy for bathroom uses, and have a gym membership for showering needs during winter. It is also wise to keep extra drinking water available for cooking.

Securing a sunny parking spot not only benefits solar panels but also lifts the spirit. Enclosed winter days in a compact home can feel restrictive, making a furry companion a welcome addition. Not only do they compel outdoor activities, but they also provide company. It is worthwhile noting that keeping pets warm during winter is a lot simpler than keeping them cool in the summer.

MANAGING SUMMER TEMPERATURES IN AN RV

With summer comes the undeniable heat, which can turn the cozy confines of your RV into a sweltering oven.

While winters on the road pose their unique challenges, the sweltering summer months can be equally, if not more, daunting for those living in an RV. The heat can quickly build up inside your home on wheels, and managing that heat becomes an essential part of maintaining a comfortable and safe living environment.

This is particularly important if you travel with pets, as they are more susceptible to heat-related health issues. We will discuss how to create a safe and comfortable environment for your furry companions during the summer months,

highlighting the importance of ventilation, insulation, and shading.

From understanding how to insulate your RV properly, and optimizing ventilation, to using solar-powered fans, portable air conditioners, and other cooling techniques, this section will cover a multitude of strategies to help you keep your home on wheels cool.

Summer does not have to be synonymous with discomfort, even for RVers. With a little planning and some strategic modifications to your rig, you can create a space that is safe, comfortable, and welcoming, regardless of how high the mercury rises. So buckle up and we will learn how to ride that heat wave!

VENTILATION TECHNIQUES FOR SUMMER RV LIVING

Keeping your home on wheels cool and safe for you and your fur babies is harder than keeping them warm in the winter. It is easy enough to have a power bank and a heated blanket in the winter, knowing if the main source of warmth shuts off for some reason they will still be cozy and warm from the heated blanket, but in the summer, if the AC kicks out an RV can heat up to dangerous temperatures quickly, even here in Canada.

As summer heat waves hit, creating a comfortable and safe environment within your RV becomes crucial. This challenge, while daunting, can be met with clever strategies and savvy use of resources.

In summer it is a battle to keep the heat out and the air flowing. Curtains, insulation, and reflective sunshades should be your first line of defence against the heat. They prevent direct sunlight from warming up the interior and maintain a cooler inside temperature. Putting Reflectix in your windows will dramatically decrease the temperature inside.

Bear in mind that while blocking out sunlight can decrease heat, it can also limit airflow.

Good ventilation not only removes stale air and moisture but also helps to decrease the temperature inside the RV. Installing roof vents or fans can make a world of difference in maintaining a cool atmosphere. Some roof fans even come with thermostats and can be set to automatically turn on when the temperature exceeds a certain degree, ensuring your RV doesn't turn into an oven.

If you are doing a DIY van build it is important to consider adding an intake and exhaust type of roof fan ventilation system. Having a rooftop vent cover so that it can be left open without concerns about rain and wind. They do make a few options that will sense rain and close, a cover is a great second line of demesne. It is important to be able to move the air inside your mobile abode and often that requires having a window open to complement the rooftop fan.

However, there are situations where passive cooling methods might not suffice, especially if you are parked somewhere exceptionally hot or if your furry friends are left unattended. For those situations, a well-functioning air conditioning unit is a lifesaver. Portable air conditioning units or swamp coolers can be powered by your RV's electrical system, but they do require a fair bit of energy. Consider your power needs and balance them accordingly to ensure a safe and comfortable summer in your home on wheels.

COOLING GADGETS FOR SUMMER RV LIFE

Unfortunately, most homes on wheels are not very well insulated, so they tend to be very hot in summer and devastatingly cold in winter. Luckily, there is a wide variety of gadgets specifically designed to help you beat the heat. These devices range from simple manual fans to high-tech

cooling systems. Let us take a look at some of the most useful cooling gadgets that can make summer RV living far more comfortable.

1. **Portable Air Conditioner or Evaporative Cooler:** a portable air conditioner or an evaporative cooler (also known as a swamp cooler) can be a game-changer. These devices effectively lower the temperature within your van, providing a respite from the intense summer heat. Remember, though, that air conditioners are power-hungry, so ensure your power system can handle the load before investing in one. Evaporative coolers are more energy-efficient, but they work best in dry climates as they add moisture to the air.
2. **Roof Fans and Ventilation Systems:** Installing a roof fan in your van can significantly improve ventilation and keep the interior cool. Some high-quality roof fans come with features like reversible airflow, multiple speed settings, and even built-in thermostats. They draw minimal power and can be a good long-term investment for any van lifer.
3. **Solar-Powered Fans:** If you are keen on conserving energy, solar-powered fans are an excellent option. They can be attached to windows or hatches and provide a steady airflow without depleting your battery. They are also quiet and environment-friendly, making them an attractive choice for eco-conscious RV dwellers.
4. **Portable Battery-Operated Fans:** These are handy for personal cooling and can be moved around as needed. Some models come with rechargeable batteries and can run for several hours on a single charge.
5. **Portable Fridges or Coolers:** While not directly cooling you, having a portable fridge or cooler can be a blessing in the summer heat. It allows you to store fresh food and have access to cold drinks. A well-insulated

cooler can also be a cost-effective alternative to a fridge.

6. **Moisture-Wicking Bedding:** This might not be a gadget in the traditional sense, but moisture-wicking bedding can significantly improve your comfort on hot summer nights. These products are designed to absorb and distribute sweat, making it evaporate quicker and helping you feel cooler.
7. **Reflective Window Covers:** These are simple yet effective tools to keep your RV cool. By reflecting sunlight, these covers prevent the inside of your rig from heating up excessively.

As a full-time RVer it is important to remember that every space and power constraint must be considered. Balancing these elements while creating a comfortable environment can seem tricky, but with the right tools at your disposal, you can keep your RV cool and inviting all summer long.

Something you might want to consider is a ‘soft start’ system for your air conditioner. I installed this device myself! [Read about ‘soft starts’ here.](#) This device was truly a game changer when moochdocking at my folks’ house.

Remember to consider the power constraints and energy requirements of these cooling gadgets before investing in them. Finding the right balance and using the tools available will help you create a comfortable and cool living space in your RV during the summer months.

CHAPTER 8: FROM WANDERLUST TO WORK



A REALISTIC VIEW OF MAKING MONEY ON THE ROAD

Embarking on a full-time RV lifestyle does not mean bidding farewell to your career aspirations or financial stability. The open road presents a unique opportunity to reimagine work and find a balance between your wanderlust and the need for a sustainable income. In this chapter, we will delve into the world of earning income on the road, discovering various avenues to build a remote career that allows you to maintain your nomadic lifestyle.

From freelancing and remote work to seasonal jobs and entrepreneurial ventures, there are countless ways to generate income while embracing the freedom of the RV or van lifestyle. The digital age has opened up a world of possibilities, enabling individuals to work from anywhere with an internet connection. Whether you are a seasoned professional seeking a change of scenery or a budding entrepreneur ready to hit the road, this chapter will guide you through the process of building a remote career that suits your skills, interests, and financial goals.

We will explore the concept of the digital nomad, uncovering the vast array of opportunities available in the remote work landscape. You will discover the importance of cultivating a business mindset and exploring entrepreneurial ventures that can thrive on wheels. We will also dive into the world of workamping and seasonal jobs, where you can trade your labour for site discounts or explore short-term employment in various locations. We will also explore how to monetize your passions and hobbies, turning them into income streams that sustain your nomadic lifestyle.

Staying connected is paramount in this digital era, and we will discuss various internet options and solutions for mobile

professionals. Whether you rely on Wi-Fi at RV parks, invest in a mobile hotspot, or explore alternative connectivity solutions, we will help you navigate the world of internet access on the move.

Earning income on the road is not only about financial sustainability but also about finding fulfillment and purpose as you embrace the freedom and adventure that the RV lifestyle offers.

NOMAD-FRIENDLY GIG ECONOMY

When it comes to embracing the full-time RV lifestyle, there is no one-size-fits-all approach. Some RVers prefer a more nomadic existence, constantly on the move, while others find fulfillment in a semi-stationary life, exploring different job opportunities in various locations. The beauty of this journey lies in its flexibility, allowing individuals to adapt their lifestyle to their personal preferences and career aspirations.

