

Fall 2016

NO BOUNDARIES FOR US

Inspiration for the inexperienced traveler

Savannah, GA	4
Our home on wheels	6
Fly to Cuba for \$59	10



A DougBardwell.com Publication

Travel, tech, photography and more

Hello and happy autumn,

This month's issue features our next installment about camping and RV'ing. We recently had the opportunity to try out both of the large style RV's - the Class C and the Class A. This month's feature is about our experience in the Class C. Spoiler alert - we loved driving it. I now see why many people sell their home and go RV'ing full time. Haven't talked Maureen into that yet, but we'll see.



One of our first stops was in historic Savannah, Georgia. It was Maureen's first time there and she loved it just as much as I did on my previous visits.

We added a number of press releases to this month's content; but the one that really caught our eye was the one from Southwest Airlines. They are starting to fly to Cuba as their 100th destination and fares will start at just \$59.00. If you've wanted to try out that new passport, this has got to be the cheapest ticket on the block.

You'll notice we are taking a new slant on some of our content - featuring more articles about volunteering and social responsibility. We all have to share this planet, and we'd like to think we're helping do our part to keep it viable for future generations.

Oh, one other thing. The newest app for travelers is [Google's Trips](#). Check it out. I think it's got some serious potential. Let us know what you think. Remember - Get Up and Get Outdoors!

Doug

Fall 2016 Issue

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Savannah, GA among the top 10 travel destinations

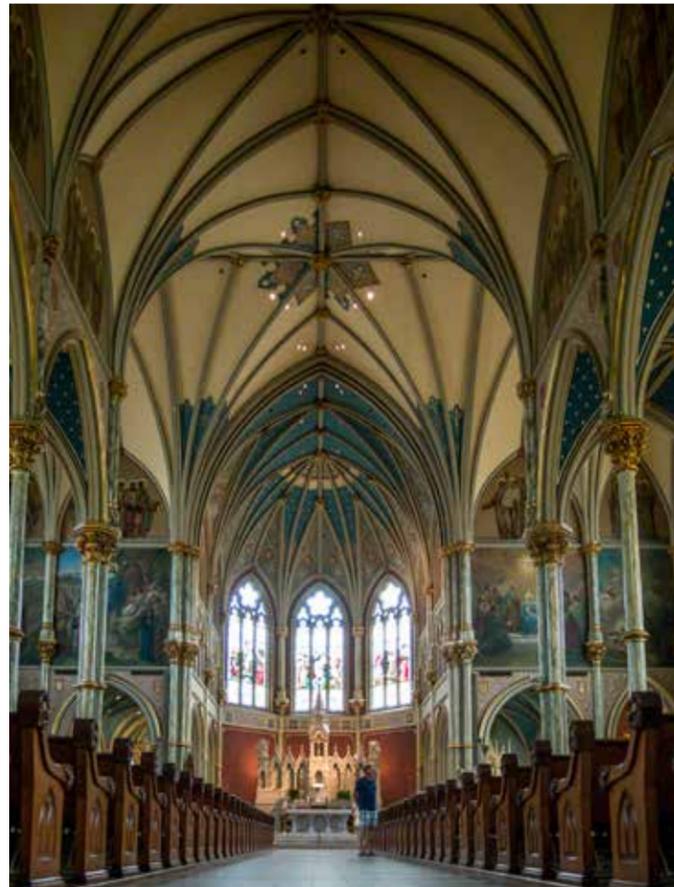
In July of this year, Travel & Leisure released its Top 10 Destinations list. Savannah, GA came in number three for the United States (and number 9 for the world.) Cities were rated on sights/landmarks, culture, food, friendliness, shopping, and value.

We recently visited Savannah and truly enjoyed the city, both for its beautiful architecture and the wealth of great places to eat.

Here is the full list of the top ten destinations for 2016:

1. Charleston, SC
2. New Orleans, LA
3. Savannah, GA
4. Santa Fe, NM
5. Nashville, TN
6. San Francisco, CA
7. Chicago, IL
8. New York City, NY
9. Austin, TX
10. Asheville, NC

Here are a few shots we took on our whirlwind tour of Savannah.



Photos by Doug Bardwell



Photos this page courtesy of Visit Savannah



OUR HOME ON WHEELS - FOR A WEEK



Continuing on in our RV'ing and camping series, we look this month at the large Class C RV. See our previous [installment here](#).

Turns out, you can take it with you...if you're driving an RV. That's been one of my favorite assumptions, and we are off on a 10-day RV adventure to see how it works in reality. Thanks to the good folks at Planet RV in Broward County, Florida, we've been able to schedule back-to-back RV rentals, and we'll be trying out both Class C and Class A motorhomes over the next 10 days.

What's it like to drive something that big? Is a big RV hard to drive? Don't you have to learn all sorts of mechanical stuff when you're setting up camp? How do you keep in touch if you don't have Internet or cable TV? Can you really be comfortable without your king-sized bed and walk-in closet? We'll be answering all these newbie questions. Read on as we start our first experience in a beautiful Class C rig.

Picking up our RV in Fort Lauderdale

Like many seniors, we'd never driven a big motorhome before, and didn't know what to expect. We showed up at [Planet RV](#) after flying into Fort Lauderdale and taking a quick 15-minute taxi ride to their location at 3030 Burriss Road; Davie FL 33314.

We were able to bring lots of luggage, photo and video gear, so we'd have whatever we needed for the trip. The RV has dozens of storage drawers, doors and places to store your gear.

After completing our rental paperwork, it was time to learn all about the 31' Thor Chateau RV's features. With a home-on-wheels, we needed to learn how to provide our own power and manage our water supply. It took an hour to review all the mechanical and electrical systems we'd be using on the RV, but everyone was very patient, showing and reshowing us how all the switches and connections worked. It seemed like they wanted to make sure we had all the knowledge

we needed before pulling out. Feeling very confident, we fired up the engine and took off.



