

3 day / 2 night mini road trip florida van life co. edition

no route / no reservation / no agenda



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forget the destination

you are not trying to get somewhere.

you are practicing what it feels like to move through the world without needing to control every hour.

the only plan:

fill the tank. charge your phone. bring water, snacks and whatever you need to feel comfortable. then

choose a direction - north, south, east or west - and start driving.

do not search for the perfect stop. give the road a chance to surprise you.

your first challenge:

drive until something makes you say, 'wait... what is that?' then pull over somewhere safe and go look.

the wrong turn might be the whole point.



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follow curiosity, not a checklist

turn toward the hand-painted sign. stop at the tiny roadside fruit stand. wander through the town you have never heard of. take the scenic road because it looks prettier.

good reasons to stop:

a weird thrift store / a swimming hole / live music / a farmers market / an old diner / a trailhead / a beach
access / something wonderfully florida.

the rule of three:

notice three things you would normally drive past. stop for at least one of them.

polaroid idea:

take a picture of the first place that was never part of the plan.

be spontaneous. still use turn signals.



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let the locals become the map

talk to the barista, bartender, park ranger, shop owner, fisherman, musician or person walking their dog.

people are often the best guidebook.

ask one of these:

'if you had one free afternoon here, where would you go?'

'where do locals watch the sunset?'

'what is worth the detour?'

'where would you take a friend visiting for the first time?'

expert mode challenge:

take one suggestion from a local and actually follow it. then ask the next person somewhere else.

let the

route build itself one conversation at a time.

meet people in public places, trust your instincts, and never feel rude for leaving a situation that feels off.



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sunset approaching

extreme mode is flexible, not reckless. the real expert move is knowing when to stop, where you are allowed to sleep and when your body needs rest.

before you settle in:

look for a campground, a designated overnight area, a legal rest stop, or a business that has personally given you permission. cracker barrel and other businesses may allow overnight parking at some locations, but never assume

- ask the manager and follow posted signs.

an empty lot, beach, neighborhood street or back road is not automatically legal or safe. check local rules, stay aware of weather, keep the driver's seat clear and choose a place you can leave easily.

most important:

if you are tired, stop. do not drive through the night to prove you can. a hammock nap is only a good idea where it is permitted, the area is open, the weather is safe and you feel secure.

share your location with someone you trust. lock the doors. keep the keys within reach. listen to your gut.



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how to know you did it right

you did. you changed your mind. you stopped somewhere unexpected. you talked to someone new. you laughed at how little went according to plan.

unofficial rules of florida van life co. mode:

follow no path.

leave room for magic.

choose the interesting road.

be kind to strangers.

stay longer when it feels right.

leave when it does not.

protect the van, the land and yourself.

return on time.

there is no destination.

the story is everything that happened along the way.



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stay wild. live free.



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