Back in 2009, my journey into full-time RV living began alongside owning a small pet accessories business. This traditional brick-and-mortar operation may seem at odds with the principles of mobility and freedom, but it meshed with the circumstances of my life at the time.

2013 marked a transition from a stationary RV setup to one that offered greater mobility. This switch opened the gateway to the world of contract work.

The rise of the gig economy has been a game-changer for individuals seeking nomadic-friendly work opportunities. Freelancing platforms and contractor websites have emerged as valuable resources for RVers and van lifers, offering a wide range of remote jobs and project-based work. These platforms connect freelancers and contractors with clients and companies in need of their skills and services, creating a nomad-friendly gig economy that supports the RV lifestyle.

In the following sections, we will explore some of the leading freelancing platforms and contractor websites that

cater to the needs of RVers. From popular platforms like Upwork and Fiverr to niche websites focusing on specific industries, we will provide you with insights and tips for leveraging these platforms to find remote work opportunities that align with your skills and interests.

NOMADIC TRADES AND SERVICES

For RVers with specialized skills and experience, contract work in specific industries can be a lucrative and rewarding option. Whether you have expertise in film production, pipeline maintenance, construction, or other trades, there are opportunities to utilize your skills while living life on the road. Let's delve into some nomadic trades and services that offer potential avenues for employment:

- 1. Film Industry:** If you have experience in the film industry, your skills can open doors to contract work in various production roles. From production assistants to set decorators to makeup artists, the film industry often relies on freelancers and contractors to fulfill specific project needs. By networking with industry professionals and joining online platforms and job boards dedicated to the film industry, you can find opportunities to work on film sets in different locations. Keep in mind that contract work in the film industry may require flexibility in terms of travel and availability, as projects can vary in duration and location.
- 2. Pipeline and Oilfields:** For those with experience in pipeline maintenance, oilfield operations, or related trades, contract work in the energy sector can be an excellent fit. Many companies hire contractors to assist with pipeline installation, maintenance, inspection, and repairs. These projects often require workers to travel to different locations, making it an ideal option for RVers. Networking with industry professionals, joining relevant trade organizations, and staying updated on

job opportunities through industry-specific job boards can help you find contract work in the pipeline and oilfield sectors.

3. Construction and Renovation: Construction and renovation projects are in constant demand, and skilled tradespeople are always needed. Whether you specialize in carpentry, plumbing, electrical work, or general construction, you can find contract work on various construction sites across the country.

Contracting your services to construction companies or joining a trade-specific agency can help you secure short-term or long-term contracts in different regions. This type of work allows you to utilize your skills while moving with your RV or van from one project to another.

4. Event Services: The event industry offers opportunities for contract work in a range of services. From event setup and teardown to audiovisual production and event coordination, RVers with event-related skills can find work on temporary event projects. Concerts, festivals, trade shows, and corporate events often require contractors to assist with setup, technical support, and other event-related tasks. Networking with event planners, joining event industry associations, and leveraging online platforms specializing in event jobs can help you secure contract work in this field.

5. Outdoor and Recreation Services: If you have expertise in outdoor activities and recreation, consider offering your skills and services in popular tourist destinations. From guiding hiking and camping trips to providing adventure sports instruction, there are opportunities to work as a contractor in the outdoor and recreation sector. National parks, campgrounds, adventure companies, and tourism organizations often hire contractors for seasonal positions. This type of work allows you to combine your passion for the outdoors with your nomadic lifestyle.

6. **Security Work:** Protecting People and Property. For nomads with a background or interest in security, there are opportunities to provide valuable security services while on the road. This can include event security for music festivals and conferences, campground security at RV parks, construction site security, and personal security for high-profile individuals. To pursue security work, obtain the necessary certifications and licenses required in your target locations. Networking within the security industry and leveraging online platforms and job boards can help you find contract opportunities. Incorporating security work into your nomadic career options can provide a steady income stream and job satisfaction.

As you explore contract work opportunities in these industries, it is crucial to stay updated on job boards, online platforms, and industry-specific resources. Networking with professionals in your field and attending trade events or conferences can also provide valuable connections and leads for contract work. Emphasize your flexibility, reliability, and willingness to travel in your applications and interactions with potential employers, highlighting how your nomadic lifestyle can benefit their projects.

Most of these jobs can be a lot easier to find with a personal recommendation. Most communities will have a Facebook group that is in some way pertinent to the field you are trying to find work in. Join the groups, and strike up conversations with people who are in the field you are aspiring to be in or that you have experience in. It is often just about being in the right place at the right time. A great plan is to sort out your next destination and line up work there that coincides with your arrival.

Remember to maintain a professional portfolio or resume that showcases your skills, certifications, and previous work experience. This will help you stand out among other candidates and demonstrate your expertise in the field. With the right approach and a proactive mindset, you can leverage

your skills to secure contract work in your desired industries while enjoying the freedom of life on the road.

TOP FREELANCING PLATFORMS

In the digital age, freelancing platforms have revolutionized the way people work, providing opportunities for remote employment and flexible contracts. For RVers seeking to build a remote career, these platforms offer a gateway to a wide range of projects and clients. Let's explore some of the top freelancing platforms that cater to the needs of mobile workers:

1. **Upwork:** One of the largest freelancing platforms, connecting freelancers with clients in various fields. From graphic design and content writing to web development and virtual assistance, Upwork hosts a diverse range of job categories. RVers can create a profile, showcase their skills and experience, and bid on projects that align with their expertise. With Upwork, you have the flexibility to choose the projects you want to work on, set your own rates, and collaborate with clients remotely.
2. **Fiverr:** A popular platform that allows freelancers to showcase their skills and offers their services in a unique format. Freelancers create "gigs," which are predefined service packages that clients can browse and purchase. This platform is ideal for RVers looking to offer specialized services, such as graphic design, copywriting, social media management, or voiceover work. Fiverr provides an easy-to-use interface and a global marketplace that attracts clients from various industries.
3. **Freelancer:** A versatile platform that connects freelancers with a wide range of projects, both short-term and long-term. RVers can browse through job listings or submit proposals to clients seeking specific skills. From software development and marketing to

engineering and consulting, Freelancer covers a vast array of job categories. This platform allows you to build your professional reputation through client reviews and ratings, enhancing your chances of securing future projects.

4. **Guru:** A freelancing platform that focuses on connecting freelancers with project-based work. It offers a streamlined process for finding gigs and collaborating with clients. RVers can create a profile, showcase their portfolios, and browse through job categories to find opportunities that match their skills. Guru also provides tools for managing contracts, tracking work progress, and handling payments, making it a convenient platform for freelancers on the move.
5. **Toptal:** Toptal caters to highly skilled freelancers and professionals. It focuses on connecting clients with top talent in fields such as software development, design, finance, and project management. RVers with specialized skills and extensive experience can apply to become part of Toptal's talent network. If accepted, you'll have access to exclusive job opportunities and the potential to work with prestigious clients on high-profile projects.
6. **Remote.co:** While not a traditional freelancing platform, Remote.co is a valuable resource for RVers seeking remote work opportunities. It provides a curated list of companies that offer remote jobs across various industries. From customer service and virtual assistance to marketing and software development, Remote.co showcases a wide range of remote job opportunities that can be done from anywhere. RVers can browse through these job listings and apply directly to the companies that align with their skills and interests.
7. **Remote Job Boards:** In addition to freelancing platforms, there are various remote job boards that post job listings specifically for remote workers. Websites

like Remote.co, Remote OK, and We Work Remotely feature job opportunities across different industries and skill sets. These platforms often have a dedicated section for freelancers and contractors, allowing you to browse through remote projects and contract-based work.

As you explore these freelancing platforms, remember to craft a compelling profile that highlights your skills, experience, and remote work capabilities. Tailor your proposals and pitches to showcase how your mobile lifestyle can be an asset to clients, emphasizing your flexibility, adaptability, and commitment to delivering quality work.

The world of freelancing offers endless possibilities for RVers seeking to provide their skills and services on the road. Whether you're a writer, graphic designer, web developer, consultant, or any other professional, freelancing allows you to leverage your expertise and work remotely while embracing the nomadic lifestyle.

Be sure to highlight your unique skills, experience, and the value you can bring to clients. Showcase your ability to work remotely, emphasizing your flexibility and adaptability in meeting client needs from any location. Use your profile as an opportunity to demonstrate your commitment to delivering high-quality work, even while on the move.