Off to a perfect start

Before hitting the highway, we drove around the neighborhood for 15-20 minutes, trying both right and left-hand turns, u-turns and backing up. There's a back-up camera onboard so that helps, but it's still a new experience in such a large vehicle. Start to finish, we loaded our gear aboard the Thor RV, got our training session completed and did our 20-minute practice session in less than two hours. From there, we were off on the start of our adventure, heading toward Savannah, GA.

One of my favorite features is having everything you need on-board, and from there, your schedule is all your own. No need to show up at a particular motel at a particular time. If the spirit moves you, you can change your itinerary on a moment's notice. We had planned on driving much further our first night, but we were both tired from the previous week of press trips in Delaware and Maryland, so, after driving for a couple hours, we Yelped a good pizza house, brought it into the motorhome and turned in for the night. Maximum flexibility and mobile comfort = my perfect getaway.



RV vs Hotel – which is better?

This is our first experience driving a large RV, and while I often wondered about the advantages of traveling like this, we are now quickly getting some real life examples. For us, a pair of **senior travelers**, the idea of RV travel has proven its worth multiple times already. Being able to change plans and travel as the mood hits us has been extremely liberating.

Class C RV's can be very liberating

Flexibility is key when you are driving a Class C motorhome. You've got newfound advantages both on the road and at your destination.

After picking up the unit, our first stop was Walmart, where we loaded up with some food, some wine and our paper products. The unit came with sheets for the beds, a pillow, toilet paper and necessary chemicals. With our purchases, we were now self-sufficient for multiple days.

As we mentioned in our last article, we made a spur of the moment decision to not drive all the way to our destination the first day we rented this unit. No problem, as everything we needed to spend the night was on board.

A rolling kitchen

Getting up the following day, we decided to drive a few hours before stopping for breakfast. Checking the map, we located a potentially scenic roadside park just off I-95 in Indialantic, Florida, and stopped there for breakfast.



While I got out and photographed the area, Maureen fired up the stove and made a delicious breakfast. It was extremely warm that day, but with the motorhome's large rooftop air-conditioner going, she was just as comfortable as being home. Instead of spending \$30+ for breakfast, our groceries cost us under \$5, and we had exactly what we liked.

With a three burner stove and a microwave available, you can grab a hot coffee or tea whenever you like.

A rolling bedroom and closet

We like to travel extremely casual – shorts and a comfy tee-shirt, but often you need to arrive at your destination

dressed more appropriately, say for fine dining. Not an issue. Simply pull over to the side of the road, pull down the shades at your windows in the RV and change.

As we drove through Tybee Island, Georgia, the beach and the surf called us to come explore. Parking on the street, we were able to do a quick change of shoes and be off to the surf in a matter of minutes. Coming back, the outside shower head made quick work of washing off the sand stuck to the bottom of our sandals.

After walking the streets of Savannah, when we got back to the RV, we were tired and hot – really hot. We immediately fired up the generator and turned on the air conditioning. Changing into our coolest clothes, just sitting there in the cool air felt so good, we stayed much longer than we anticipated.

A rolling rec room or den

I downloaded some photos and started typing this article, while Maureen caught up with the family back home and did some reading. Cool beverages were available in the refrigerator and we just “chilled” for about an hour before continuing on with our explorations.

Back at the campground, you could hook up your unit to the cable TV feed and watch your favorite shows while lounging on the comfortable sleeper sofa or sitting at the dinette table for four. Even without a cable hook up, we could raise the rooftop antenna and select from 20+ channels of local over-the-air HD-TV available.

Whatever you want to do

We’re only on day three of our [2016 RV Adventure](#), but we’ve been favorably impressed with all that a unit like this enables us to do. From keeping my six-foot-tall tripod open and ready to use at a moment’s notice, to being able to change clothes whenever the need arises, we are loving this motorhome.

Packing it all in an RV



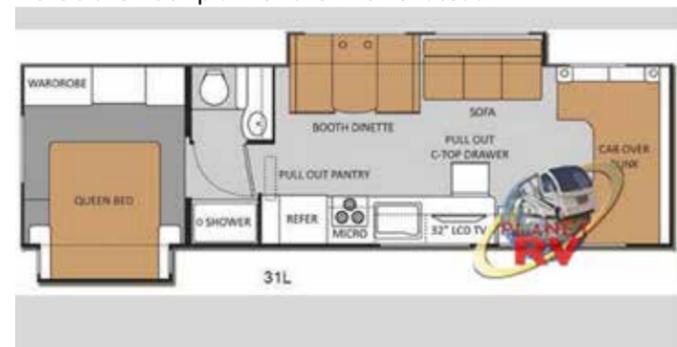
This was our first experience driving a large RV, and for other seniors or newbies to RV’ing, we’ve learned a lot that we’d love to share. The questions we’ve received most are: how much space is there in a Class C RV, and how much can you carry with you while you’re traveling. I hate to state the obvious, but they both depend on the size RV you rent or buy.

The one we took was a 2013 Thor Chateau 31 feet in length. Other Class C RV’s could be larger or even up to 50% smaller, so use this as a guide for a comparable large Class C RV.

What’s inside this RV

We loved the configuration of this RV. From the spacious dining area, to the ingenious layout of the bathroom and shower, there was a lot to enjoy. All the sleeping areas were very comfortable and the rooftop a/c unit kept it quite comfortable even in the hottest Florida temperatures.

Here’s the floor plan for the Thor Chateau.



Tour the interior - [click to play the video](#)



Hooking up the RV at the camp site - [click to play the video](#)



Could Cuba be the least expensive international destination?

