

# CAMPING OPTIONS



## Chapter Outline

1. Overview of Campground Options
2. What's Your Campground Personality?
3. Glossary of Campground Terms



### Key Chapter Takeaways

- There are three main options for camping: public, private, and boondocking sites.
- Each option has pros and cons.
- Knowing your camping personality can help you find the right match for you.

## What's the Big Idea?

When booking a hotel, chances are that you know the difference between a Motel 6 and a Hyatt Regency. You wouldn't stay at a Motel 6 and expect room service. Similarly, you wouldn't stay at a Hyatt Regency while on a limited budget.

When looking at campground options, you should consider the price, ambiance, types of campsites, and available amenities in order to find the right park for you.

## What Are Public Campgrounds?

Public campgrounds are found in state, county, and national parks.

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## What Are the Benefits and Drawbacks to Public Parks?

### *Biggest Pro*

Scenic beauty in peaceful settings.

### *Biggest Con*

Hard to book as some don't take reservations and others fill up fast.

## What Are Private Campgrounds?

Wide variety of independently owned and operated parks. Many are franchises, which offer a level of consistency from park to park.

## What Are the Benefits and Drawbacks to Private Campgrounds?

### *Biggest Pro*

Amenities, such as utility hookups and recreational activities.

### *Biggest Con*

Price, as they're more expensive than public parks.

## What Is Boondocking?

Most boondocking happens on public land such as Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and national forest lands.

Another type of boondocking experience is parking overnight in business parking lots (which could include casinos, Walmarts, and Cracker Barrels).

Boondocking is sometimes confused with "dry camping," which is camping without utility hookups. While boondocking is camping without hookups, it specifically means camping on dispersed land and not dedicated campsites.

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## How Is Boondocking Different from Other Types of Camping?

The key difference is that you're not camping on an established campsite while boondocking.

You won't have utility hookups or other amenities.

We'll tell you more about how to find these locations and what to expect in a future chapter.

## What Are the Benefits and Drawbacks to Boondocking?

### *Biggest Pro*

Mostly free.  
Typically in beautiful, private settings.

### *Biggest Con*

No hookups or amenities.

## What Other Kinds of Camping Options Are There?

Within each of these categories there are hidden treasures that we'll cover more in depth, such as:

- Army Corps of Engineers campgrounds, which are beloved for their natural beauty, water access, and well-designed sites.
- Membership programs like Harvest Hosts, which help you find unique camping experiences at wineries, farms, breweries, and golf courses across the U.S.

## Additional Notes:

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