When submitting proposals or pitching to potential clients, tailor your approach to showcase how your mobile lifestyle can be an asset to their projects. Emphasize your ability to work across time zones, your adaptability to changing environments, and your commitment to meeting deadlines regardless of your location. By positioning yourself as a reliable and flexible professional, you can attract clients who value the benefits that a nomadic freelancer can offer.

The freelancing world is competitive, so it is important to continuously refine your skills, stay updated on industry trends, and seek opportunities to expand your knowledge. Consider taking online courses, attending webinars, or joining professional communities to enhance your skill set and

network with like-minded professionals. Building a strong online presence through a personal website or portfolio can also help you establish credibility and attract potential clients.

In addition to freelancing platforms, consider exploring remote job boards that specifically cater to remote workers. These platforms often have sections dedicated to freelancers and contractors, allowing you to find contract-based work and project opportunities that align with your skills and interests.

Remember, freelancing on the road offers you the opportunity to work on your own terms, pursue your passions, and embrace the freedom of the nomadic lifestyle. With the right skills, mindset, and determination, you can build a successful remote career that allows you to thrive while exploring new horizons.

STAYING CONNECTED ON THE MOVE

In the connected world of today, a stable and reliable internet connection is crucial for nomadic professionals. While staying on the move, it is essential to explore various internet options to ensure you can stay connected and effectively work remotely from wherever your adventures take you.

If pursuing a freelancing career on the road, having a reliable internet connection is crucial. While some RV parks and campgrounds offer Wi-Fi, it is not always reliable or fast enough to meet the demands of remote work. Many RVers rely on mobile data plans to ensure a stable internet connection. Research and choose a provider that offers a robust data package and good coverage in the areas you plan to travel. Investing in a mobile hotspot device or using your smartphone as a hotspot can provide you with the flexibility to work from anywhere while maintaining a stable internet connection.

- 1. Mobile Data Plans:** Many digital nomads rely on mobile data plans to access the internet while on the road. These plans provide a cellular connection,

allowing you to use your smartphone, tablet, or laptop as a hotspot. Depending on your data plan and provider, you can access fast and reliable internet connectivity in most areas. It is important to consider the coverage and data limits of different providers and choose one that suits your needs and travel destinations.

2. **Wi-Fi at RV Parks and Campgrounds:** Some RV parks and campgrounds offer Wi-Fi connectivity for their guests. However, the quality and reliability of these networks can vary significantly. It is advisable to research and read reviews about the Wi-Fi availability and speed at the places you plan to stay. Keep in mind that during peak seasons or in remote locations, the Wi-Fi networks may be congested or have limited bandwidth.
3. **Mobile Hotspot Devices:** Investing in a mobile hotspot device can provide you with a dedicated internet connection on the go. These devices use cellular data networks to create a Wi-Fi hotspot that you can connect your devices to. They often offer faster speeds and more reliable connections than using a smartphone as a hotspot. Research different hotspot devices available on the market and choose one that suits your data needs and coverage requirements.
4. **Starlink:** Is a satellite internet service provided by SpaceX, that has gained popularity among RVers for its promise of high-speed, low-latency internet connectivity. The service uses a network of satellites to provide internet access, making it suitable for remote and off-grid locations. While Starlink is still expanding its coverage, it offers a viable option for those seeking reliable internet connectivity in areas where other options may be limited. It is important to be aware that Starlink needs a clear view of the sky in order to function properly. My experience with this device has been very positive.

5. **Solis:** Solis is another popular option for mobile professionals seeking internet connectivity while on the move. It is a portable Wi-Fi hotspot device that uses a combination of cellular networks and satellite connections. Solis provides a convenient way to access the internet in remote areas and can be a reliable backup option when other networks are unavailable. My experience with this device has been less than favourable.

6. **Phone Hotspots:** Most smartphones have built-in hotspot functionality, allowing you to share your cellular data connection with other devices. Using your phone as a hotspot can be a convenient and cost-effective way to access the internet while on the move. However, it is important to consider your data plan limitations and ensure you have sufficient data allowance for your remote work needs. A recent trip to Mexico proved that having a cell plan as back up really worked well with Starlink.

7. **RV Park/Campground Wi-Fi Extenders:** If you rely on RV park or campground Wi-Fi networks, you may encounter weak signals or limited coverage within your vehicle. Wi-Fi extenders or boosters can help enhance and extend the Wi-Fi range, improving your connectivity and allowing you to work from the comfort of your RV. It is important to be aware that most of these devices require you to hard wire into a router to boost the reception.

It is important to note that internet connectivity can vary depending on your location, terrain, and the availability of network infrastructure. When choosing an internet option, consider factors such as coverage, data limits, reliability, and cost. Additionally, it is always a good idea to have a backup plan and explore multiple options to ensure uninterrupted connectivity during your remote work.

Remember, staying connected on the move is essential for maintaining your remote career and enjoying a successful

mobile lifestyle. With the range of internet options available today, you can find a solution that fits your needs and allows you to work seamlessly while embracing the freedom of the open road.

EXPLORING SEASONAL JOBS AND WORKAMPING OPPORTUNITIES

One of the unique advantages of the nomad life is the flexibility it offers in terms of seasonal work opportunities. Many RVers choose to take on seasonal jobs or engage in workamping, which involves combining part-time or temporary work with camping or RV living arrangements. These opportunities not only provide a source of income but also allow you to immerse yourself in different locations and communities, enriching your travel experiences. Here are some popular options to consider:

1. Campground Host: Many national parks, state parks, and private campgrounds hire campground hosts to assist with various tasks, such as registration, customer service, and maintenance. In exchange for their services, campground hosts often receive a free or discounted campsite, and sometimes even a stipend. This arrangement allows you to live in beautiful natural settings while working part-time.

2. Agricultural Work: During harvest seasons, agricultural areas often seek temporary workers to help with planting, picking crops, or other farm-related tasks. These positions can provide an opportunity to work in rural areas, experience farm life, and earn an income while being surrounded by scenic landscapes.

3. Hospitality and Tourism: Popular tourist destinations, especially in coastal areas or mountain resorts, frequently hire seasonal workers to support their peak seasons. Jobs in this sector can range from hotel staff and tour guides to restaurant servers and retail associates. These positions

allow you to engage with visitors, explore different locations, and take advantage of employee discounts or perks.

4. Outdoor and Recreation Jobs: If you have a passion for the outdoors, consider pursuing seasonal work in outdoor recreation. This could involve working as a rafting guide, hiking guide, fishing instructor, or outdoor activity coordinator. These positions not only allow you to enjoy outdoor pursuits but also share your knowledge and enthusiasm with others.

5. Event and Festival Staff: Festivals, fairs, and special events often require extra staff during their peak periods. This can include roles such as event setup, ticket sales, security, or hospitality. Working at these events can provide a dynamic and lively work environment while giving you the chance to experience unique cultural events and festivities.

6. Ski Resorts and Winter Sports: If you enjoy winter activities, consider seeking employment at ski resorts or winter sports destinations during the colder months. Positions can range from ski instructors and lift operators to hospitality staff. Working at these locations allows you to embrace the winter season and take advantage of employee benefits like free or discounted access to slopes.

7. WWOOFing: Volunteering on Organic Farms. If you have an interest in sustainable agriculture, organic farming, and connecting with local communities, WWOOFing can be an exciting option for RVers. WWOOFing stands for "World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms," and it offers the chance to volunteer on organic farms in exchange for food, accommodation, and valuable learning experiences.

WWOOFing allows you to immerse yourself in the world of organic farming while contributing your time and skills to the daily operations of a farm. It's a fantastic way to learn about sustainable agricultural practices, gain hands-on experience, and forge connections with like-minded individuals.

When exploring seasonal jobs and workcamping opportunities, it is important to research and plan in advance. Understand the job requirements, work schedules, compensation, and living arrangements offered by different

employers. Network with other RVers to gain insights and recommendations. Utilize online job platforms, RVing forums, and social media groups dedicated to workamping and seasonal jobs to find available positions.

Career platforms like Indeed or Linked In can be a great resource for finding temporary seasonal jobs. Decide where you want to be then take a look at the job boards for your new neighbourhood.

Keep in mind that seasonal jobs may have specific application timelines, so be proactive in searching and applying for positions ahead of time. Additionally, be prepared to adapt to the demands of seasonal work, which may involve adjusting your travel plans or staying in one location for an extended period.

