

THE **AIRSTREAM** GUIDE

Winter **CAMPING**

ADVENTURES



ADVENTURE SEASON LASTS ALL YEAR

The call of the wild doesn't stop when the temperature changes, and you don't have to, either. There are plenty of reasons to take a winter getaway.

Maybe you want to experience the peaceful splendor of waking up and opening your door to a snow-covered world. Maybe your idea of a winter adventure is screaming down the slopes through a foot of fresh powder. Or maybe you're longing for the quiet solitude the winter season – and its smaller crowds – can offer.

Whatever you're looking for, we love your adventurous spirit. That's why we're here to help you have the best winter camping experience, with trip ideas, tips, and tricks on how to stay comfortable and get the most out of the season.

Read up. Plan your winter adventure. And start wandering.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1 WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN WINTER CAMPING
- 2 OUR FAVORITE WINTER CAMPING DESTINATIONS
- 3 PREPARING FOR YOUR WINTER TRIP
- 4 STAYING WARM IN YOUR AIRSTREAM
- 5 DRIVING & TOWING IN WINTER WEATHER

AIRSTREAM

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN WINTER CAMPING

Like most RVs, Airstreams aren't designed for use in sub-freezing temperatures. But with common sense and some relatively simple modifications, you'll find your Airstream can provide an adequate short-term shelter in colder locations.

Still, winter weather is unpredictable. What works in one situation may not be appropriate in another. As with any adventure, it's important to ask yourself what you're comfortable with and to know your limits.

The tips and recommendations contained in this eBook are based on the experience of many Airstreamers, but are not guaranteed to be effective in all situations.



Winter Camping

OUR FAVORITE WINTER CAMPING DESTINATIONS





IMAGE COURTESY OF @RHONDAHENDRICKS



NATIONAL PARKS

Revel in the beauty of a snow-dusted desert. Snowshoe through the backcountry.

National Parks come alive in a completely different way in winter.

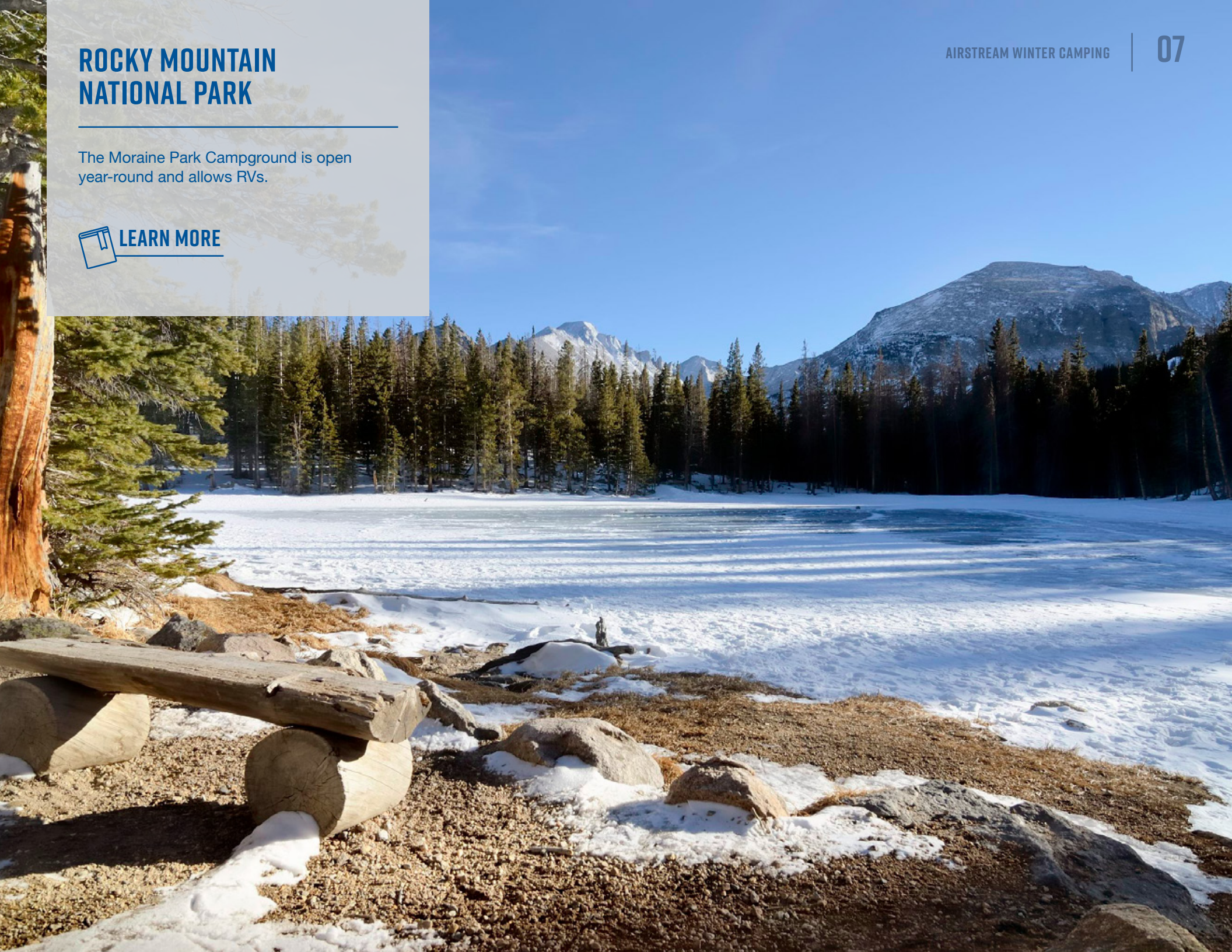
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Yosemite has RV campsites available at most of its campgrounds. Reservations are recommended.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

