

# STATESIDE JOTTINGS



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## NON-RV TRAVEL - USA

**A** few years ago I was required to make a family emergency trip. The distance was over 1600 miles one-way. The options for this travel were limited due to time of year, weather and distance. Air travel was an option however immediate travel was very expensive. Airlines tend to sell cheaper fares for future travel. Immediate travel is at the highest amount. Family emergency travel is not an option with cheaper fares. Motor coach use was a dangerous method due to the winter time weather and road conditions. An RV unit is not safe with these factors so that basically left four wheel travel by car. My wife and I loaded the car with consideration of weather and required items for everyday use. It had been a long time since we traveled very far with only a car.

We finally headed out with a small car full of almost anything a person



Snow in Spokane

might need on this trip. The travel was much faster with an individual car and the expense on the road was much better in regard to fuel

purchases. After the first day we began looking for motels for the night. We had managed to use restaurants so far without concern.



# Snow in Utah



This probably was from the old days when we drove the long highways in a big truck. The first motel night was not so bad and I managed to find programs on the television set I liked. I did miss the channel guide as our satellite service gave us constant programming guides. We now missed our on-board snacks that we carried in the coach. This would be a requirement for the coming day.

Morning came and the normal rush with sink use and getting ready to leave began. With a coach, we carried everything with us and we actually lived in the coach full time. This was an immediate notice with the morning rush to ready ourselves for the road again. A person forgets minor things when packing for a regular trip without the RV. You probably will have to purchase many small things on your trip but hopefully you will have the basic needed items. Most of the better motels now offer a free continental breakfast in the morning but this differs greatly from motel to motel. Some have small fares like coffee, pastries and fruit. A few places offer a hot breakfast and this can involve almost anything. It does help to get back on the road without a delay at a restaurant.

Overall we found that the price of travel with a car is not much better than an RV if you consider your RV fuel involved. The daily cost is about the same but the distance traveled is much further in an auto versus the

RV. A person needs to weigh the luxuries of the RV with a regular vehicle. As fuel climbs further in cost I will guess that less use of RV's will follow. We have been lucky in the States with our fuel prices but already we see less RV units moving on the roads. One fill up on the road with an RV will cost in the neighborhood of a motel for the night. The savings will come from restaurant savings and the fare is generally what you like in an

RV. Our RV is getting old now and we can see that either it is time to replace it or move to full time travel with the car.

Time will tell what we will do in the future. I have the feeling that a replacement will be our answer. It is always nice to be home every day. You can stay in a not so nice area and when you close the curtains you are home.

GLaVC