By exploring seasonal work opportunities and workamping options, you can find fulfilling ways to sustain your mobile lifestyle, meet new people, and experience different regions and cultures along your journey. Embrace the flexibility and diversity of work options available, and let them enhance your RV or van life adventure.

Honestly, this is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to finding ways to earn an income online. You could probably write an entire book on this topic. It is also the question that gets asked the most in all of the full-time RV groups.

TURNING HOBBIES INTO INCOME SOURCES

Another fulfilling aspect of this lifestyle is the freedom to pursue your passions and hobbies. And the best part? You can turn those hobbies into income sources, allowing you to fund your travels and live the life you love. Here are some creative ways to monetize your passions:

1. **Etsy:** If you have a talent for crafting, creating artwork, or designing unique products, Etsy is a popular online

marketplace where you can sell your handmade goods. Whether you make jewelry, custom artwork, knitted accessories, or vintage finds, Etsy provides a platform to showcase and sell your creations to a global audience.

2. Print on Demand: With the rise of e-commerce, print-on-demand services have become increasingly popular. These platforms allow you to upload your designs, artwork, or photographs onto various products such as t-shirts, mugs, phone cases, and more. When a customer places an order, the platform handles the production and shipping, while you earn a percentage of the sales.

3. Blogging or Vlogging: If you have a way with words or enjoy being in front of the camera, consider starting a blog or a YouTube channel focused on your passions or experiences on the road. Share your knowledge, insights, and travel adventures with others, and monetize your content through advertising, sponsored posts, affiliate marketing, or by creating digital products such as e-books or online courses. [Check out my blog here.](#)

4. Online Courses: If you have expertise in a particular field, consider creating and selling online courses. Platforms like Udemy and Teachable make it easy to package your knowledge and skills into a digital course that others can purchase and learn from. This is a great way to share your expertise while generating passive income.

5. Photography: If you have a knack for photography, there are various avenues to monetize your skills. You can sell your photographs as prints or stock images through platforms like Shutterstock or Adobe Stock. Additionally, you can offer photography services for events, portraits, or even local businesses in the areas you visit.

6. Social Media Influencer: Building a strong social media presence and becoming an influencer in your niche can open doors for sponsored collaborations, brand partnerships, and product promotions. By sharing your journey, experiences, and expertise with your audience, you can attract brands that align with your values and interests.

Remember, monetizing your passions takes time, effort, and dedication. It's important to build a brand, establish a strong online presence, and consistently deliver high-quality products or content. But with perseverance and a genuine love for what you do, turning your hobbies into income sources can not only support your nomadic lifestyle but also allow you to share your passions with the world.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP ON WHEELS

Embarking on full-time RV life does not mean leaving your entrepreneurial dreams behind. The nomadic lifestyle can provide a unique platform for starting and running your own business. With a business mindset and a dash of creativity, you can turn your mobile lifestyle into a thriving entrepreneurial venture. Here are some key takeaways to embrace entrepreneurship on wheels:

- 1. Embrace Your Skills and Talents:** Identify your strengths, passions, and areas of expertise. Think about how you can leverage these skills to offer products or services that align with your interests and the needs of your target market.
- 2. Market Research:** Conduct thorough market research to understand your target audience, their pain points, and the demand for your potential products or services. Identify opportunities and gaps in the market that you can fill with your unique offerings.
- 3. Develop a Business Plan:** Create a solid business plan that outlines your goals, strategies, target market, marketing approach, and financial projections. A well-defined plan will guide your entrepreneurial journey and help you stay focused and organized.
- 4. Establish Your Online Presence:** In the digital world of today, having a strong online presence is crucial for any business. Build a professional website or online store where customers can learn about your offerings, make purchases, and easily contact you. Utilize social

media platforms to engage with your audience and promote your business.

5. Seek Collaboration and Networking Opportunities:

Connect with fellow entrepreneurs, industry professionals, and potential collaborators within the RV community. Attend conferences, workshops, and meetups to expand your network and gain valuable insights and support.

6. Adaptability and Flexibility: Being an entrepreneur on the road requires adaptability and flexibility. Embrace the ever-changing nature of the nomadic lifestyle and be open to adjusting your business strategies as needed. Embrace new technologies and trends that can enhance your business operations.

7. Embrace the Journey: Remember that entrepreneurship on wheels is a journey of growth and learning. Be prepared to face challenges and setbacks, but also celebrate your successes along the way. Embrace the freedom and adventure that comes with running your own business while travelling the world.

Full-time RV living has prompted a shift in my career as well. With my yearly schedule split between working in the film industry in Canada and living as a 'Snowbird' in the south, the challenge of securing a year-round income source still eludes me.

The appeal of creating a side hustle in the online world has led me down multiple paths. The journey so far has been tough, but enjoyable. It is a learning curve filled with challenges and successes, but being able to reflect on my full-time RV lifestyle and sharing my experience with others has led me down the blogging path.

The She Said It blog is 154 days old with 62 posts to its credit. The journey has been a slow but steady climb. There have been countless hours coming up with ideas, creating, and promoting content, often second-guessing myself and my decisions. Seeing those 133 organic views brought in by Google, brings a sense of accomplishment. It might not be a

staggering number for many, but it is a validation of the efforts and an indicator of the potential my blog holds.

Monetizing the blog through affiliate marketing was another adventure. It is not a get-rich-quick scheme some people will try to convince you of. The journey is a challenging one and time and research are your best friends. There are a million folks trying to sell you their course on how to get rich quick using affiliate marketing, but the truth is, it takes time.

There is no shortcut to success. It demands daily dedication, endless learning, and a fair bit of grit. But as I listen to and learn from the gurus of blogging and affiliate marketing, I understand that I am making progress, perhaps even ahead of the curve. Seeing any results from a blog usually takes longer, and I have begun to see small signs of success already.

But more than anything, I love this journey because it aligns with my passion. Writing about my experiences, sharing tips and tricks of the RV lifestyle, and connecting with a community of like-minded individuals does not feel like work to me. It is a pursuit that brings joy, satisfaction, and the promise of a brighter, freer future.

Remember that the journey of entrepreneurship is just like the journey on the road. There will be detours and bumps, but the stunning make it all worth while. And with every mile and blog post, becoming a better traveller, a better writer, and a better entrepreneur is an amazing road to be on. It is a journey of self-discovery, personal growth, and creating value for others - and I would not trade it for anything else.

CHAPTER 9 : THRIVING IN TRANSITION

FINDING STABILITY IN TRANSIENT LIVING

Living a nomadic lifestyle means that your physical surroundings are constantly changing. However, that doesn't mean you can not create a sense of home wherever you go. The definition of home is a fluid thing for nomads. Trying to figure out how to find stability in ever-changing environments.

One of the key aspects of creating a sense of belonging on the road is personalizing your unconventional living space. While traditional homes provide a fixed structure, nomadic living offers the opportunity to customize your RV to reflect your unique personality and taste. Personalization plays a vital role in creating a sense of comfort and familiarity, whether through interior design, décor, or small touches that make the space your own.

Explore the power of personalization and discover creative ways to make your nomadic dwelling feel like home. Select colours and fabrics that resonate with you, incorporate sentimental items or meaningful artwork, and infuse your space with elements that bring you joy. By surrounding yourself with objects and aesthetics that reflect your style, you can create a haven that truly feels like home, no matter where you are.

Additionally, finding stability in ever-changing environments involves adapting to new surroundings and making the most of the unique features each location offers. Embrace the diversity of landscapes, climates, and communities that you encounter on your nomadic journey.

Engage with the local culture, explore the natural beauty of your surroundings, and connect with fellow travellers or residents in the area. By immersing yourself in the present moment and fully embracing the experiences that each

location offers, you can cultivate a sense of stability and connection to the places you temporarily call home.

Remember, home is not just a physical space but a feeling of comfort, connection, and belonging. By embracing a nomadic definition of home, personalizing your living space, and engaging with the communities around you, you can create a sense of stability and find comfort in ever-changing environments. Ultimately, the power to make any place your home lies within you, and with a little creativity and intention, you can transform your nomadic lifestyle into a truly fulfilling and enriching journey.