Southwest Airlines just added a 100th destination city to its flight map – Varadero, Cuba (VRA). That makes nine countries served now by Southwest.

Service is to begin November 13, 2016 and the rates couldn't be any cheaper to start.

“In celebration of the new service, Southwest is offering a special fare of **\$59 one-way*** on nonstop flights to and from Cuba (14-day advance purchase required, today through Nov. 20, 2016, 11:59 p.m. in the time zone of the originating city) for travel Nov. 13, 2016, through April 24, 2017).”

Terms and conditions apply, so [check their website](#) for all the particulars; but, according to their press release, you needn't worry about hidden fees, and your bags still fly free.

Southwest®



Save the Planet and travel to sustainable destinations worldwide

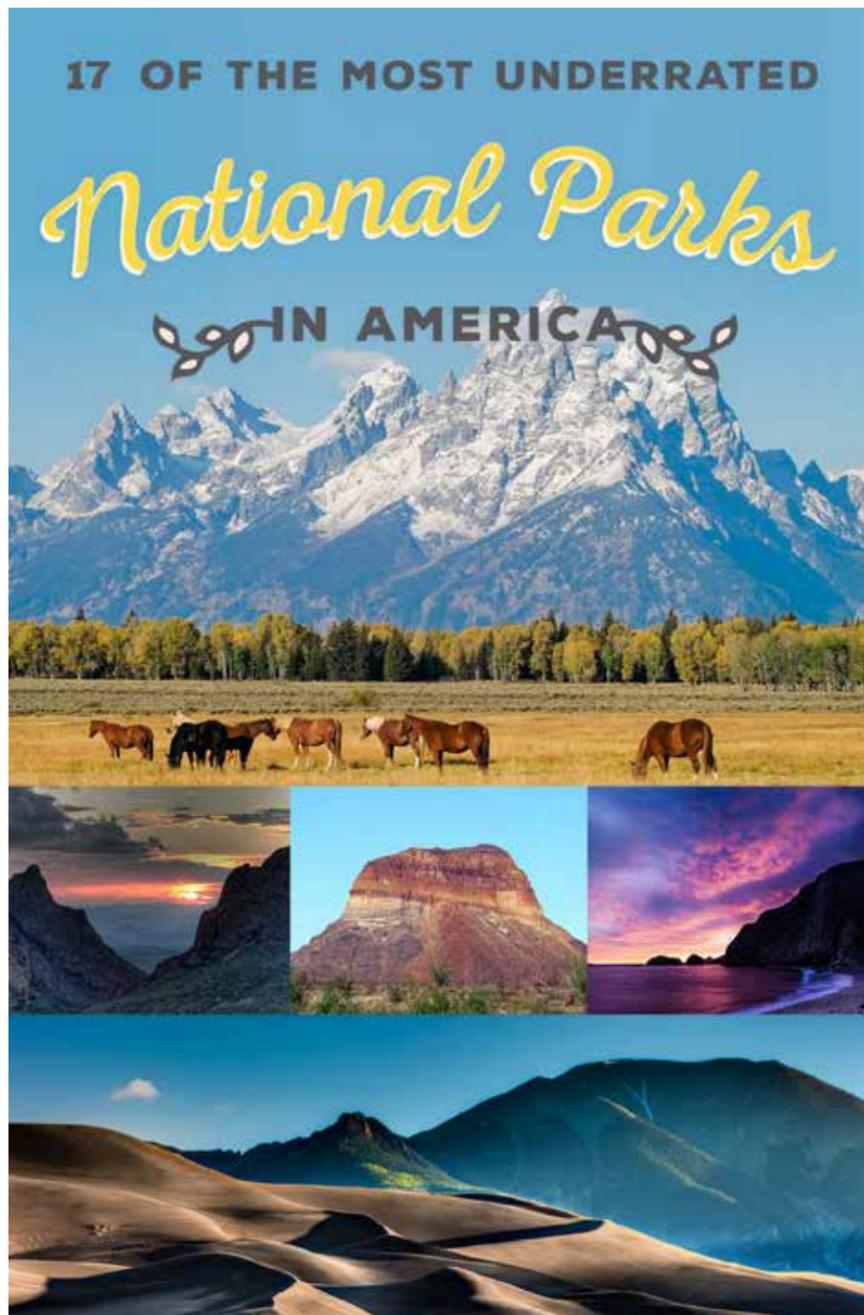
During **Global Green Destinations Day**, (September 27, 2016) 100 destinations were named as the best of the best for sustainability. Based on 15 core criteria, the awards were presented to those destinations with the greatest efforts benefitting residents, visitors and the world.

Selections were made by a panel of 60 sustainability experts from around the world. In addition to the awards presented to the following 100 cities in 45 countries, the cities have been placed on the [Green Travel Map](#).

Watch the video to learn more about sustainable travel and how you can book a sustainable trip. (Originally aired in the Netherlands – subtitles.)

