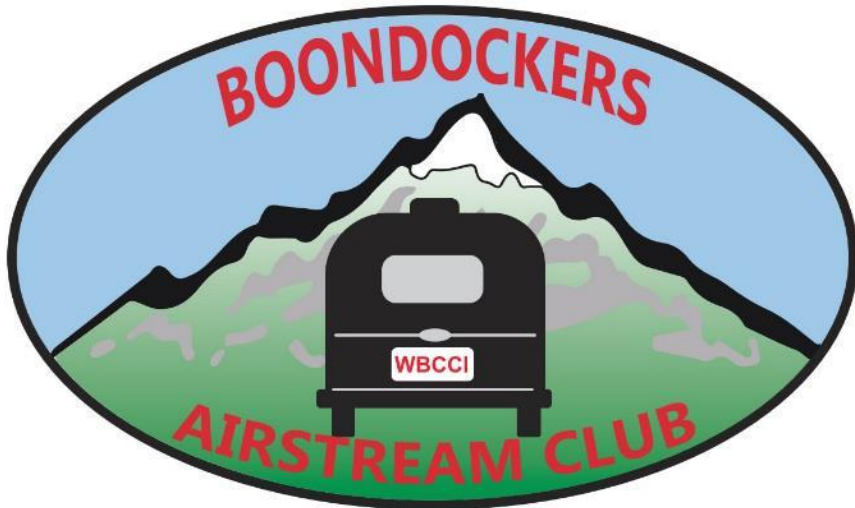


Boondocking for Beginners

Freedom, cost effective and pretty darn fun!



Boondockers Airstream Club
2024

Contents:

- What is boondocking
- Why boondock
- Types of boondocking
- Finding sites
- Equipment
- Safety
- Resources

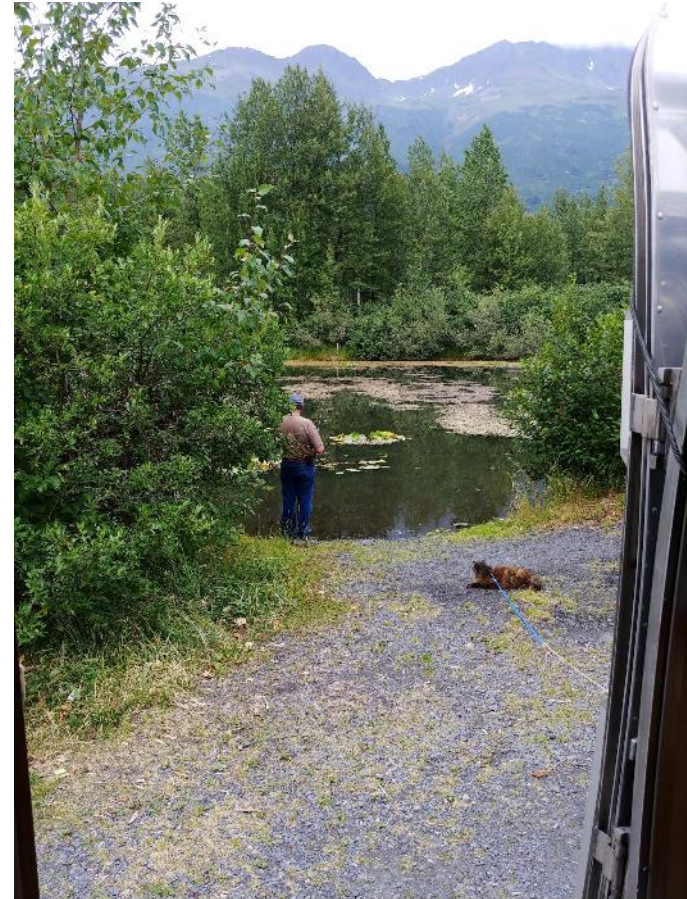


Photo: Chugach National Forest, Kenai Peninsula
Alaska

What is boondocking?

Photo: Bolivar Flats Beach Peninsula, Texas

Being self-sufficient, having no access to water, sewer or external electrical hookups.



Why Boondock?