Creating a comfortable home on wheels begins with clever space utilization and innovative storage solutions. With limited square footage, every nook and cranny counts. Explore practical tips and strategies for maximizing storage space, such as utilizing vertical storage options, investing in multifunctional pieces, and implementing organizational systems that suit your specific needs. By making deliberate choices about what to bring and how to store it, you can optimize your living space and ensure that everything has its place.

When it comes to interior design, think creatively and let your personality shine through. Embrace the freedom to design a space that reflects your style and preferences. Incorporate elements that bring you joy, whether vibrant colours, cozy textiles, or personalized décor items. Remember, home is where you park it, and by infusing your living space with your unique touch, you can create a welcoming and comforting environment that truly feels like home.

Embrace the simplicity and minimalism that come with living tiny, and appreciate the freedom that comes with a less cluttered and more intentional lifestyle. Focus on the experiences and connections you make rather than the material possessions you accumulate.

Along your nomadic journey, you will encounter various landscapes and communities. Embrace the diversity and

beauty that surrounds you. Take time to appreciate the natural wonders give yourself a minute to experience each location. You may not know right away that this is a place you want to spend extra time in. Remember, the true essence of home is not confined to the walls of a traditional house but lies within the experiences, relationships, and memories you create along the way.

In the nomadic community, the phrase "home is where you park it" holds significant meaning. It encapsulates the idea that home is not a fixed location but a sense of belonging and comfort that you carry with you. Embrace the freedom to constantly change your surroundings while finding stability and comfort in the familiar routines and rituals you establish in your mobile lifestyle.

Deliberately choosing a houseless life allows you to embrace and redefine the meaning of home. Life becomes about finding solace, comfort, and contentment within the limited space of your untraditional dwelling. By transforming your living space into a cozy sanctuary, infusing it with your personal touch, and cultivating a mindset of adaptability and appreciation, you can create a home on wheels that truly embodies the essence of comfort, belonging, and freedom.

Some folks are afraid to decorate their RV to their taste because they are worried about resale value. There is some truth to this, but if you plan to be full-time it is more important to have a space you love than it is to worry about what the resale value will be 10 years from now.

THE POWER OF ADAPTABILITY

Living a lifestyle on the road requires a remarkable ability to adapt and thrive in uncertain circumstances. It is about embracing change as an opportunity for personal growth and self-discovery. In this section, we explore the power of adaptability and shifting our perspective on change.

The first time you do a thing that you never thought you would ever be able to do, especially not on your own, is going to give you the deepest sense of accomplishment.

Change is an inherent part of life, and living on the road magnifies this reality. Rather than fearing or resisting change, it is essential to see it as a catalyst for growth. By shifting our perspective, we can view change as an opportunity to learn, explore, and expand our horizons. Each transition brings new experiences, challenges, and possibilities that can shape us into more resilient and adaptable individuals.

To navigate uncertain circumstances successfully, it is crucial to cultivate resilience. Resilience allows us to bounce back from setbacks, overcome obstacles, and adapt to new environments. By developing a resilient mindset, we can embrace the unknown with confidence and flexibility. This involves building emotional strength, practicing self-care, and maintaining a positive outlook even in the face of adversity.

Embracing change requires a willingness to step out of our comfort zones and embrace the unfamiliar. Stepping out of your comfort zone and into uncharted territories is often where you discover new strengths, capabilities, and passions. By approaching change with curiosity and open-mindedness, we can uncover hidden talents, explore new interests, and embark on unexpected adventures. Embracing change as an opportunity for growth allows us to continuously evolve and expand our horizons.

Uncertainty can be unsettling, but it also holds immense potential. It invites us to let go of rigid expectations and embrace the possibilities that lie beyond our comfort zones. When we embrace the unknown, we open ourselves up to new opportunities, connections, and experiences. We become more adaptable, resilient, and open to the ever-changing nature of life on the road.

In the nomadic lifestyle, uncertainty becomes a constant companion. It is not always easy, but it provides a fertile ground for personal growth and self-discovery. By embracing change and cultivating adaptability, we can navigate the

challenges of uncertainty with grace and resolve. As we continue to thrive in the face of the unknown, we unlock our potential, forge deeper connections, and embark on a transformative journey of self-discovery.

REINVENTING IDENTITY

If you have been entertaining the thought of a transition to a nomadic lifestyle, be aware that it can invite an in-depth exploration of self-identity. With each new location and community interaction, your understanding and perception of self can shift and expand. This environment of constant change offers a unique opportunity to engage in continuous self-reflection and self-discovery.

Living on the road means breaking away from the labels, roles, and expectations that once defined you in a stationary lifestyle. No longer limited by these constructs, you are free to reevaluate who you are and who you want to become. You may find that what was once important takes a backseat, and previously unexplored facets of your personality and interests begin to surface.

This nomadic lifestyle also cultivates resilience and adaptability. As you navigate new environments, meet different people, and overcome unique challenges, your capacity to adapt strengthens. This flexibility becomes an integral part of your identity, defining you as much as any static trait might.

The wonderful experiences you encounter along the journey - the awe-inspiring views, the shared campfire stories, and the quiet introspection during solitary moments - contribute to your evolving identity.

In essence, living on the road allows you to experience a dynamic, evolving sense of self. It invites you to engage in an ongoing dialogue with yourself, leading to a deeper understanding of who you are and what makes you feel fulfilled. This is the essence of navigating self-identity in

nomadic living - a journey of self-discovery that continually unfolds.

A nomadic lifestyle challenges conventional definitions of success. Rather than measuring achievement through material accumulation or professional promotions, the nomadic life calls for a more personal and experiential assessment of accomplishment.

Success in this context might mean mastering the art of living minimally, finding joy in simplicity, or attaining the flexibility to follow the seasons. It could be about honing your skills in remote work, allowing you to blend your career aspirations with a constant change of scenery.

It may involve developing the ability to adapt seamlessly to new environments, fostering connections with diverse communities, or carving out a life that balances solitude and social engagement. It is about navigating your path and marking your milestones in a manner that reflects your values and passions.

Personal satisfaction becomes a unique tapestry woven from experiences and personal accomplishments that matter most to you. Whether it is about mastering the art of sustainable living, becoming part of different local cultures, or simply waking up to a view that fills you with joy, satisfaction comes from living in alignment with your definitions of success.

This shift in perspective from external validation to internal fulfillment not only redefines success but also paves the way for a richer, more personally satisfying nomadic experience. In essence, living nomadically empowers you to redefine success on your terms, by your standards, and through your own unique experiences.

CAPITALIZING ON PERSONAL GROWTH AND CHANGE

In a nomadic lifestyle, change is not just an occasional event; it is a way of life. The landscape, the people you meet, and the challenges you encounter, all shift and evolve continuously. And that is an advantage if you approach it with the right mindset.

The constant change experienced on the road is fertile ground for personal growth. Each new location, every new acquaintance, and all challenges offer opportunities to learn and expand your perspectives. It is this diversity of experiences that gives you a treasure trove of insights to draw upon, fostering adaptability and resilience.

Reflecting on these changes is an integral part of this growth process. Self-reflection allows you to understand your reactions to different situations, identify patterns, and develop strategies for personal development. It helps you discover new facets of your identity and evolve with your experiences.

For instance, you might find that living in close quarters with a loved one teaches you new levels of patience and communication. Or perhaps overcoming a vehicle breakdown makes you realize your resourcefulness and problem-solving abilities. These realizations shape your understanding of yourself and your potential, and that is an incredibly empowering aspect of the nomadic lifestyle.

Ultimately, acknowledging and embracing change is not just about adapting to new circumstances. It is about continually exploring your identity, expanding your skills, and learning how to thrive in a world that's always on the move. Capitalizing on unique opportunities for personal growth that the nomadic lifestyle offers can truly make the most of your journey on the road.

The first step is the hardest part, it seems like such a cliche, but it is true. Every person who is living the life you want starts off full of fear and questions. Jump, if it does not work change it, that is the perk of having a home that moves.

CHAPTER 10: THE DETOUR, WHAT TO DO IF RV LIFE LOSES ITS LUSTER

THE VALUE OF SHORT BREAKS

Embracing the RV lifestyle often means immersing yourself in the beauty and challenge of continuous travel and exploration. But just like anything in life, even the most passionate road warriors may find themselves needing a break. It is perfectly normal and okay to need a break. In fact taking a short breather from RV living can enhance your overall experience by providing an opportunity to recharge, reassess, and return to the road with a renewed spirit.