ARGENTINA	CHINA	INDONESIA			
Bariloche	Yi Xian (Yi County), Anhui Province	Misool, Raja Ampat			
Tigre	Mt. Huangshan	Plataran L'Harmonie, West Bali Barat NP			
AUSTRIA	Jiuzhaigou Scenic Area	IRELAND			
Werfenweng	Sanqingshan World Heritage Site	Clonakilty			
BHUTAN	COLOMBIA	Gozo - Comino			
Kingdom of Bhutan	Otun Quimbaya Fauna and Flora Sanctuary	ITALY			
BOLIVIA	CROATIA	Best of Romagna	Zuid-Limburg	Peneda-Gerês National Park	TAIWAN
Madidi National Park	Delnice	Montepisano in Toscana	NETHERLANDS - CARIBBEAN	Lagos	Northeast and Yilan Coast
BOTSWANA	Town of Drniš	Cogne (Valle d'Aosta)	Bonaire	Cascais	Cihalaay Cultural Landscape Area
Chobe, Makgadikgadi & Okavango Delta	Town of Mali Lošinj	JORDAN	Saba - St. Eustatius	Sintra	
Selinda Reserve	Gorski kotar	Sharhabil Bin Hassneh	MEXICO	RWANDA	TANZANIA
BRAZIL	Island Krk	KENYA	Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve	Volcanoes National Park	Chumbe Island (Zanzibar)
Ponta de Nossa Senhora	Pula	Loisaba Conservancy	NIGERIA	SLOVENIA	THAILAND
Fernando de Noronha	CYPRUS	Mara Naboisho Conservancy	Cross River State	Ljubljana	Tung Dap Village
CANADA	Paphos district	KOREA	NORWAY	Slovenia Green Destinations	TIMOR LESTE
Niagara River, Falls and Parkway	FRANCE	Dongbaekdongsan	Svalbard	SOUTH AFRICA	Atauro Island
Great Bear Rainforest	Bretagne	Suncheon Bay Wetland	Geilo	Cape Town	UNITED KINGDOM
Dehcho-Akaiicho regions, Mackenzie Valley	GERMANY	LATVIA	Sognefjord	Grootbos Private Nature Reserve	The Broads National Park, England
Mackenzie Delta - Beaufort Sea, NWT/ YT	Norderney & Juist	Jarmala	REPUBLIC OF PALAU	SPAIN	Comrie, Scotland
COSTA RICA	Bliesgau Biosphere Reserve	NETHERLANDS	Republic of Palau	Atlantic Islands of Galicia NP	County Down, Northern Ireland
Costa Rica including the Osa Peninsula	Uckermark	Ameland	PHILIPPINES	Terres de l'Ebre	Lough Neagh, Northern Ireland
CHILE	GREECE	Noordwijk	Lake Holon	Baiona, Galicia	UNITED STATES
Isla Grande de Chiloe	Alonnisos, Northern Sporades	Katwijk - Wassenaar	Lake Sebu, South Cotabato	Noja	Jackson Hole & Yellowstone
Curacavi	INDIA	Westvoorne - Hoek v Holland	Bojo, Aloguinsan, Cebu	SWEDEN	Desert View Grand Canyon NP
Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve	Khangchendzonga National Park	Goeree-Overflakkee	PORTUGAL	Sigtuna	Vermont
Huilo Huilo	Parambikulam Tiger Reserve	Schouwen-Duiveland	Oeste (West region)	Åre	URUGUAY
		Veere	Azores	TAIJKISTAN	Punta del Este
				Pamir Mountains	





Looking for holiday getaway ideas? Try these.

From Amy Sefton at [BuzzFeed](#), a list of destinations that might not be top-of-mind; but, destination worthy nonetheless.

Number 17 is near and dear to our hearts - and right in our proverbial backyard - The Cuyahoga Valley National Park. She writes....

“Sneakily hiding out between Cleveland and Akron is probably the most beautiful places in Ohio. The park is riddled with deep gorges and cascading waterfalls, and offers plenty of activities like symphonies in the summer and skiing in the winter. It’s a pretty modern mix of natural and man-made attractions, making it pretty unique among national parks.”

[Check out her article at BuzzFeed.](#)

Frightening destinations perfect for Halloween

If you are one that loves to have the bejeebers scared out of you, there are haunted houses everywhere this time of year. But where are the creepiest, the scariest, the most bizarre? How about the Midwest? How about Northeastern Ohio?

The temperatures are dropping, the leaves are changing and the screams are starting – all signs that “Haunt Season” is happening once again. The Haunted Attraction Association (HAA) has announced that hundreds of fright specialists from coast to coast have opened their doors of doom to offer thrills and chills to visitors now through the end of October.

“This is the best time of year in my opinion,” said HAA President John Eslich. “Our members have worked hard to elevate the guest experience and with the introduction of new elements like virtual reality and blackout experiences at a number of attractions, I think people will feel emotions they’ve never felt before.”

Canton, Ohio

Located inside an abandoned 150,000 sq. ft. aluminum foundry, [The Factory of Terror](#) features five full attractions, totaling over a mile in length including: The Asylum, Industrial Nightmare, the Labyrinth of Darkness, Massacre on Mahoning, and the House of Nightmares. Also available on the premises are 6 escape rooms. The Factory of Terror has won the Guinness World Record 3 times as the Longest Indoor Haunted Attraction in the world.

Columbia Station, Ohio

Celebrating over 25 years of screams, [Spooky Ranch at Rockin'-R Ranch](#) offers multiple attractions that cater to all fear levels – from the calm Old West Pumpkin Fest to the Extreme Nightmares Haunted House, which is known for its extreme gore, blood, guts and actors getting up close and personal. The Famous Haunted Hayride is a 25-minute experience that combines scary with humor and surprises supplemented with pyrotechnics and larger than life 30 foot tall animated creatures.

Haunt Finder

[Check here for a haunted house near you.](#)

Need more travel suggestions? Check our Pinterest collection....

[Take me there](#)



Top Stylish Homestay Locations Around the Globe

Traveling in style is a must! Luckily, [Homestay.com](https://www.homestay.com) offers travelers a bounty of affordable, impeccably-designed spaces in over 150 countries (with 50,000 listings). Below are Homestay.com's top 10 most stylish Homestays ranging from expansive Balinese villas to French chateaus--all of which are easy on the eyes.

Homestay.com, a growing competitor to Airbnb, is a leader in experiential travel. During a Homestay experience, hosts are present throughout the duration of guests' stays. Hosts are always happy to recommend local hotspots and hidden gems, cook them home-made meals, teach the local language/lingo, translate, organize sightseeing tours and transfers, venture out with guests, and much more.

