

Contents

Foreword	vii
Acknowledgments	ix
Introduction	xi
Part 1 The Plan	1
Chapter 1 You Too Can Make This Happen	3
Make it your trip	3
Small trips versus one big trip	4
Be a kid again	4
Chapter 2 Financing Your Dream	6
Where will the money come from?	6
What to do with the house?	7
What about the cars?	12
Handling family responsibilities	13
Keeping your investments on track	14
Other things to consider	15
Building your budget	16
Putting it all together	21
Chapter 3 Deciding to Go	23
Breaking the news	23
Building support	24
What if I'm not retired?	27
What about the pets?	31
Children, grandchildren, and other support systems	32
Missing important events	34
Choosing your traveling home	35

The great 24/7 “getting along” issue	42
Chapter 4 Planning the Route	45
You can’t do it all	45
Picking a theme	46
Don’t over-plan	48
Breadth versus depth	48
Laying it all out	49
Maps, books, and the Internet	51
Friends along the way	53
When to schedule ahead	54
Chapter 5 Getting Ready to Go	56
The lists: nailing down the details	56
Learning to navigate	57
Discounts/clubs/passes	58
Insurance	60
Legal things	63
Banking, bills, money, and mail	64
Traveling with pets	69
Packing the vehicle	69
Luxuries	71
Clothing	71
Personal things	72
Saying good-bye	73
Chapter 6 Staying in Touch	75
Electronic gizmos	75
E-mail and Internet	79
Phone cards	81
Postcards, gifts, and other mail	82
Community service	83

Chapter 7 Making Decisions along the Way	85
Eating and sleeping	85
Visitor centers	89
What to see and do	89
Filling the drive time	91
Necessities on the road	93
Taking care of your vehicle	94
Souvenirs	98
Chapter 8 Handling Emergencies	100
Emergency contact information	100
Medical issues	102
Vehicle breakdowns and accidents	105
Problems at home	106
Safety	107
Chapter 9 Coming Home	109
Don't rush	109
Getting back into the swing of things	110
Taking time to reflect	112
To keep or not to keep the rig?	113
What next?	114
Part 2 The Trip	115
Chapter 10 Our Trip Should Not Be Your Trip	117
Chapter 11 The Trial Run	118
Testing your plan	118
Revise as you go	119
The great Pacific Northwest	120

Chapter 12	The Sweet Smell of Summer	123
	Familiar territory and then the northern central states	
Chapter 13	There's Nothing Like the Fall	155
	Making our way through the mid-central states and on into New England	
Chapter 14	Winter Comes to the South	186
	Through the mid-Atlantic states and into the South and Southeast	
Chapter 15	Spring Has Sprung	216
	Driving the Great Plains states, the deserts, and the Rockies toward home	
	Epilogue	243
	About the Authors	245
	Traveler's Resource List	247
	Appendix	249
	Master Budget Worksheet	249
	Sample Itinerary	253
	Sample Motorhome Checklist	259
	A Primer to RV Systems	261
	Supplies for a One-Year Trip	263
	Ideas for a Flyer to Lease Your Home	268
	Index	269