



# BoonDocking Basics

**How to enjoy BoonDocking in your  
Airstream the way it comes from the  
factory**



**Airstreams at the Balloon Fiesta**



**Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta**

# BoonDocking

- BoonDocking does not mean doing without, it means adjusting the way we do things to extend our stay while enjoying the stay





**Wild Stallions at Theodore Roosevelt National Park, near  
Medora, North Dakota**

# Items to Discuss

- Etiquette

- Safety

- Power

- Fresh Water

- Black Water

- Wash Water

- Stay warm and/or cool

- Food and cleanup

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Bighorn National Forest near Sheridan, Wyoming

# Etiquette

- BoonDocking in the “boonies”
  - Park in previously used areas
  - Park away from others, give them space
  - Respect quiet hours
  - Leave area cleaner than when you arrive





**Wal-Mart in Ft Worth, Texas near our daughter's home**

# Etiquette

- Blacktop BoonDocking
  - Ask permission
  - Purchase fuel, groceries or other items
  - Do not put out awning
  - Stay only one night
  - Leave area cleaner than when you arrived



**City Parking lot in Lunenburg, N.S. on Nor' by Nor' East Caravan**

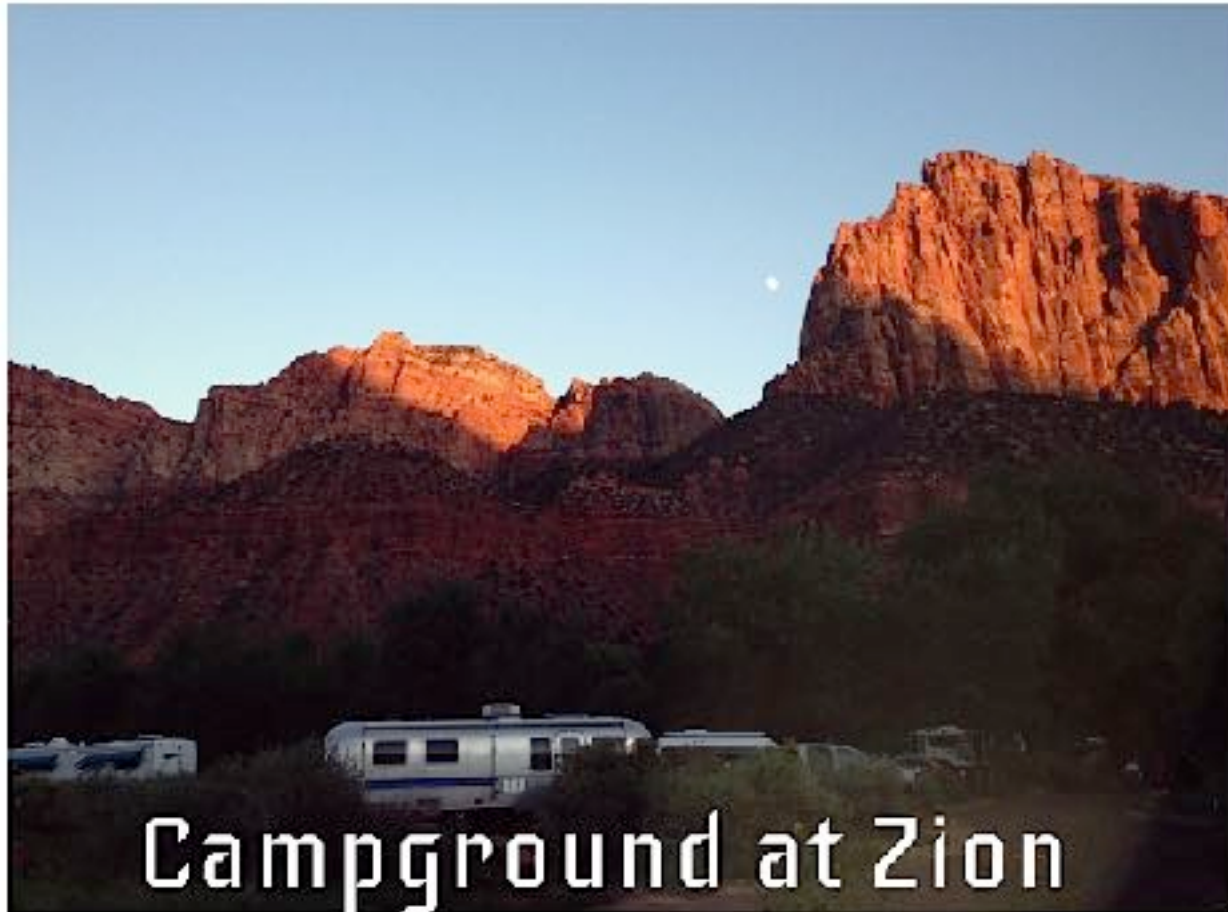
# Security

- Blacktop BoonDocking
  - Park under lights, doors facing the light
  - Park in middle of lot, not on edges
  - Talk to security personnel so they know you
  - Be ready to move forward if needed, no stabilizers down
  - Cell phone charged and ready
  - We have camped many times at Wal-marts, Cracker Barrels, Bass Pro Shops, and Cabela's with no problems
  - Have never camped at rest stops



# Security

- Don't have your name and address outside rig
- Don't advertise that you are a full-timer
- Normally, the further you are from civilization, the safer you are



Campground at Zion

# Power

- Good batteries, change 3 years or less
- Install LED lamps
- Minimum number lights on at once
- Read during daylight, campfire at night
- Catalytic heater vs. furnace
- Mattress heating pad & down comforter
- Water pump switch on when using water



**Campground at Mesa Verde National park**





**Cliff Palace, Mesa Verde National Park**

# Fresh Water

- Fresh Water tank normally will last 5-6 days
- Take “Navy or G.I.” showers, use wipes for basics
- Install “shut-off” valve on shower head and an Oxygenics shower head
- 2-1/2 gallon folding containers for water w/o pump
- One-pot meals or Dutch oven
- Disposable plates
- Catch cold water while waiting for hot water
- Run water only when needed i.e. brushing teeth
- Use “renewable” ice cubes



# Black Water

- Black water tank will last 5-7 days
- Use public facilities
- Use dishwater to flush



**Darth Vader landed in my backyard**



# Wash Water

- Wash Water Tank will last 4-5 days
- Use dishpan and throw dishwater on ground
- Dump on ground where permitted, every day to reduce odor
- Same items that conserve water, reduce amount of wash water



**North Rim of the Grand Canyon National Park**

# Stay Warm

- Cool weather-park in sun or go South
- Mattress pad and down comforter
- Wear socks and cap to bed
- Flannel or jersey sheets
- Stay close to your partner
- Catalytic heater
- Water heater foil insulation on windows
- Styrofoam blocks in skylights

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# Stay Cool

- Hot weather-park in shade or go North
- Fantastic fans to vent, close front windows and leave bedroom windows open
- Fan in bedroom blowing on or around you



# Food and Cooking

- Dutch oven cooking is great
  - Doesn't require propane
  - Doesn't require water to wash Dutch oven
  - One pot meals possible



# Practice Boondocking

- Set up in your driveway or a campground and practice boondocking
- Disconnect from electric, water, and sewer
- Get a feel as to how long your batteries last
- How long water lasts

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# References

- [wbccicaravan.wbcci.net](http://wbccicaravan.wbcci.net) – BoonDocking with your Airstream
- Airforums has a section on BoonDocking
- Google “BoonDocking” and several sites and blogs appear