Beach Villa in Bali, Indonesia (From \$71 per night)

Travelers in search for sunshine, fresh food and new culture can find it all at Barry's stunning beach villa. Guests can stay in their choice of two rooms, which are aptly named "dream suites."



Chateau in Sainte Bazeille, France (from \$80 per night)

Culture lovers will obsess over Chateau Rouge, a uniquely decorated 19th century castle nestled in the heart of a park. The lavish home, which was renovated in 2015, retains its original character with a jazzed-up, contemporary tone.



Rotorua, New Zealand (from \$166 per night)

Set atop a hill with floor to ceiling windows, this brand new, luxurious home in Rotorua offers a king size bed in every room, 7 LED televisions, plus spectacular views of the city.



Chic Home in Paris France (from \$66 per night)

In this tastefully decorated and recently renovated Parisian apartment dwells a family of musicians, who welcomes students and guests throughout the year. In addition to daily breakfasts, three dinners per week are also provided!



Wooden Villa in Siem Reap, Cambodia (from \$18 per night)

Travelers seeking a secluded retreat within walking distance from the city's local attractions will find solace at this villa, which features an Indian themed room, a Mediterranean veranda, and plenty of vintage furniture.



Coastal Village in Malaga, Lagos (From \$68 per night)

Surrounded by an orchard dotted with fruit trees, this lavish villa has bright and spacious rooms, plus a pool. Guests are awakened each morning to a one-of-a-kind view of the Alboran Sea. Healthy, home-made, Mediterranean lunches and dinners consisting of gazpacho, paella, fish soups, and the like, are available for order for a reasonable extra fee.



Adobe Home in Tucson, Arizona (from \$72 per night)

This beautifully decorated adobe lets travelers experience desert-living in Eastern Tucson. Guests can enjoy a light breakfast in the Japanese Tatami room, stroll through the Zen garden, or wander the 3.88 acres of land, which is filled with native vegetation and wildlife.



Farmhouse on Island of Gozo, Malta (from \$55 per night)

Travelers staying at this farmhouse can choose from 11 stylish rooms, adventure out into the local caves of Gozo, and explore the countryside situated right on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea.



About Homestay.com

Homestay.com is an accommodation marketplace dedicated to the homestay travel experience, where the host is present for every stay. With more than 50,000 hosts offering places to stay across some 150 countries, Homestay.com enables travelers to stay in the home of a local resident while they are there. Focused as much on people as it is on places, Homestay.com puts hosts at the heart of amazing travel experiences. The company was founded by Tom Kennedy, co-founder of HostelWorld.com, and Debbie Flynn, a veteran of the education travel industry. [Homestay.com](https://www.homestay.com) is funded by Delta Partners Ltd.

7 Hacks for the Perfect Road Trip

Going on a road trip has its pros and cons. Pros, you're going on an awesome adventure; cons, it can be costly. Here are some hacks you can try to balance those pros and cons to reach vacation nirvana.

1. Download a gas app: One of the most costly aspects of any road trip, especially in this economy, is gas. When you're travelling in an unfamiliar area, it's hard to know where to stop for the most frugal fill-up. To aid in your decision, you can download GasBuddy or Gas Guru, only two of the several gas pricing apps. These apps display the location and gas prices of gas stations near you. Most apps like these are free and update pretty regularly, so you won't be deceived when you pull up at the pump.

2. Take side stops: Have you ever gone on a trip and passed signs for museums or monuments that you think would be awesome to see in person? Allot time in your travel to make a few stops on the way to your destination. It will not only keep you entertained



throughout your trip, but it will also give you a chance to stretch your legs and learn something new.

3. Gassing up a rented or borrowed car: Chances are, if you've never driven a car, you probably don't remember which side the gas tank is on. If you do forget, look at the gas gauge. There is an arrow that will point to whichever side of the car the gas tank is on. This will save you a tiny bit of time and hassle when you have to stop at the pump.

4. Stay awake while night driving: If you're feeling sleepy, it's probably best to switch drivers or check in to a hotel. But if you're feeling only a little drowsy, try listening to comedians on your road trip. Odds are, the comedian will keep you laughing and their jokes will keep you engaged, chuckling and most importantly, awake, all the way home.

5. Know North from South: If you're old school and like following paper directions instead of having a little square computer yell at you to turn, you know that your passenger might end up telling you a wrong direction by mistake. Remember that interstates and highways with odd numbers run North to South, and interstates with even numbers run East to West. If you get mixed up, this will help you get back on track, or at least in the right direction, in a jiffy.

6. Cool down hot cars quickly: In the dead of summer, stopping for only five minutes for a quick bathroom break can leave your car unbearably hot. To cool down a hot car in seconds, roll down one window all the way and open and close the car door directly across from that window a few times. This will force hot air out of the car.

7. Know where to get directions: When asking for directions, some people gravitate towards gas stations. However, the best place to ask for directions is a restaurant with a delivery service. Stop in at Pizza Hut or Dominos to ask for directions. Odds are, they have a driver waiting for a delivery who can give you quick and easy directions to a destination in the area.

With these seven road trip travel hacks, you'll be ready to hit the road for the vacay of a lifetime.

For more tips on all things car related, visit Blitzify.com, check out their blog, and download the Blitzify app that is revolutionizing the way motorists search and shop for automotive services.

About Blitzify

Blitzify is a new mobile application that connects customers and automotive service providers through a comprehensive and innovative mobile platform that is changing the way people buy and sell automotive services. The app merges data from local market research, information from service providers, special offers, testimonials and ratings and reviews from customers into a user-friendly interface giving the user out-the-door, real time price comparisons. For more information, visit www.blitzify.com.

