

2001 RV Trip – Across Northern US and back through Canada

Day 1 – Drive to Toledo, Ohio (549 miles; 11 hours)

Drive 10 hours to Toledo, Ohio
Stay at Flying J

Day 2 – Lake Minawa, Iowa (696 miles; 13 hours)

Drive another 13 hours to western Iowa
Stay at Lake Minawa State Park
Evening swim in lake

Day 3 – Cabela's / Lake McConaughy (355 miles; 6.5 hours)

Drive 3.5 hours to Cabela's in Kearney, Nebraska
Stop for a break and shop
Drive remaining 3 hours to Lake McConaughy State Rec Area in Nebraska
Swim and play around on beach
Camp right on beach

Day 4 – Lake McConaughy / Rocky Mountain National Park (249 miles; 5 hours)

Spend morning at Lake McConaughy swimming
Drive 5 hours to Rocky Mountain National Park
Stay in Spruce Lake RV Park Campground outside park

Day 5 – Rocky Mountain National Park (10 miles; .25 hours)

Drive into the National Park
Hike from Glacier Gorge Jct.
Alberta Falls Hike (1.2 miles)
Emerald Lake Trail (3.6 miles) – passes 3 lakes and spectacular scenery
Stay at Glacier Basin National Park Campground
Fish in stream at campground, play in meadow, etc.

Day 6 – Rocky Mountain National Park / Steamboat Springs (142 miles; 3.25 hours)

Drive 50-mile Trail Ridge Road through Rocky Mountain National Park
Loof for bighorn sheep near Sheeps Lake
Hike short Alpine Ridge Trail from Alpine Visitor Center
Drive to Steamboat Springs
Stay at Steamboat Springs KOA
Pool, mini golf, rent go-carts
Tube along Yampa River through the campground

Day 7 – Dinosaur National Monument / Flaming Gorge NRA / Antelope Island State Park (in the Great Salt Lake) (412 miles; 8.75 hours)

Drive 3 hours and stop at Dinosaur National Monument
Tour the Dinosaur Quarry
Drive another 1.25 hours and stop at Flaming Gorge
Take self-guided tour of dam

Stop at Red Canyon Overlook scenic viewpoint
Drive remaining 4.5 hours to Antelope Island in the Great Salt Lake
Stay at Bridger Bay Campground in Antelope Island State Park
Bike ride to Buffalo Corral see buffaloes (4 miles roundtrip – very hilly)

Day 8 – Antelope Island State Park / Bruneau Dunes, Idaho (270 miles; 5.5 hours)

Spend time in morning at Antelope State Park
Bike ride 6-mile Lakeside Trail
Bike to Visitor Center (6 miles round trip)
Drive to one of the public beaches and swim/float in the Great Salt Lake
Drive 5.5 hours to Bruneau Dunes State Park in Idaho
Stay at Bruneau Dunes State Park Campground

Day 9 – Bruneau Dunes, Idaho / Washington State (333 miles; 6.5 hours)

Hike to the top of Bruneau Dune
Drive towards Mt. Rainier
Drive 4 hours and stop at Oregon Trail Interpretive Center
Tour Museum
Attend a living history presentation in the museum theater
Drive another 2.5 hours into Washington State
Stay at Plymouth Park Campground on the Columbia River
Fish the river

Day 10 – Mt. Rainier (211 miles; 4.5 hours)

Drive remaining 4.5 hours to Mt. Rainier
Enter the park from the southeast through the Stevens Canyon Entrance
Hike the 1.5 mile Grove of Patriarchs Nature Trail
Drive to Paradise in center of park
Hike 1.2-mile Nisqually Glacier Vista Trail
Have lunch at Paradise Inn
Drive to Longmire (western part of park)
Stay at Cougar Rock National Park Campground
Attend Ranger program in the campground amphitheater

Day 11 – Olympic National Park (202 miles; 4.5 hours)

Drive 4.5 Hours to Olympic National Park
Visit the Hoh Rain Forest
Hike the .75-mile Hall of Mosses Trail
Hike the 1.25 mile Spruce Nature Trail
Drive back to Kalaloch
Stay at Kalaloch National Park Campground near the beach
Walk along beach at night

Day 12 – Olympic National Park / Port Angeles (92 miles; 2 hours)

Go on 7 a.m. Tidal Pool Ranger talk
Go for run on beach – around tidal pools and sea stacks

Drove to Port Angeles
Stay at Port Angeles KOA

Day 13 – Port Townsend / Deception Pass State Park (75 miles; 1.5 hours)

