

# Contents

Acknowledgments	ix
Introduction	xi
<b>Part 1   The Plan</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Chapter 1 You Too Can Make This Happen</b>	<b>3</b>
Make it your trip	3
Small trips versus one big trip	4
Be a kid again	4
<b>Chapter 2 Financing Your Dream</b>	<b>6</b>
Where will the money come from?	6
What to do with the house?	7
What about the cars?	12
Handling family responsibilities	12
Keeping your investments on track	14
Other things to consider	15
Building your budget	16
Putting it all together	20
<b>Chapter 3 Deciding to Go</b>	<b>22</b>
Breaking the news	22
Building support	23
What about the pets?	26
Children, grandchildren, and other support systems	27
Missing important events	29
Choosing your traveling home	30
The great 24/7 “getting along” issue	38

<b>Chapter 4 Planning the Route</b>	41
You can't do it all	41
Picking a theme	42
Don't over-plan	44
Breadth versus depth	44
Laying it all out	45
Maps, books, and the Internet	47
Friends along the way	49
When to schedule ahead	50
<b>Chapter 5 Getting Ready to Go</b>	52
The lists: nailing down the details	52
Learning to navigate	53
Discounts/clubs/passes	54
Insurance	56
Legal things	58
Banking, bills, money, and mail	60
Traveling with pets	64
Packing the vehicle	65
Luxuries	66
Clothing	66
Personal things	68
Saying good-bye	69
<b>Chapter 6 Staying in Touch</b>	71
Electronic gizmos	71
E-mail and Internet	74
Phone cards and phone credit cards	77
Postcards, gifts, and other mail	77
Community service	78

<b>Chapter 7 Making Decisions along the Way</b>	80
Eating and sleeping	80
Visitor centers	84
What to see and do	84
Filling the drive time	86
Necessities on the road	88
Taking care of your vehicle	89
Souvenirs	93
<b>Chapter 8 Handling Emergencies</b>	95
Emergency contact information	95
Medical issues	97
Vehicle breakdowns and accidents	100
Problems at home	101
Safety	102
<b>Chapter 9 Coming Home</b>	104
Don't rush	104
Getting back into the swing of things	105
Taking time to reflect	107
To keep or not to keep the rig?	108
What next?	109
<b>Part 2   The Trip</b>	111
<b>Chapter 10 Our Trip Should Not Be Your Trip</b>	113
<b>Chapter 11 The Trial Run</b>	114
Testing your plan	114
Revise as you go	115
The great Pacific Northwest	116

Chapter 12	The Sweet Smell of Summer	119
	Familiar territory and then the northern central states	
Chapter 13	There's Nothing Like the Fall	151
	Making our way through the mid-central states and on into New England	
Chapter 14	Winter Comes to the South	182
	Through the mid-Atlantic states and into the South and Southeast	
Chapter 15	Spring Has Sprung	212
	Driving the Great Plains states, the deserts, and the Rockies toward home	
	Epilogue	239
	About the Authors	241
	Appendix	243
	Master Budget Worksheet	243
	Sample "To Do" List for Trip	247
	Sample Itinerary	249
	Sample Motorhome Checklist	255
	A Primer to RV Systems	257
	Supplies for a One-Year Trip	259
	Ideas for a Flyer to Lease Your Home	264
	Follow-up Letter to Leasing Agent	265
	Renter's Move-out Reminder List	266
	Index	269