- To camp away from the crowds.
- To enjoy the beauty of nature, see wildlife, and find recreational opportunities.
- To explore National & State lands
- To save costs



Photo 1: Pull out Alcan Highway British Columbia, Canada Photo 2: Susitna River, near Talkeetna, Alaska Photo 3: Padre Island, Texas

Types of Boondocking

- Free Overnight Parking
- Dry Camping
- Dispersed Camping



Photo 1: Pull out Alcan Highway British Columbia, Canada Photo 2: Susitna River, near Talkeetna, Alaska Photo 3: Padre Island, Texas

Overnight parking

A cost effective way to travel while you are in transit to your destination.

- Rest areas, highway visitor centers
- Walmart
- Cracker Barrel
- Casinos
- Truck stops
- Harvest Hosts
- Boondockers Welcome
- County parks
- Forest roads
- Airstream courtesy parking



Photo 1: WalMart Richfield, Utah Photo 2: Cracker Barrel Walterboro, South Carolina Photo 3: Harvest Hosts Arnaudville, Louisiana

Dry camping

Developed campgrounds and other areas without hookups

- National Parks
- State Parks
- National Forests
- National Grasslands
- BLM maintained campgrounds
- COE (Army Corps of Engineers)
- WMA (Water Management Areas)
- Private campgrounds with no hookup sites
- Festivals, Fairs
- Moochdocking



Photo 1: BLM Arctic Circle Campground, Alaska Photo 2: Roosevelt NP, North Dakota Photo 3: Private campground Haines, Alaska

Dispersed camping on public lands

- BLM (Bureau of Land Management)
- National Forests
- National Grasslands
- State public lands

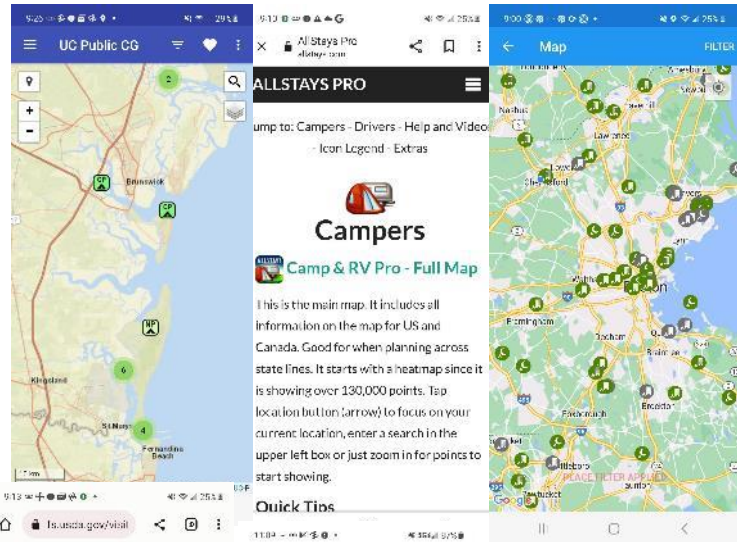


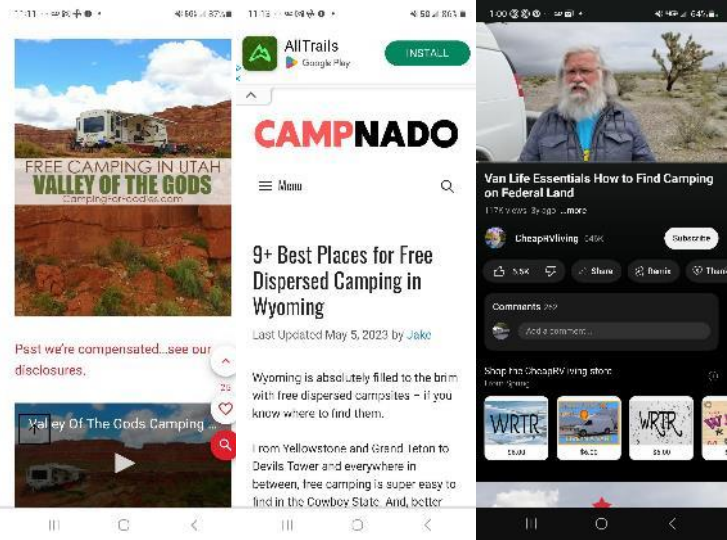
Photo 1: BLM land Kanab, Utah Photo 2: BLM Dalton Highway, Alaska Photo 3: Buffalo Gap National Grassland near Badlands NP, South Dakota