The Moraine Park Campground is open year-round and allows RVs.



GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

Year-round RV camping is available at Mather Campground. There are no RV hookups, but if you need to camp with hookups, look into nearby Trailer Village.



[LEARN MORE](#)

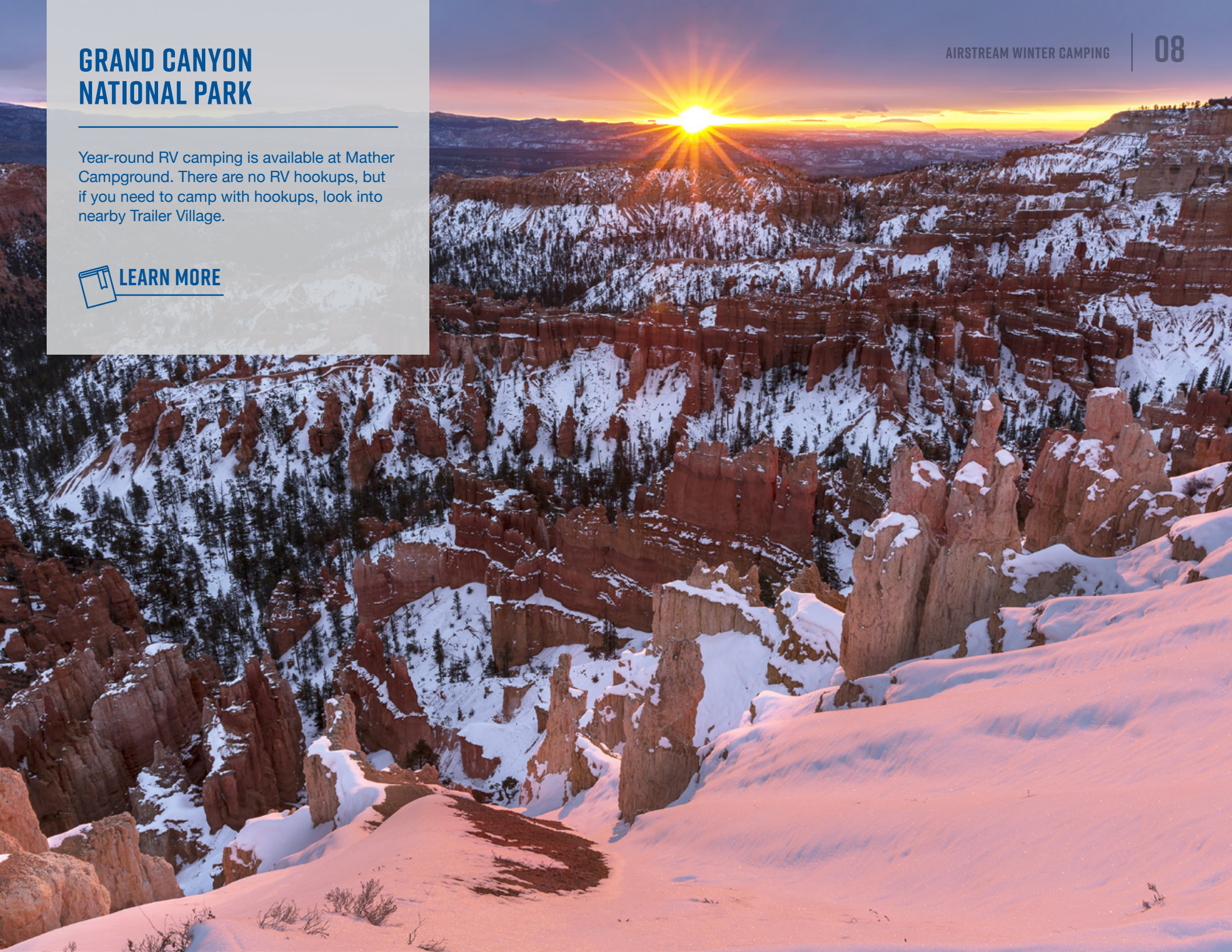




IMAGE COURTESY OF @ADVONA_DAVE



RV CAMPGROUNDS

Hundreds of campgrounds across the U.S. remain open during winter months and offer amenities like water, electricity, and sewer hookups. Some go a step further, providing extras like Wi-Fi, fitness centers, or shuttles to nearby activities. No matter what kind of winter camping experience you're looking for, chances are you can find it at an RV campground.

These websites can help you locate campgrounds that operate through the winter.

 LEARN MORE

Kampgrounds of America

Go RVing

Jellystone Park Camp-Resorts



The background is a misty winter landscape. In the upper half, there are dark evergreen trees shrouded in white mist. Below the trees, a person is visible on a grassy hill. The lower half of the image is a deep blue gradient. The text is centered and framed by white lines and a semi-circle.

Winter Camping

PREPARING FOR YOUR WINTER TRIP





The most important part of taking a winter camping trip is adequately preparing before you leave. Make sure you have all the usual trip essentials and supplies. Then, remember to add some winter extras. If the weather changes while you're on the road, it may delay your departure, or you may have to make an unplanned stop.

Carefully consider what to stock up on ahead of time, and how and where you'll restock. And have an idea of what you'll do if supplies become scarce. The more prepared you are, the easier it is to deal with the unexpected – it's just another part of the adventure!

Before you hit the road, be sure to stock up on these items:

1 PROPANE

Since you'll be using your furnace to heat your travel trailer or touring coach, you'll go through propane more quickly than in warmer months. Fill up before you head out, and keep checking the levels so you can fill the tanks before they get too low. Remember: It's not recommended to carry extra propane tanks in your vehicle or travel trailer.

2 FRESH WATER

Bring more water than you normally would for drinking, cooking, and flushing. This is especially important if you have to make any unexpected stops, or if you get delayed. Remember that the air is dryer in the winter, and hydration is key. Store extra water in your trailer to ensure it doesn't freeze inside your vehicle while you're parked.