Top Tips for Solo Travelers

We've recently read a number of excellent articles that provide tips & tricks for solo travelers. The advice given in these articles is great, but I wanted to highlight some additional things that solo travelers can do to have a safe trip that's still an adventure. Here are a few suggestions:



1. Learn the Culture

Dressing like the locals isn't a bad idea, but it should be less about blending in and more about understanding cultural norms so you can avoid wearing things that will offend other people. Also, knowing important phrases in the local language and any common etiquette rules or embarrassing faux pas is crucial before visiting a new place. By finding out cultural norms before you go you make it easier to interact with locals and have a richer cultural experience.

2. Know Your Neighborhoods

Nearly every city has areas that can be considered dangerous, but that doesn't mean solo travelers need to stick only to "safe" tourist zones. Finding out which neighborhoods are relatively safe and which are not means you can explore a city confidently. Asking locals is the best way to learn what parts of town you can feel comfortable walking around solo and which you should take more precautions. People living in the city walk these streets every day and will know about neighborhoods in transition or what areas are like at different times of day and different times of the year.

3. Know Your Transportation Options

Write them down or have them easily accessible on your phone. Familiarize yourself with route maps and schedules so you can have spontaneous adventures. Knowing when the trains stop running in the city you're visiting or what the best bus route is back to your hotel gives you piece of mind when you're

out without having to plan every minute of your trip. Plus, if you're not feeling well or find yourself in a part of town you feel uncomfortable, you'll know how to quickly and safely get out.

Also, finding out which forms of transportation are safest and most reliable ahead of time (in some cities it might be cabs, while others a bus is a better way to go) means you're not scrambling when you're too far away (or too tipsy) to walk back to your hotel.

4. Meet Locals

Meeting locals and forming connections makes travel so much more rich and rewarding. My most memorable travel experiences come from meeting locals and seeing a destination through their eyes. It's also been extremely helpful in keeping me safe. Locals usually know the most about what areas to visit, the customs you should know, and the best ways to get around.

5. Trust Your Gut

If a situation feels sketchy, trust your instincts and get out of there. Travel should be about trying new experiences and getting out of your comfort zone, but that doesn't mean you should throw all caution to the wind.

Do you have tips you've learned from traveling solo? We want to hear them! Drop us a note and we could feature them in a future issue.

About the Author

Evan Hung is the Co-Founder and CEO of Zipskee, a social-discovery platform that connects travelers and locals around the world. He is a graduate of Wake Forest University and has experience in eCom-

merce, brand strategy, and business development. Zipskee was founded in 2015 on the belief that people make the culture, and connecting with culture is the best part of traveling. The platform can be used to share recommendations, arrange meet ups, and experience the real side of a destination that you can only get when meeting locals — Zipskee's mission is to make it easy to make friends wherever you go. In Evan's spare time, he can be found teaching hip-hop dance, playing music, and traveling the world. To learn more about Zipskee, please visit zipskee.com.



How can travelers be more socially responsible?

October marks Fair Trade Month. In today's consumer driven society, it is easy to lose sight of responsible buying practices, and this important month serves to remind conscious consumers that with fair trade, the money spent on day-to-day goods can improve an entire community's day-to-day lives.

Why buy Fair Trade?

Helps farmers and factory workers in 70 countries work in safe conditions, earn extra money to invest in their communities and improve the lives of their families;

Creates jobs in the developing world;

Ensures that children are not forced into labor;

Gives women an opportunity for independence, and a way out of an abusive or unsafe environment.

Meet the first Fair Trade organization in North America, Ten Thousand Villages. A fair trade, non-profit retail organization, Ten Thousand Villages operates with the mission to create income-earning opportunities for artisans in developing countries by establishing a sustainable market for handmade products in North America.

By building long-term buying relationships in places where skilled artisan partners lack opportunities for stable income, the company provides artisans with opportunities to pay for food, education, healthcare, housing and more. In 2015, makers who would otherwise be unemployed or underemployed earned \$7,500,000 in sustainable income through Ten Thousand Villages.

Here then is a roundup of some of their most popular new home products:



New Rattan Sloped Jar (\$18.99; handmade in Indonesia):

This jar from the island of Lombok incorporates two distinct skills: pottery and macrame using rattan fiber. The precision required to craft a jar with a fitting lid is tremendous. The women of Lombok Pottery center have been creating ceramics pieces for centuries, and have honed their craft so that they can produce more technically difficult pieces such as this one.

New Evergreen Candleholder (\$39.99; handmade in Indonesia):

Real, colored sand is used to create the swirled design on this candleholder. From the workshop of Mr. Junedi, an artisan of the APIKRI artisan group in Indonesia.

New Golden Mango Wood Bowl Set (\$59.99; handmade in India):

This set includes tray and three bowls. The natural finish of high-quality mango wood is complemented by the sheen of gold leaf. This unique design is brought to us by the artisans of Noah's Ark International Exports, creating opportunities for makers living in and around Moradabad.



New Sweet Leaf Napkin Rings Copper, Gold and Silver (\$12 each; Handmade in India):

In Moradabad, India many metal workshops were forced to close their doors as the price of raw materials rose, and the value of metalwork fell. Generations of knowledge that had been passed down from fathers and grandfathers before them was in danger of being lost in history. And skilled craftspeople suddenly found themselves without work.

New Whitewashed Tray (\$89.99; handmade in Indonesia):

Straight from the heart of Bali, this whitewashed tray is the perfect blend of textured character and sleek refinement. The Mitra Bali artisan group supports skilled artisans through export assistance, material sourcing and design consultancy.

New Marble Mortar & Pestle (\$49.99; handmade in Pakistan):

Grind herbs and spices in style with this genuine marble mortar and pestle. A handsome addition to your kitchen counter, this item was handcrafted by makers from Dominion Traders, who showcase the beauty of natural stone with their expert skill. Some variation in color and shape is typical in handcrafted products made from natural materials such as stone.



