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Strange RV Encounters: An Introduction

The Weird, the Wacky, and the Wonderful



Juliana Mathews, Yahoo Contributor Network
Oct 16, 2012


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Have you ever dreamed of giving up the burdens of owning or renting a home, giving away most of your (many unnecessary) possessions, and traveling the country?

Well, I have. Ever since some family friends did it years ago, I've wanted to hit the road in an RV and see the country. I'd spent most of my life living in central and northern California and felt I hadn't really been anywhere or seen anything. With the exception of one weekend with a group of friends, I'd never been in an RV before.

My dream became a reality in the summer of 2011 when I bought my first (and current) RV.

I'd never driven anything so big. It was surprisingly easy. Scary, but easy. (Heavy traffic and small, winding roads still scare me, though.) I drive my 29-foot Winnebago Sightseer and tow a small car behind -- by myself. It's just me and my kitty, whom I refer to as The Co-Pilot. (I'm still teaching her to read maps.)

My adventure is just as much about the journey as the destination. But I don't want to see just anything, I want to see all of the goofy sights in America. Wacky wonders such as the Largest Ball of Twine, the World's Largest Frying Pan, and the Cadillac Graveyard make me smile, and some make me laugh out loud. I affectionately refer to the collective group as "Cheezy Americana."

While the items mentioned above are on my Cheezy Americana Bucket List, I've seen many more wacky sights as I've meandered around the country over the last year. The strangest place I've been so far is [Slab City in southern California](#). The most awe-inspiring was the Grand Canyon's North Rim. I've seen a beaut of a butte in Utah called Mollie's Nipple, a 100-year-old wedding cake, and a 66-year-old slab of bacon. (The bacon still looked edible -- the cake, not so much.)

After being a full-time RVer for over a year, I can tell you that I have no intention of ending my journey anytime soon. I love the lifestyle, the freedom, and meeting so many wonderful people. Frankly, it's the best thing I've ever done.

Among many others, some of the sights you can expect to find in this series are "The Thing" in Dripping Springs, Arizona; the Watermelon Water Tower in Luling, Texas; and the World's Largest Pecan in Seguin, Texas.

I hope you'll follow along on my journey see the large, goofy, or downright strange sights in America if for no other reason than to live vicariously through my experiences. Maybe, just maybe, my adventure will inspire you to take a leap of faith and pursue your dream. To quote Alfred D. Souza, "Happiness is a journey, not a destination." And sometimes, the destination can be just as good as the journey.

Check out my first stop here: [Strange RV Encounters: Two-Story Outhouse in San Juan Bautista, CA.](#)

[Follow more of my weird, wacky, and wonderful RV adventures on Flickr.](#)

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Published by Juliana Mathews

In the summer of 2011, Juliana bought an RV, gave up most of her possessions and began traveling around the country with her cat, seeing all the weird, wacky and wonderful roadside attractions. She writes... [View profile](#)



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Juliana Mathews 1/19/2013

Thank you, Laura! :)



Juliana Mathews 1/19/2013

Hello ontheway!

I do a variety of things to support my journey: work camping, local part-time jobs, travel writing, and internet marketing. I also play the lottery and plan to win the jackpot! ;) Then I'll stop doing all of the above, except for the travel writing - I love doing that! Tim Ferriss' book "The Four-hour Work Week" had a huge part in getting me started on the road.



Laura Everly 1/16/2013

very cool article happy sight seeing well written Laura Everly



ontheway 1/15/2013

Hello.

I must say, I admire you, big time! You are an inspiration. I wish I could do what you are doing, with the extra of getting to also fly all over the planet to different countries, not just U.S. I don't have anything to sell of my own, to even organize such a journey for myself. That leaves me wondering, although you say that you sold your belongings to purchase the RV, you still must have a job, to afford gas for your vehicle and food and other items that you and your sweet Co-Pilot need on the way, right? Or did you inherit a fortune to continue such a lifestyle? I'm just curious. And I love your article! Thank you.



Cousette 10/25/2012

hi Julie

I've been sharing your site and everyone is very interested in reading about your adventures! How about recalling some of those whacky sites/people/things you saw on the way to Texas!

Keep safe and keep happy. Don't take any wooden nickles - hehe

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