

Chapter 2:

Planning Your Destination



Let's begin with the most exciting topic and also the most important: planning your destination.

It's essential to understand where you can boondock and if your vehicle is appropriate for that location. Many boondocking sites aren't big enough for large RVs and require a high clearance vehicle or four-wheel drive.

The best place to research your boondocking destination is on [Campendium](#). You can find important information about the location, see photos, and read reviews from previous campers. Reviews will typically describe the road conditions, site size, rig size, and last turnaround points. Make sure the reviews you're looking at are relevant to the size of your RV. That way you know what to expect and can make an informed decision on whether or not you feel comfortable camping there.

The most common places to find boondocking spots are in national forests and grasslands or on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land. Most of these locations offer free camping with no reservations and typically have a 14-day stay limit. There are also some long-term BLM camping areas that allow camping for several months at an affordable rate.



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State parks, city parks, and county parks sometimes maintain free camping areas. So do entities like water management districts, trust lands, and conservation areas. Smaller U.S. federal agencies like the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation have a few campgrounds for boondocking, too.

Stay limits, access, amenities, permit requirements, and camping types at these sites vary greatly. Read reviews on [Campendium](#) and contact the managing agency to help determine whether a location is right for you and your rig.

For overnight boondocking stops, you can sleep anywhere that overnight parking is allowed. Some options include rest areas, truck stops, and businesses like Walmart, Cracker Barrel, and Cabela's. There are also subscription programs like Harvest Hosts and Boondockers Welcome that connect you with people and businesses that allow boondocking overnight.

In the next chapter, we'll talk about how to prepare for your boondocking trip.