A change of scenery, such as spending a night in a comfortable hotel or a unique Airbnb, can have numerous benefits. Firstly, it allows you to enjoy a different level of comfort and convenience, from long, hot showers without worrying about your water tank, to a king-size bed with room to stretch out.

It also provides a chance to take a break from the chores associated with RV life. No need to worry about emptying wastewater tanks, levelling your RV, or troubleshooting a tricky appliance. For a few days, you can just relax and let someone else take care of the housekeeping.

The type of accommodation you choose for your break will depend on what you have been craving. If you miss the buzz of city life, book a hotel downtown or an Airbnb in a

trendy neighbourhood. If peace and quiet is what you seek, look for a secluded cabin or a quaint bed and breakfast in the countryside. There are countless unique properties available on platforms like Airbnb or BRBO, from treehouses to beachfront cottages, that can offer a fun change of pace.

Taking a breather can also provide an opportunity to reconnect with friends and family, especially if you have been travelling in remote areas with limited connectivity.

This is another point where having a great support network can come in handy. Moochdocking with friends or family for a few days can be the social battery recharger you need. Moochdocking is parking at friends or family. This might include a plug-in and access to water. It could include using their shower and kitchen for a few days. This can be a great opportunity to decompress from the road and get a few hugs and home-cooked meals or maybe cook a meal yourself in a full-size kitchen as a thank you to your hosts.

It is important to realize that a break can offer you the space to reflect on your journey. It is a chance to assess what has been working well in your RV life and what might need tweaking. Perhaps you will discover a new travel strategy, identify an area of your RV that needs an upgrade, or simply reaffirm your love for the open road.

Perhaps you would be able to schedule some maintenance or repairs you have been putting off to coincide with this break. Getting you off the road and getting your rig some of the same R and R it might need. Rest and Relaxation for you, Repairs and Restoration for your home on the road.

Taking short breaks from RV living does not mean you are not cut out for this lifestyle. On the contrary, it is a healthy practice that can help sustain your journey in the long term. By indulging in the occasional pause, you ensure your RV life continues to be an exciting, fulfilling, and balanced adventure.

SAFELY LEAVING YOUR RV FOR EXTENDED PERIODS

Finding the right spot to store your RV while you are away is critical. Not only will it protect your investment, but it will also give you peace of mind during your break. The best storage spot for your RV will depend on whether you have a stationary rig that is fully set up or a mobile home that frequently hits the road.

If you have a stationary RV, it is likely already in a place where it is meant to stay for a while. But before leaving for an extended period, consider the following:

- 1. Security:** Check the security measures in place where your RV is parked. This could include things like perimeter fencing, security cameras, or onsite personnel. If these are not sufficient, consider moving your RV to a more secure location temporarily or investing in additional security measures, like a high-quality RV cover and additional locks.
- 2. Weather Protection:** Look at the weather forecast for the duration you plan to be away. If harsh weather is predicted, like heavy snow, torrential rain, or high winds, consider adding additional protections. This could include a sturdy RV cover, additional stabilizers, or even temporary structures to shield against the elements.
- 3. Site Maintenance:** If you are away, who will take care of site maintenance? This could include things like mowing the grass around your RV, ensuring the site drains properly during heavy rain, or checking that electricity and other hookups are functioning as they should.
- 4. Unplug Everything:** If you do not need power for dehumidifiers or heat while you are away, you should unplug it. You should also turn off and disconnect the water connected to your RV. Drain and rinse your black

and grey tanks completely. Leave a rooftop vent open if it is protected from the rain.

5. Disconnect the Batteries: Disconnecting your batteries is a critical step in ensuring they do not drain while your RV is in storage. This process is usually as simple as removing the negative cable from the battery terminal. If you are uncomfortable doing this yourself, consider hiring a professional to avoid any potential damage.

6. Consider a Trickle Charger: A trickle charger is a fantastic investment for those storing their RV for extended periods. It slowly charges your battery over time, preventing it from discharging completely. This type of charger can be left connected for extended periods without overcharging the battery.

7. Check Battery Health: Before you store your RV, check the health of your batteries. Ensure they're fully charged and clean. Corrosion can form on battery terminals, and this should be cleaned with a mixture of baking soda and water.

8. Protect from Extreme Temperatures: Batteries do not fare well in extreme temperatures, be it hot or cold. If possible, try to store your RV in a location that is sheltered from the elements. If that is not an option, consider removing the batteries and storing them in a temperature-controlled environment.

9. Rodent Prevention: It is important that if you are away from your RV you take the proper precautions to stop little critters from moving in. Traps, sealing all access points, and peppermint oil are all helpful preventative measures. Unfortunately bounce sheets and Irish spring soap are proven myths,

If you're typically on the road with your RV, you have a few options for where to store it during your break:

10. RV Storage Facility: These are specially designed facilities that offer secure parking spots for RVs. Some offer additional amenities like electrical hookups, washing

facilities, and dump stations. Look for one with robust security measures and good customer reviews.

11. At Home: If you are a road warrior with a home base this could be a convenient and cost-effective option. Just ensure your RV is secure and protected from the elements, and consider how it might look to potential burglars.

12. Friend's Property: If you have a trustworthy friend or relative with enough space, this could be another viable option. Be sure to discuss expectations and responsibilities up front, and consider compensating them for the use of their property.

13. Indoor Storage: Although more expensive, indoor storage provides the best protection from weather and theft. This could be a good option if you have a particularly valuable RV or if you will be away for a long time.

14. RV Park: Many Rv parks will have a long-term storage family on site or that they recommend.

15. Rent it out: the thought of renting out your RV be really scary, but if where you are parked allows it, consider renting while you are recharging your nomad life batteries

Whether your RV is stationary or on the go, selecting a safe, secure, and weather-protected location for your RV during your absence will ensure it remains in the best possible condition, ready for your return.

INSURANCE COVERAGE DURING RV STORAGE

When planning to leave your RV for a significant period, understanding how this impacts your insurance coverage is crucial. Whether you are storing your RV in a secure facility, on the property of a friend, or at your home, different rules apply, and it is essential to fully comprehend the specifics of your policy.

The first step is to get in touch with your insurance provider. Explain your plan to them, including how long you plan to be away, where you will be storing your RV, and any security measures you will be taking during your absence. Ask specific questions to understand how your coverage works during this period.

Different insurance companies have various rules about how long an RV can be left unattended. For some, a week might be the maximum, while others may allow up to a month. Beyond these limits, your policy may not cover any damage that occurs. If you plan to be away longer than your policy allows, ask about options for extending coverage.

It is also important to understand the distinction between 'storage' and 'non-use.' Some policies might offer a storage option, which provides limited coverage for the period the RV is not in use. Others may simply require you to notify them when the RV is not being used but maintain the same level of coverage.

Additionally, remember to inquire about what specific damage is covered during this period. For instance, if your RV is damaged in a storm, vandalized, or stolen while in storage, will your policy cover it? Knowing this can help you decide if additional security measures are worth the investment.

Lastly, consider how changes to your RV storage situation can affect your premiums. For instance, storing your RV in a secure, indoor location may qualify you for lower rates.

Insurance can be complicated, and it is easy to overlook the details. However understanding the specifics of your RV insurance coverage while you are away is essential. By doing so, you can ensure your beloved RV remains protected, giving you peace of mind as you take a break from the open road.

IS THE RV LIFE STILL FOR YOU?

As exciting and liberating as we expect the RV lifestyle to be, it is not exempt from challenges. There will be ups and

downs, and at times, you might find yourself questioning whether this nomadic lifestyle is still the right fit for you.

Winter months can pose a challenge, given the relentless rain, managing temperature variations, and the mental strain from handling past leaks.

Chasing 70 is a thing many folks talk about, but it's not easy for everyone. Chasing 70 is following the ideal temperature and moving with the seasons. It is challenging for a few reasons. Fuel is expensive, mileage can be hard on your rig. Chasing 70 involves several days' worth of travel. Just thinking about planning that journey can be a little stressful. But at the same time, having this to look forward to is the dream/goal that gets you through the rough patches.

Recognizing these feelings and understanding their implications is key to maintaining a balanced and enjoyable experience.