3 FOOD

Bring extra, easy-to-prepare food for unexpected delays or extended stays. If you ever have to tap into your extra stash, make sure to restock at your next opportunity.

4 WARM CLOTHING

Pack plenty of warm clothing, layers, and blankets to stay warm inside and outside. Don't forget hats, gloves, scarves, heavy socks, and boots—preferably waterproof ones.

5 WINTER SUPPLIES

Have snow shovels and ice scrapers on hand, as well as de-icer and winter windshield wiper fluid. Consider bringing antifreeze for your vehicle, and RV-specific antifreeze for your black and grey water tanks. Remember: While RV antifreeze is non-toxic, it is not meant for drinking. Only add it to the fresh water tank after flushing the system for winterization and storage.



Winter Camping

STAYING WARM IN YOUR AIRSTREAM





IMAGE COURTESY OF JUST5MOREMINUTES.COM



The best part about winter camping in an Airstream? You can play, hike, ski, and explore outside all day, then return to your home away from home to stay warm and cozy all night. Even when the temperature outside dips below freezing, you can be comfortable inside your Airstream. Keep these tips in mind to stay even cozier on your next winter camping adventure.



IMAGE COURTESY OF @BRIANBRAUN

1 TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HEATING AND HOT WATER

Today's Airstream travel trailers and touring coaches are equipped with propane heating systems and water heaters to help keep you warm and relatively comfortable.

2 CONSERVE PROPANE

Many Airstream models come equipped with an electric heat pump or strip – check your owner's manual. If you're hooked up to electric at a campsite, turn your furnace down (or off) and use electric heat to stay warm. Note: The heat pump will not operate below 30 degrees Fahrenheit, and will automatically switch to the furnace below that temperature

3 COOK MEALS INSIDE YOUR TRAILER

Take advantage of your Airstream's full kitchen and make a hot meal inside the trailer. Using your stove will naturally warm up the trailer a little extra. (But remember not to rely on the stove as a source of heat!)

AIRSTREAMER TIP: Make sure to use vents so moisture doesn't build up inside the trailer. Consider opening a window, too, if possible.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas, and it's deadly. Always ensure your carbon monoxide (CO) detectors have fresh batteries.