Finding sites, it's all about research

Apps and Websites

- Use multiple sources. Most are crowd sourced.
 - Allstays Pro
 - RVParky
 - iOverlander
 - The Dyrt
 - Campendium
- The Web has a trove of information.
 - Search in the area you'd like to camp, i.e. “Wyoming dispersed camping”.
 - BLM & National Forest websites
 - State websites for camping and state forests

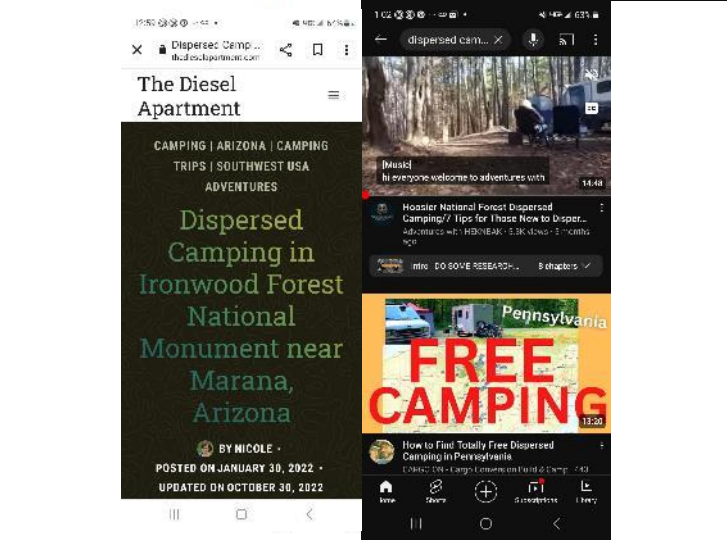




Blogs & VLogs, a dispersed camper's best friend

There are many blogs and vlogs dedicated to dispersed camping.

Many bloggers and Youtubers provide exact coordinates to camping spots.



The Airstream Boondockers IntraClub has a member sourced google map of locations. https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1UhBKWJSDn_k2KnNhwJHcWRrVL7F_zcU&hl=en&usp=sharing

Basic Boondocking Equipment

Quick Overnight Parking?

- Basic Needs
 - Fresh Water
 - Charged batteries
 - Empty tanks
 - Battery monitor



Photo 1: Natchez Trace Visitor Center, Louisiana, Alaska Photo 2: Walmart, Utah Photo 3: Cracker Barrel, South Carolina

Dry/Dispersed camping?

- Basic Needs:
 - Full fresh water tanks
 - Empty gray & black tanks
 - Charged batteries
 - Battery monitor
 - Inverter(s)

Advanced Needs:

- Water jugs/bladder to refill
- Secondary power supply (Jackery)
- Generator
- Solar recharging (mounted/plug in)
- Propane heater (Mr Buddy)



Photo 1: Public campground Seward, Alaska Photo 2: NF campground Ten Sleep, Wyoming Photo 3: Cranberry Bog, Massachusetts

Airstream Upgrades

Although not required, more permanent upgrades can add to the ease and enjoyment of off grid camping:

Axle Lift: If going "off road", consider an axle lift (typically 3")

Solar: Permanent roof mounted or portable allows for renewal charging without generator use.

Additional Batteries: It's all about power use. If you are a heavier power user, adding batteries to your bank may make sense.

Soft Starts: Air Conditioners use a lot of power when starting up. Soft starts reduce the power load (whether using your inverter system or generator.

Inverter: Repowering the airstream with a higher watt inverter and moving more capabilities to the inverter system, gives more capabilities off grid without a generator.



Safety

Boondocking is safe, but...

Don't take any chances – trust your intuition – don't stay if it smells bad.

- Know where you are going
- Hitch lock
- Axle chain lock or tire boot.
- Locking lug nuts
- GPS tracker
- Internal locking safe
- Do not leave anything outside when you are away from camp.
- Close your window shades before leaving camp.
- Invest in motion security lights/alarm
- Leave a plan with family/friends – phone location trackers
- Emergency communication – cell/satellite
- Be smart about neighbors



Resources

Hitch Lock:

Tire Boot:

Safety Chains/Cables:

Alternate Inverter: (Jackery)

Water Bladder;

Battery Monitor:

Emergency: Garmin In Reach

Motion Lights:

Propane Heater: Mr Buddy

Generator: Honda & Champion

GPS Trackers

Resources

If you have additional boondocking tips, tricks and equipment to add to this guide, email Barb Derian at stella10826@gmail.com