1. Chronic Fatigue: Life on the road can be physically demanding. If you are consistently feeling tired, not just physically but also mentally and emotionally, it might be time to take a step back. It is normal to have days when you feel exhausted, but when fatigue becomes a constant companion, it is a clear signal that you need a break. This could be due to too much travelling, insufficient rest, or simply not giving yourself enough downtime to relax and recharge.

2. Feelings of Isolation: A nomadic lifestyle can be incredibly freeing, but it can also be isolating. Being on the road often means being away from friends, family, and familiar places. If you are starting to feel a profound sense of loneliness and disconnection, it might be a sign that you need some time in a more grounded, stable environment.

3. Constant Stress About Vehicle Maintenance and Costs: Owning and maintaining an RV can be stressful, especially when unexpected repairs and costs come up. This stress can intensify if you are living full-time in your RV and do not have a safety net or backup plan. If worries about your RV's maintenance, associated costs, or potential breakdowns

are constantly on your mind and affecting your enjoyment of the lifestyle, it could be a sign that a break is necessary.

4. A Lack of Joy in Travel: One of the most telling signs that you might need a break from RV life is when the joy of discovery starts to fade. If you are arriving at new destinations but feeling indifferent or unenthusiastic about exploring them, travel fatigue has likely set in. For stationary folks, it might be time to take a vacation. Living full-time camping can lose its lustre, it could be time to plan a trip for yourself.

5. Yearning for More Stability: Do you find yourself missing the predictability and routine of a more stationary life? Are you craving to have your own space, a bigger kitchen, or simply a separate room to work or relax in? If you are consistently longing for the comforts and stability that come with stationary living, it might be a sign to consider taking a break.

6. Weather: The thing that can be the most challenging for full-time folks is dealing with the weather. Even living in the mildest climate has seasonal challenges.

In all these cases, it is crucial to remember that feeling this way does not indicate failure. It is perfectly normal to need a break or to consider changing your lifestyle. Being honest with yourself about your feelings and needs is the first step toward finding a balance that works for you. It is all part of the journey of discovering the lifestyle that best suits your individual needs and desires.

WHEN TO CONSIDER A PERMANENT CHANGE

While the freedom and adventure of RV life are truly exhilarating, it is important to acknowledge that it may not be for everyone, or it may be the right lifestyle for only a certain period in your life. Realizing that it might be time for a

permanent change and making that transition is a significant decision that requires careful thought and planning.

Understanding when it's time to transition out of the RV lifestyle starts with recognizing some key signs. If feelings of restlessness, dissatisfaction, or discomfort persist even after taking breaks, it might be an indication that a more fundamental change is needed. Similarly, if you find that the aspects of stationary life you miss outweigh the joys of being on the road, it may be time to reconsider your lifestyle.

Personal circumstances can also play a crucial role. Major life changes, such as expanding your family, a significant shift in your health, or new career opportunities, can necessitate a move back to a more traditional living situation.

Transitioning out of the RV lifestyle might require strategic planning. It is not just about finding a new place to live but also about adjusting to a different pace of life.

Begin by identifying what you are looking for in your next phase. Do you want to settle down in a city or town? Are you longing for a sense of community? What type of dwelling suits your needs best now? Answering these questions can guide your next steps and help you find a living situation that brings you happiness and satisfaction.

Decide what to do with your RV. If you don't foresee yourself needing it soon, selling it could be a good option. RVs can hold their value well, especially in times of high demand, but without proper maintenance and care they will depreciate quickly. Alternatively, you could consider keeping it for occasional trips, lending or renting it out, or even repurposing it as a guest house or home office if your new living situation allows.

Reintegrating into a more stationary lifestyle can be a significant adjustment. It is essential to give yourself time to acclimate and not rush the process. Find ways to incorporate elements of your RV life that you enjoyed, such as outdoor activities or minimalist living, into your new routine.

Every seasoned full-time RVer has moments when they long for the conveniences of a traditional home. The dream of

endless hot showers and never dealing with a black tank again is something that crosses all our minds. While we can make countless upgrades to our RVs, transforming them into perfect mobile homes, there are certain comforts of a stationary house that remain unmatched. And to be honest, who would not enjoy the luxury of a soundproof space, away from the chatter of neighbours just outside the thin RV walls? It is a blissful image that even the most dedicated RVers cannot deny having from time to time.

The challenges seem endless. The problems seem to compound. The expenses seem daunting, but a conventional lifestyle has similar challenges, the grass is just greener on that fully fenced private yard you miss having.

Remember, making a U-turn from the RV lifestyle does not mean you have failed or that your adventures are over. It is simply a new chapter in your journey. Embracing change with openness and flexibility is part of leading a fulfilling, adventurous life, whether on the open road or in a fixed abode.

CHAPTER 11: CONCLUDING THOUGHTS TO INSPIRE YOUR JOURNEY

LESSONS FROM THE ROAD

Reflecting on this incredible journey, this lifestyle has truly proven itself to be a constant state of profound personal growth and lifelong learning. This life on wheels is so much more than just a way to break the shackles of traditional living

or an escape plan from an unforgiving housing market — it can be a jump into a profoundly different, more meaningful way of life. Sometimes when you are immersed in it all you feel is the challenging hardships.

At the heart of this lifestyle is usually the philosophy of simplicity and minimalism. Living in an RV forces us to pare down our belongings to the essentials, to get rid of the clutter that accumulates in our lives, both physically and metaphorically. This decluttering process is not just about creating space in our homes; it is about creating space in our minds and our lives for the things that truly matter. It is about understanding the difference between 'want' and 'need', and realizing that happiness comes from experiences and relationships rather than material possessions.

Finding freedom in the small confines of an RV might seem ironic, but that is one of the beautiful mysteries of this lifestyle. The compact, mobile space can facilitate discovering a sense of liberty and autonomy that is often elusive in traditional homes. The freedom to choose our neighbours, to change our scenery whenever we want, to be in control of our own living space — these are invaluable privileges that RV life grants us.

Above all, the RV lifestyle is an exploration of the unknown. As we travel through winding roads, vast landscapes, and ever-changing vistas, we are not just exploring new geographical territories; we are also exploring uncharted territories within ourselves. Every new destination brings with it new experiences, new challenges, and new opportunities to learn and grow. We learn to navigate not just roads, but also the ups and downs of life. We learn to face challenges with resourcefulness and resilience. We learn to appreciate the simple pleasures of life.

Ultimately, living the RV life is an expedition into the depths of your own identity. It is about stripping away the excess, facing challenges head-on, and discovering who you truly are beneath all the layers. As you adapt to different environments, confront various challenges, and interact with

diverse communities, you gain a clearer, more profound understanding of yourself. You discover your strengths, confront your weaknesses, explore your passions, and learn to live life on your terms. But be careful, you might like this lifestyle so much you never look back.

The RV lifestyle is a journey as much within ourselves as it is across scenic landscapes and untraveled roads. It is about growth, learning, exploration, and most importantly, it is about discovering our true selves in the process. When it is all said and done it is a bit different for everyone. You might love travelling, you might love the perfect campground next to your favourite lake.

Remember how strong you are, do not be afraid to try new things. Tackling that one issue that has been on your to-do list for weeks is so satisfying. There is nothing you can't do, and it's always okay to ask for help if you don't feel confident doing it yourself!

PREPARING FOR YOUR ADVENTURE

As you stand on the threshold of your very own RV adventure, let the insights and lessons from this book serve as your compass. Understand that the road to a successful journey is paved with careful planning and thorough preparation but you can also have the most wonderful adventure on a whim and a prayer.

Do not shy away from asking questions, even those that might seem trivial or too specific. In the realm of RV living, no question is too insignificant. Whether it is about the correct way to empty your RV's septic tank, the best route to avoid heavy traffic or tips on how to maximize space within your RV, every piece of information matters.

Find a mentor! Most full-timers love to share helpful insights with friends. Make it a point to actively seek advice from a range of sources. The internet is a rich resource for research, with plenty of blogs, forums, and social media groups dedicated to RV living. Attending RV shows and

expos can also provide a wealth of information. You get to see the latest models, meet other RV enthusiasts, and even attend workshops or talks given by experienced RVers.

Above all, immerse yourself in the RV community. This vibrant network of fellow travellers is an incredible source of support, advice, and camaraderie. They are people who have navigated the same path you are about to embark on and have valuable experiences to share. From finding the best campsites and knowing the best mechanic in town to sharing their own stories of challenges and triumphs, these individuals offer a wealth of knowledge that goes beyond what any book or guide can provide.