**Shop
Fair Trade**

GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET COMING NOVEMBER 12-13



The population of Harmony, Pennsylvania could quadruple on the weekend of the Weihnachtsmarkt (Christmas Market) being held at Harmony Museum; 218 Mercer St, Harmony, PA 16037

The fundraiser attracts thousands of visitors to celebrate the National Landmark community's German roots while shopping jury-selected artisanal vendors and enjoying German entertainment, food and refreshment.

Market hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$3 for students, free for children younger than six, providing all-day access to the market, entertainment, the Museum, and horse-drawn wagon rides in the historic district. Proceeds support museum operations.

Nearly 50 specialty vendors and traditional crafters were chosen to participate for the quality of their offerings, including: treen ware; wood carvings; Shaker boxes and other woodcrafts; jewelry and metal ware; artwork; antique maps, foodstuffs such as roasted nuts, pretzels, candies, mustards, jams, teas and oils and vinegars; pottery, glass and stained glass; fiber goods; clocks; Jackware leather goods; soaps and lotions; candles; dolls and toys; baskets; Christmas ornaments, decoratives and holiday items; furniture, crystal and rock items, and birdhouses.

Top 5 Reasons to Volunteer Abroad as a Teacher



Here are the top five reasons to get involved at a Teaching Project in a developing country:

Make a tangible difference in underprivileged schools

Many of the schools that Projects Abroad is partnered with are located in severely disadvantaged areas. These schools lack resources and the majority of students have never had the chance to interact with a native English speaker. There are endless ways that volunteers can have a significant impact, from giving individual attention to students that are being left behind in overcrowded classes, to introducing educational games and creating engaging materials that make learning more fun. Some volunteers also go the extra mile and run afterschool programs such as English clubs to give children a safe space to learn and have fun in the afternoons.

Your impact will continue after you have left

One of the most important aspects of the Teaching Project is the help given to local teachers. Volunteers spend a lot of time at their projects helping their colleagues improve their English fluency and introducing new ideas and techniques for English education into the classroom. By helping local teachers, volunteers are indirectly influencing the futures of thousands of children – as well as contributing to sustainable development! Projects Abroad has had excellent results with these types of programs, especially at the Teaching Project in Peru, where the organization runs a specialized training program for Peruvian teachers from January to March each year.

Gain practical experience in the classroom

At each project, volunteers spend several hours in the classroom each day, assisting with or leading English classes, as well as teaching other subjects like music, art, or drama if they are up to the challenge. The experience of being in an actual classroom setting and working alongside qualified teachers is an invaluable one,

especially for volunteers interested in pursuing careers in teaching or ESL. For university students, an international volunteer program can also potentially be used for academic credit. A previous Projects Abroad volunteer even used her experience at the Teaching Project in Costa Rica to contribute to research for her graduate study project!

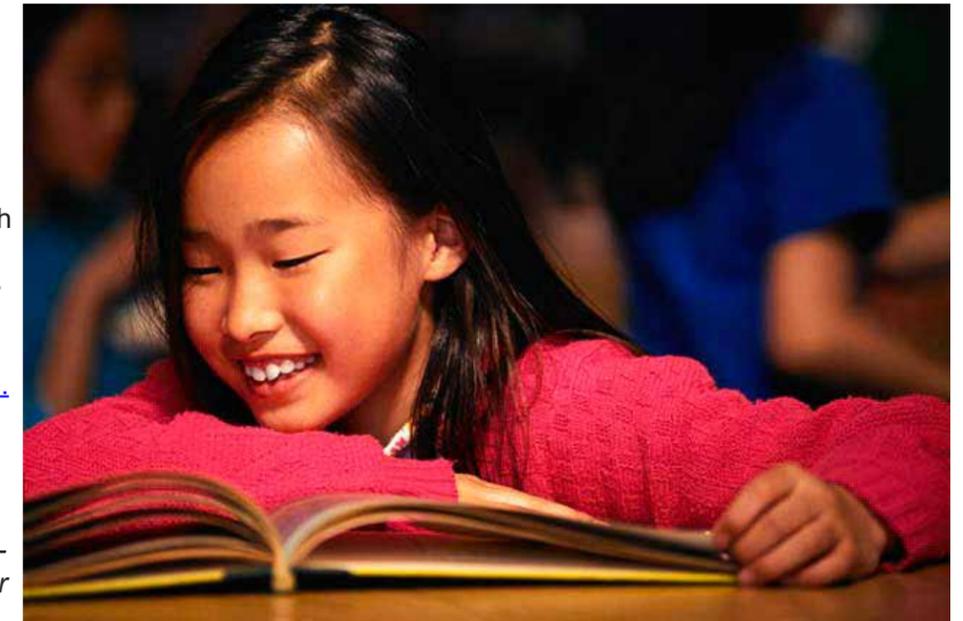
Get support in the classroom when you need it

For Projects Abroad, giving volunteer teachers the support they need is a vital part of the program. Each volunteer has access to a database of lesson plans and classroom management techniques and experienced Projects Abroad staff are always on hand to give advice when needed. In addition, the organization holds regular workshops specifically for Teaching Projects where volunteers can ask questions and discuss what they can do to improve themselves as teachers. This is extremely helpful for teachers of all levels and volunteers find it especially useful to talk to each other about their classes and exchange ideas.

Build on the work of other volunteers, lay the foundation for the future

At a Teaching Project, volunteers join throughout the year and commit for however long they can. Even if you are only able to spare a short period of time, you can be confident that you are continuing the work of previous volunteers or laying the foundations for the volunteers that come after you. If you choose to volunteer at a time when the school is on a break, Projects Abroad organizes vacation classes and camps that you can teach.

