

URBAN CAMPING



Chapter Outline

Part I: Approaching the Urban Camping Experience

Part II: Build Your Urban Camping Bucket List



Key Chapter Takeaways

- Urban camping provides a convenient basecamp for touring a city.
- You should approach urban camping with different expectations than other types of camping.

What's the Big Idea?

Once you get into RVing, you may find yourself wanting to take your RV on every vacation. But, what about those trips into the big city? Can you bring your RV, or should you leave it at home and stay in a hotel instead?

The good news is that you don't have to leave your RV at home. There are many great urban campgrounds. Just remember to adjust your expectations since this form of camping may be different from wooded campgrounds and RV resorts.



PART I:

Approaching the Urban Camping Experience



Why Do People Stay in Urban Campgrounds?

Urban campgrounds are primarily used as a basecamp for exploring a city.

Sometimes, people stay in them to visit friends, family members, or specific locations within a city (such as colleges or hospitals).

What Are Urban Campgrounds Like?

Similar to other types of camping, you'll find a wide range of urban campgrounds.

- Some are more like parking lots, providing you with just the minimal amenities that you need to comfortably stay in your RV.
 - Liberty Harbor RV Park, located just outside of New York City, is an example of this.
- Others offer the full resort experience, providing a full slate of onsite amenities.
 - French Quarter RV Resort in New Orleans is a great example, offering a pool, hot tub, bar, fitness center, and ambiance, right in the heart of the French Quarter.

Can You Find Beautiful RV Parks in or Near Urban Areas?

Yes, you can find scenic campgrounds and state parks located in and around urban areas.

Here are a few examples:

- McKinney Falls State Park outside of Austin, Texas
- Seven Points Corp of Engineers Campground near Nashville, Tennessee
- Thornhill Broome State Park near Malibu, California

How Much Does It Cost to Stay at an Urban Campground?

You can expect to pay between \$50 and \$200 per night. Compared to the cost of a hotel room in the city, it's typically less expensive to stay at an urban campground.

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| How Does Urban Camping Save You Money?

Even if an urban campground is more expensive than a more remote campground, it's typically cheaper than staying in an urban hotel.

Plus, you have the ability to eat and prepare meals in your RV, which can also save you money.

| How Can Urban Camping Add to Your Experience?

If you're camping directly in the city, you get to fully experience the location since it's at your doorstep.

You'll spend less time commuting in and out of the city, which gives you more time to see the sights.

Plus, you might have easy access to public transportation.

| What Are Other Benefits of Urban Camping?

If you aren't used to the busyness of a city, returning to your RV at night can help you feel at home. You get to sleep in a familiar place instead of a hotel.

| What Are the Pros of Urban Camping?

- Location, location, location!
- Ease of access and less time commuting
- Save on food costs
- Being a part of the city
- Easy access to public transportation

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| What Are the Cons of Urban Camping?

- More expensive than typical campgrounds
- Campgrounds may be parking lots, with little foliage or ambiance
- Can be difficult to navigate city streets
- May be noisy and bright at night
- Lack of privacy
- Not all cities have convenient campgrounds
- Sites may be narrow

| Is It Difficult to Drive Your RV to an Urban Campground?

You may encounter tight roadways to get to the campground.

Use an RV-specific GPS app to ensure you stay on the proper roads for your size and type of vehicle. Particularly on the East Coast and in mountainous areas, you may encounter road restrictions.

Ask the campground for route recommendations.

| How Can You Adjust Your Expectations for Urban Camping?

When urban camping, it's important to go in with the proper mindset. Remember, you're using this campground as a basecamp, not as a destination.

If the RV park is nice, remember to allow for downtime in the park. With an entire city to see, it's tempting to stay busy, but your campground can also offer a relaxing break.