The transition into RV life may feel daunting, but remember, every seasoned RVer was once a beginner. Every expert was once a novice. They too had questions, made mistakes, faced obstacles, and experienced doubts. Yet, they learned, they grew, they persevered, and along the way, they discovered a way of life that brought them immeasurable joy and freedom.

You are about to embark on an incredible journey, one that promises not only unforgettable experiences but also personal growth. Remember to approach it with an open mind, a sense of curiosity, and a willingness to learn. Your adventure awaits, so buckle up, hold the steering wheel with confidence, and let the open road be your guide. As you navigate the world of RV living, remember, every journey starts with a single step – or in this case, the turn of a key.

EMBRACING CHALLENGES AS PART OF THE JOURNEY

As you set off into the world of RV living, the promise of adventure, new experiences, and the freedom to explore to your heart's content is incredibly exciting. The road before you seems to stretch endlessly, filled with the promise of

countless unseen places, fascinating people, and unforgettable memories. However, the path of the full-time RVer is not always smooth. Just as with any adventure, there will be obstacles, detours, and bumps in the road.

Mechanical breakdowns are an inevitable part of RV life. Tires go flat, engines overheat, and appliances can stop working. These instances can feel frustrating and may even cause panic. However, it is essential to view these breakdowns not as hindrances but as opportunities for growth and learning. Each one provides a valuable lesson in problem-solving and resilience, whether you are learning how to change a tire, troubleshoot an appliance, or even know when it is time to seek professional help.

Weather conditions can be another hurdle you might face on the road. Whether navigating through a sudden storm, dealing with the sweltering heat of the desert, or bracing yourself against the cold of a snowy mountain pass, these experiences test your adaptability and resilience. But remember, it is not about battling the elements, but rather learning to respect and adapt to them. The ability to adapt and thrive in different environments is a powerful skill you will gain on the road.

The unpredictability of life on the road is a double-edged sword. While it can bring moments of uncertainty and stress, it also instills in you a sense of flexibility, resilience, and resourcefulness that few other lifestyles can offer. These unexpected events and challenges provide an opportunity to grow, learn more about your capabilities, and ultimately, understand more about yourself.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PAUSES AND REFLECTIONS

Just as the open road can seem captivating with its wide-open horizons and thrilling sense of the unknown, it is

essential to remember that the path of RV living is not always a smooth one. Like any worthwhile adventure, it is punctuated with moments of challenge and unpredictability, both big and small. But these are not merely hurdles to overcome, they are part of the journey, offering us valuable opportunities for growth and self-discovery.

The challenges you encounter may vary widely. You might be faced with mechanical breakdowns, from minor repairs to major system failures. Or perhaps you'll encounter adverse weather conditions that hinder your planned route and force a change of plans. You might face difficulties in finding suitable campsites or even come up against the unique challenges of living in close quarters.

It is not unusual to feel frustration or anxiety in these moments. It is natural to worry when a storm looms on your travel day or when a sudden mechanical issue leaves you stranded. But remember, these trials are not roadblocks, they are part of the journey. And each one presents a unique opportunity to learn and to grow, to deepen your understanding of your RV and of yourself.

Each challenge can teach us something new. A mechanical problem could deepen your understanding of your RV's workings and heighten your ability to troubleshoot issues. A challenging weather event might hone your planning and decision-making skills, teaching you to be adaptable and resilient in the face of change. Difficulties finding a campsite could inspire you to explore less-traveled roads and uncover hidden gems you would have missed otherwise.

And do not forget the personal growth that can occur in the process. Dealing with these obstacles can foster a spirit of resilience, independence, and self-confidence that extends far beyond the confines of RV life. They can help you discover inner resources and strengths you never knew you had, and teach you to approach life with a problem-solving mindset that can serve you in all areas of life.

As you embark on your RV journey, welcome the bumps along the way. Embrace the detours and unexpected turns. They are not merely obstacles on your path but stepping stones, shaping your journey into a truly unique and personal adventure. See them as your teachers, guiding you towards a richer, more fulfilling RV lifestyle. And most importantly, remember that every journey, no matter how smooth or rough the road may be, is filled with opportunities for learning, growth, and self-discovery. The open road is yours to explore, so embrace the journey and all it brings.

HIT THE ROAD!

We talk a lot about the cliched first step and how hard it can be — especially when it involves a shift as significant as embracing the RV lifestyle — can be a daunting prospect. The road ahead is uncharted, filled with uncertainties and unknowns. It is perfectly normal to feel a pang of fear and a flutter of apprehension. After all, you are stepping out of your comfort zone and venturing into a whole new world.

And yet, it can be this very sense of venturing into the unknown, of embarking on a path less trodden, that also makes the journey so exhilarating and rewarding. It's in these moments of uncertainty that we discover our resilience, our adaptability, and our capacity to embrace change. It's where we get to redefine what comfort means to us, to create a mobile comfort zone within the confines of our RV — our sanctuary that moves with us wherever we go.

The beauty of the nomadic lifestyle lies in its fluidity. It is an existence that celebrates freedom, flexibility, and the joy of continuous exploration. If something is not working, you have the power to change it. If a location does not resonate with you, you can start the engine and drive to a new one. If the view from your window grows monotonous, a different landscape is just a road trip away.

The nomadic RV lifestyle is about embracing the philosophy of being like water — free-flowing, adaptable, and

capable of carving out its path. It's about living in harmony with change, rather than resisting it. It is a lifestyle that allows you to navigate the ebb and flow of life with ease and grace, to learn from every twist and turn, every speed bump and detour, every high and low.

And perhaps the most comforting thought is that you're not alone on this journey. The road may be wide and long, but it is also filled with fellow travellers — a vibrant community of RV enthusiasts who share your passion for exploration and discovery, who understand your apprehensions and fears, and who will welcome you with open arms and kind hearts. They are there to guide you, inspire you, and reassure you that it's okay to feel nervous about the journey ahead.

So, as you prepare to take that first step, remember that it's okay to feel afraid. Embrace that fear, for it is a sign that you are about to embark on a journey that will challenge you, change you, and ultimately help you grow in ways you never imagined. After all, as the saying goes, "A ship in harbour is safe, but that is not what ships are built for."

Your RV is your ship, and the open road is your sea. It's time to hoist the sails and embark on your grand adventure. Be bold, be brave, and above all, enjoy the ride!



About the Author

Royanne "Roxie" Powell is an aspiring author and adventurer who has embarked on a remarkable journey into the world of full-time RV living. With a passion for empowering women and bridging the fear gap, she has taken her personal experiences and transformed them into a valuable resource for those seeking the freedom and fulfillment of a nomadic lifestyle.

As a first-time author, Royanne's professional writing journey began just four months ago when she started blogging about her transition into full-time RV living. [Check out the blog by clicking here.](#) Through her blog, she shared her triumphs, challenges, and valuable insights, touching the lives of countless women who were inspired by her fearlessness and determination.

Driven by a desire to help others overcome their fears and embrace the full potential of the RV lifestyle, Royanne felt compelled to expand her message into a book. Drawing from her own experiences and the lessons she learned along the way, she crafted "Rolling Solo: A Woman's Journey into the

"Heart of RV Living" as a guidebook and a source of inspiration for women who are ready to embrace a life on the road.

Royanne's writing style is heartfelt, relatable, and filled with practical advice. With each page, she encourages readers to challenge their fears, step outside their comfort zones, and embrace the boundless opportunities that await them on the open road. Through her words, she becomes a trusted mentor and friend, guiding women through the process of transition and empowering them to live life on their terms.

While Royanne's journey into full-time RV living is an important part of her story, she understands that every individual's path is unique. With empathy and understanding, she encourages her readers to find their sense of belonging and fulfillment, assuring them that they have the power to create a life that aligns with their dreams and aspirations.

In addition to her writing, Royanne is a devoted dog lover and her two rescue dogs are her constant companions on this nomadic adventure. Their presence brings joy, companionship, and an added layer of fulfillment to her journey.

As a first-time author and a passionate advocate for women in the RV community, Royanne's ultimate goal is to inspire and empower her readers. Through "Rolling Solo: A Woman's Journey into the Heart of RV Living," she hopes to bridge the fear gap and provide the necessary tools, insights, and inspiration for women to embark on their own transformative journeys.