

Destinations

Let's head out to the great Outdoors!

Be it hiking Majestic Mountain trails dotted with lakes,
beautiful meadows and secluded forests;



Or traipsing the shore of a white sandy beach and
dipping your toes into the ocean;



Or taking a peaceful drive through the countryside;



Or finding that peaceful easy feeling in the solitude of the desert with a billion stars all around;



This land America has it all!

Arguably, late summer and early autumn bring about the best time of the year to hit the road in your RV or head to that treasured family camping site. Warm days, cool evenings, generally lighter traffic and smaller crowds, all add up to ideal conditions for travelling. Undoubtedly, the current price of goods and services make distant or extended trips challenging to say the least. We may have to stay closer to home or go for a shorter period of time, but with a little imagination, prioritizing and planning, many of us can still get out there and enjoy the majestic beauty God has so richly blessed our nation with. **The great outdoors, good for mind, body, soul and spirit!**

A few Tent Camping Tips (Courtesy of KOA.COM)

Tent camping is an escape from the busyness of our lives that takes us on adventures in the beautiful outdoors where we can disconnect from technology and reconnect with Mother Nature. However, in

order to make your camping trip comfortable, and thus, enjoyable, you need to know what you're doing and have the right gear. Otherwise, your vision of the perfect camping trip may, in reality, be a nightmare.

To make sure you get to experience the summer camping of your dreams, we've put together 10 tips for tent camping.

1. Practice setting up the tent at home.

Sure, it may look easy to set up. "The box claims set-up only takes 5 minutes," you say. Well, not everyone is a camping pro, and when you're out in the woods with just a few minutes of sunlight left, you are not going to want to be testing out your camping skills.

2. Pick and reserve your campsites ahead of time.

Few things feel more stressful than that panicky feeling you get as the sun is setting, and you have no idea where you're going to park your tent for the night.

3. Make campfire-friendly meals ahead of time.

Just because you're camping and don't have access to a big kitchen doesn't mean you shouldn't have good food. If you're not feeling excited about a can of baked beans and some hot dogs for dinner while camping, then plan ahead and make some meals that are easy to cook over the campfire.

4. Bring extra padding.

No, camping in a tent does not have to be uncomfortable. There is great gear out there that was made to help you get a good night's sleep while in your tent.

5. Bring games.

You will likely go hiking while camping, and possibly swimming if near water, but one thing people seem to forget is that there is quite a bit of down time while camping. But that's the whole point isn't it? To get away from our busy lives and just relax? We certainly think it is. And down time is a great opportunity to pull out some card or board games and have some good old fashioned fun.

6. Pack good coffee.

While some love the traditional cowboy coffee while camping, there are those of us coffee "snobs" who just cannot bring themselves to accept chugging down coffee grounds. And just because you're camping doesn't mean you can't have coffee that tastes just as good as the cup from your favorite cafe. You can bring a French press, a pour-over setup, or buy yourself some instant coffee that is more on the fancy side.

7. Waterproof your tent.

While beautiful, Mother Nature is also full of surprises — you can never be too sure what the weather is going to do. It could be sunny and 75 degrees one minute and pouring rain the next. And this is something you've got to be prepared for while camping. In order to keep yourself and your gear dry, it's a good idea to waterproof your tent before heading out on your trip. How do you do this?

It's quite simple – just purchase a can of silicone sealant and, while practicing the setup of your tent (see #1), spray the tent from top to bottom, left to right. Don't forget the zippers! Cover every square inch of your tent with that spray and you should be all set if you find yourself camping in a downpour.

8. Go during the week rather than the weekend.

If your schedule allows, go camping during the week. Campsites on any summer weekend are typically jam packed with people — everyone is looking for a little escape. So, if you're looking for a more quiet and relaxing camping trip, see if you can work a mid-week stay into your schedule.

9. Take advantage of campsite amenities.

With KOA's in-depth descriptions of each campsite, you will know what amenities the sites you're staying at offer.

Standard to KOA campsites are amenities such as:

- Level ground to pitch your tent
- Picnic tables, water spouts, and fire pits
- Clean restrooms
- Hot showers
- Wi-Fi
- And much more

Knowing that you've got these and other great amenities waiting for you will take a lot of stress (and likely extra packing) off of you.

10. Leave the campsite as you found it.

This is a very important rule to follow not only out of respect for those that come after you, but also to protect our beautiful outdoors. Bring out any trash you brought in, and make sure your fire is completely out. Also, be sure you've packed up all your own gear and haven't left anything behind.

So start practicing your tent pitching now — there are adventures out there waiting!

For RV Tips, please visit: <https://koa.com/blog/rv-advice/>