4 USE THE SUN AS A NATURAL HEATER

For a boost of natural heat, park your Airstream in an open area where it will get the most sun exposure. Also, open your curtains to allow the light in during the day.

AIRSTREAMER TIP: Park your Airstream facing east-west to take advantage of passive solar heating.

5 CLOSE YOUR CURTAINS

When the sun goes down, close your curtains to help hold in warmth. If your curtains are lined, the effect will be even more noticeable.

6 ADD INSULATION

Consider using thermal plastic materials to seal off your windows and vents. Cut foam inserts for the Fantastic Fan roof vents to help prevent heat loss. You can also install temporary weather stripping around your door.

AIRSTREAMER TIP: Rigid insulation boards are available at many hardware stores and can be custom-cut to fit the insides of your windows. Some Airstreamers have taped bubble wrap to their windows for added insulation, too.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas, and it's deadly. Always ensure your carbon monoxide (CO) detectors have fresh batteries.

7 KEEP CONDENSATION AWAY

Cold temperatures outside and warm temperatures inside create the potential for condensation to form inside your trailer. Combat this humidity by periodically running ceiling vents, especially in the shower and above the stove.

PREVENTING FROZEN PIPES

Winter camping often means fighting a battle against freezing water. As you'd expect, there are several places where freezing water can cause problems:

- Plumbing inside the trailer
- The black, grey, and fresh water tanks (located beneath the floor)
- Tank drains and cutoff valves

Depending on how cold it is outside, having the heat on in your trailer may prevent pipes inside the trailer from freezing.

To help combat freezing water in the holding tanks, Airstreams are equipped with one of two methods. One method pumps warm air from the furnace into the area around the holding tanks. The other is a heating pad attached to the tank.

Check your owner's manual to see which your trailer has. Either method will help inhibit freezing, but neither should be considered 100 percent reliable.

RV antifreeze can add an extra layer of protection to black and grey tanks, but it should never be added to fresh water you plan on consuming. The fresh water tank should only get RV antifreeze before it's flushed for winterization.

Depending on the temperature, consider:

- Leaving cabinet doors open to allow warmer air to circulate around pipes
- Adding RV antifreeze into grey and black water tanks.
DO NOT ADD RV ANTIFREEZE TO POTABLE WATER IN THE FRESH WATER TANK.
- Waiting until tanks are full or almost full before emptying them, and trying to empty on warmer days whenever possible
- Purchasing a heated drinking water hose

AIRSTREAMER TIP: Your shore cord will become stiff in cold weather. Store it inside when not in use.



Winter Camping

DRIVING AND TOWING IN WINTER WEATHER





Traveling to your winter camping destination will likely take some extra planning and patience. More important than arriving on schedule is arriving safely and without incident.

Here are some tips to ensure a safer trip during the winter months.

KEEP AN EYE ON DRIVING AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

Weather and road conditions can change quickly. It's a good idea to take a look at the forecast before you leave—and while you're traveling, too. That way, you'll know what to expect, and you can plan ahead if you'll need extra travel time.

ALWAYS DRIVE MORE SLOWLY

Taking it slow helps you stay safe in winter weather conditions. Remember that everything from stopping to turning takes longer on snowy, icy, or wet roads. When you're driving slowly, it's easier to maneuver safely.

CONSIDER USING CHAINS ON YOUR TIRES

Snow chains on your tow vehicle provide extra traction when you're driving on snowy or icy roads. They can also assist with braking.

TOW OR DRIVE IN THE RIGHT-HAND LANE

This ensures you're closer to the shoulder if you need to pull over, plus it allows other vehicles to safely go around you. While you're driving, always allow plenty of room between yourself and other vehicles, especially when you're on a road where the shoulder is blocked, covered, or non-existent.

WHEN IN DOUBT, WAIT IT OUT

If weather or road conditions seem too dangerous, or if you simply don't feel comfortable driving, don't take a chance. It's better to delay your departure—or pull off the road if you've already set out—until the weather clears. Not only is it the safest choice, but you'll also get to enjoy all the comfort and features your Airstream offers!





YOUR WINTER HOME BASE.

With kitchens, bathrooms, bedrooms, heating systems, and entertainment technology, Airstream Travel Trailers and Touring Coaches let you set out for a winter adventure without leaving any of your favorite comforts behind. So plan your trip, pack up, and head for the snow.



ADVENTURE. INSPIRED BY AIRSTREAM.

Our founder, Wally Byam, was driven by an unending desire to see what was over the next hill, and the next after that. And he wasn't alone. Thousands of Airstreamers know just how important the freedom to wander really is, and how enjoyable having the whole world at your doorstep can be. So what are you waiting for? Find your Airstream at airstream.com.