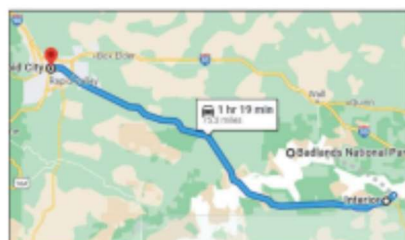




From electric motorbikes and scooters to trikes, sidecars, and motorcycles, whatever large toys you bring along with your RV help to expand your travel options and enhance your experience. My husband rides a Harley Heritage and I ride my Sportster with a sidecar attached. We travel, work, and play full time in a 44-foot fifth wheel toy hauler. We classify most roads we encounter as great for either a slow, comfortable straight-away RV drive or a nice, curvy, hilly motorcycle trip, but on a few rare occasions, we've encountered wonderful roads that are great for both the RV and our motorcycles. Here are our top three.

Badlands National Park, South Dakota

Badlands National Park is a stark difference to all the other rides and drives we have done, and the park's colors create a unique picture. The land is layered in reds, browns, tans, oranges, and pinks. As you travel through the badlands, expect to see bison, bighorn sheep, prairie dogs, antelope, elk, and more. On your way out of the park, you can even visit a ghost town in Scenic.



Don't make the same mistake we made, though! We went on the hottest day of August, so it was more than 100 degrees outside, and in the Badlands,

100 degrees feels way hotter than 100 degrees. Whether you are on motorcycles or in your RV, we recommend going on a cooler day so you, your bikes, and your rig don't overheat.

Recommended Route This drive is about an hour, but you can expect to stay in the park for two to three hours. If you want to stay outside the area like we did, add about another half hour each way to the driving time. Be sure to gas up and get bottled water, because there are not a lot of stops in between.

Camping Area We stayed outside of the national park because it was cooler, and we also wanted to be central to other activities and rides in the area. The campground we stayed at, called Rush No More, caters to RVers and motorcyclists. They have a bike wash and ramp area, and there is also an onsite bar with a tiny fast food menu. It gets crowded during bike rallies, but we stayed there before a rally and had plenty of space and great service.





Fort Davis, Texas

Fort Davis, Texas, is a cute little town that will take you back in time. Stop by the Fort Davis Drug Store or the Davis Mountain Nut Company for local flavors. For a good ride, travel on through Fort Davis to Alpine, where you can visit the Old Gringo, a motorcycle hotel and restaurant that even offers some indoor parking for bikes! The town of Alpine is also dotted with murals that tell the history of the area. You can get a walking map of the murals, but of course, we think

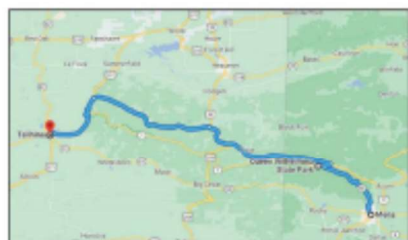
driving or riding is more fun.

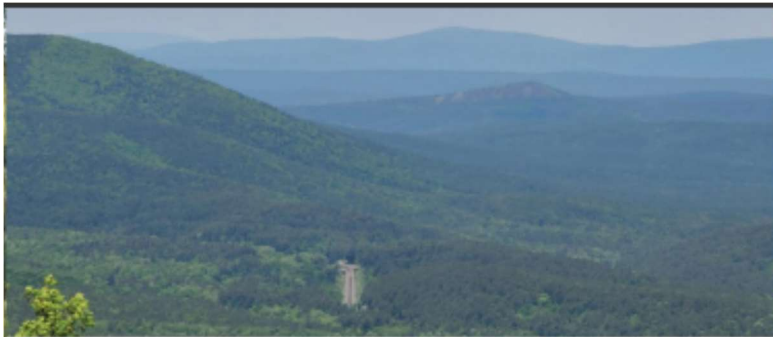
Make your way around to Marfa, where you can pull your rig over and watch for the Marfa lights. There

is also the Scenic Loop in Fort Davis, which goes around to the McDonald Observatory. The scenic loop is something to check out on your motorcycles, but be sure to watch for large bucks and wild boar. If you have time to spare, Fort Davis is only about two hours from Big Bend National Park, which is great for a day trip.

Recommended Route Head out of Fort Davis on Hwy 118 South and enjoy sweeping views of the Chihuahuan Desert. Stop at roadside picnic areas for a break, or you can stop mid-trip in Alpine. The whole trip is about one hour, but will take longer with stops.

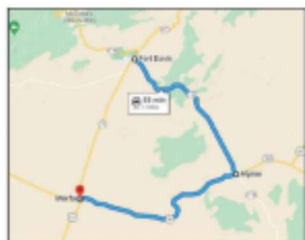
Camping Area We stayed at the Davis Mountain RV Park in Fort Davis, Texas. At the time, they did not have any amenities, like restrooms, showers, or laundry, but they were building, so be sure to check before you stay. We liked that the campground was central to Alpine and Marfa, other places we wanted to explore.





Mena, Arkansas

Arkansas is one of the prettiest states for both RVing and motorcycling. The entire state is beautiful, but the Talimena Drive, starting in Mena, Arkansas, is a postcard waiting to happen. The drive has very large pull-off spots, making it convenient to capture great photos, even in a large RV like ours. And there are several vistas with large pull-off spaces to choose from. All the stops are excellent, but you can select the ones you feel fit your RV the best. The vistas are: Blue Haze, Grand View, Pine Mountain, Sunset Point, and Deadman. There are some hills, but you can take them slowly in an RV with no problem.



There are also some potholes here and there, so watch out for those on your motorcycle. Everyone we encountered in this area was very courteous and seemed to be watching for big rigs and motorcycles.

Recommended Route This route normally only takes around an hour in a regular vehicle, but with RVs or motorcycles you will be stopping for a lot of photos and driving more slowly. It will depend on how often you stop, but you can plan on this trip taking you at least two to three hours.

Camping Area We stayed at the Iron Mountain Camp and Cabins at 3994 US-71 in Mena, Arkansas. This campground is owned by a motorcycle association, so they understand motorcycles as part of the RV camping experience. Their spots have plenty of room for your RV, bikes, and tow vehicles. The campground is also in the perfect location, because it's only 10 minutes from the start of the Talimena Drive, and you will want to do the drive more than once!

Don't hesitate to bring along your large toys and motorcycles when you're RVing! The enjoyment and experiences you will get out of having both hobbies is worth the effort. You'll also meet so many people who share your enthusiasm. I hope you enjoy checking out some of these areas with your rig and toys! ■

Helping RVers find the best sites



SUBSCRIBE NOW at RVTODAY.com