Projects Abroad offers teaching projects in more than 30 countries across the developing world in Latin America, Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and the South Pacific. Volunteers can choose from various types of programs aside from teaching English, such as teaching French, IT, or Physical Education. For more information on how to get involved with international teaching programs, please visit www.projects-abroad.org/volunteer-projects/teaching.



About Projects Abroad
Projects Abroad was founded in 1992 by Dr. Peter Slowe, a geography professor, as a program for students to travel and work while on break from full-time study. The program had its genesis in post-USSR Romania, where students were given the chance to teach conversational English. After a few years just sending volunteers to Eastern Europe for teaching, the company expanded to sending volunteers of all ages around the world on a wide range of projects.

Projects Abroad is a global leader in short-term international volunteer programs with projects in 30 countries and recruitment offices in the UK, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Holland, Hong Kong, Norway, Poland, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden and the United States.

For details on volunteering abroad, visit Projects Abroad's web site at www.projects-abroad.org.



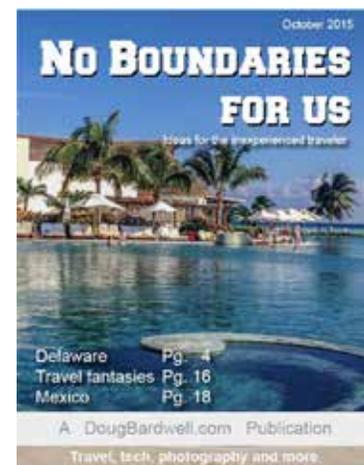
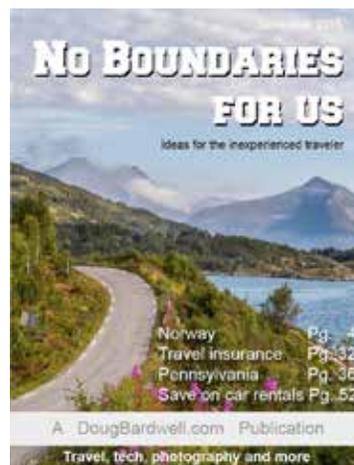
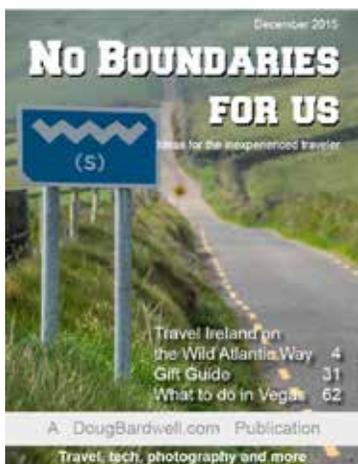
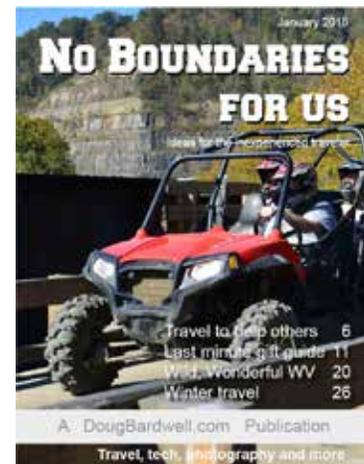
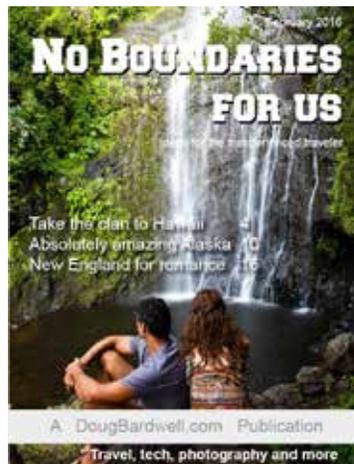
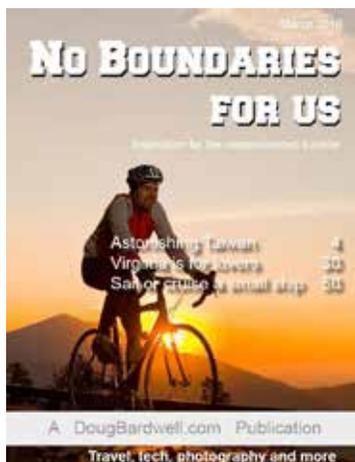
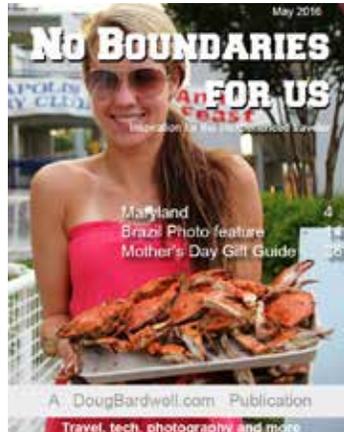
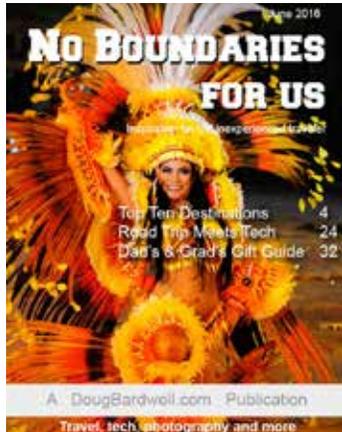
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To edit or not to edit?

I'm often asked about why it takes some time after a photo shoot before I upload photos. This quickly demonstrates the difference between an iPhone 6 image straight out of the camera on the left, and what one minute of tonal adjustment can do in a program like Lightroom. Chances are your fall photos have more color in them than you realize. Want to learn how to get the best out of your photos? Drop us a note.

PAST ISSUES



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