Explore Port Townsend
Take ferry from Port Townsend to Whidby Island
Drive to Deception Pass State Park
Hike out to center of Deception Pass Bridge and look down
Stay at Deception Pass State Park
Bike from campground to West Beach
Hike the Rosario Head Vista Point Trail along the strait
Stop and photograph Maiden of Deception Pass totem pole

Day 14 – Sea to Sky Highway / Whistler (170 miles; 3.5 hours)

Enter Canada near Vancouver
Drive scenic Sea to Sky Highway to Whistler
Stay at Riverside RV Resort in Whistler
Bike on Whistler Valley Trail from campground along Fitzsimmons Creek to Whistler Village
Go to Action Zone – climbing wall, trampoline, etc.

Day 15 – Whistler / Kamloops (187 miles; 4 hours)

Mountain bike in Whistler Mountain Bike Park in morning
(gondola takes bikes up and you ride them down ski trails)
Drive 4 hours
Stay at Kamloops RV Park along Route 1

Day 16 – Mt. Revelstoke / Glacier / Golden (240 miles; 5 hours)

Drive 3 hours to Mt. Revelstoke National Park
Hike ¾-mile Skunk Cabbage Trail
Drive remaining 1 hour to Glacier National Park
Stop at Rogers Pass Visitor Center
Drive 1 hour to Golden
Meet Hans and Michelle
Stay at Whispering Spruce Campground and RV Park

Day 17 – Johnston Canyon, Banff (70 miles; 1.5 hours)

Drive 1.5 hours to Johnston Canyon
See Yoho along the way - Stop at Visitor Center in Field
Stay at Johnston Canyon National Park Campground
Hike Johnston Canyon Trail (listed as one of the best hikes in Canada)
0.8 miles to Lower Falls
1.8 miles to Upper Falls (1 ½ hours)
4.8 miles to Inkpots (about 4 hours)

Day 18 – Banff (30 miles; 1 hour)

Drive ½ hour to Banff Town Site
Hike Fenland Trail to Vermillion Lakes to see elk
Take Sulphur Mountain Gondola Lift to top of Sulphur Mountain
one of the most scenic viewpoints in Canada
Hike ridge top trails
Have lunch in Panorama Restaurant
Swim in Banff Upper Hot Springs Pool
Stay at Johnston Canyon National Park Campground again

Day 19 – Lake Louise (40 miles; 1 hour)

Drive ½ hour to Lake Louise
Lunch at Pub in Chateau Lake Louise
Hike Lakeshore Trail and Plain of Six Glaciers Trail to the tea house
Listed as one of the best hikes in Canada (4 hours round trip)
Have tea and crumpets at tea house

Day 20 – Icefields Parkway / Columbia Icefields / Jasper (200 miles; 5 hours)

Drive 178-mile Icefields Parkway (Highway 93) from Lake Louise to Jasper
One of the most dramatic drives in Canada
Stop at Columbia Icefields Visitor's Center
Take 90-minute Brewster Snocoach out onto the glacier
Stop at Athabasca Falls – take short hike to bridge for a great view
Drive to Jasper
Stay at Whistlers Campground in Jasper National Park

Day 21 – Jasper (45 miles; 1 hour)

Hike along the Maligne Canyon (listed as one of the best hikes in Canada)
Drive 45 minutes to Maligne Lake (largest glacier fed lake in Rockies)
Picnic and fish
Explore Jasper Townsite
Dine at Jasper Pizza Place

Day 22 – Saskatchewan (561 miles; 11 hours)

Drive 11 hours east towards home
Stay at campground in Saskatoon along Highway 16

Day 23 – Manitoba (431 miles; 8.5 hours)

Drive 8.5 hours to Lake Manitoba
Stay at a campground on the southern shore of Lake Manitoba

Day 24 – Minnesota (605 miles; 11 hours)

Drive 11 hours into Minnesota
Stay at St. Paul East KOA

Day 25 – Devil's Lake, Wisconsin (144 miles; 2.5 hours)

Drive 2 ½ hours to Devil's Lake State Park

Beach and swim at North Shore Beach
Hike the 3.5-mile West Bluff/East Bluff Trail around the lake
Stop at Balanced Rock
Stay in Wisconsin Dells at Baraboo Hills Campground
Swim in pool

Day 26 – Ohio (565 miles; 11 hours)

Drive 11 hours towards home
Stay at Mar-Lynn Campground in eastern Ohio
Swim in lake

Day 27 – Home (435 miles; 8 hours)

Drive remaining 8 hours home

Total Trip Mileage: 7319 miles
Average Miles per Day: 271 miles per day