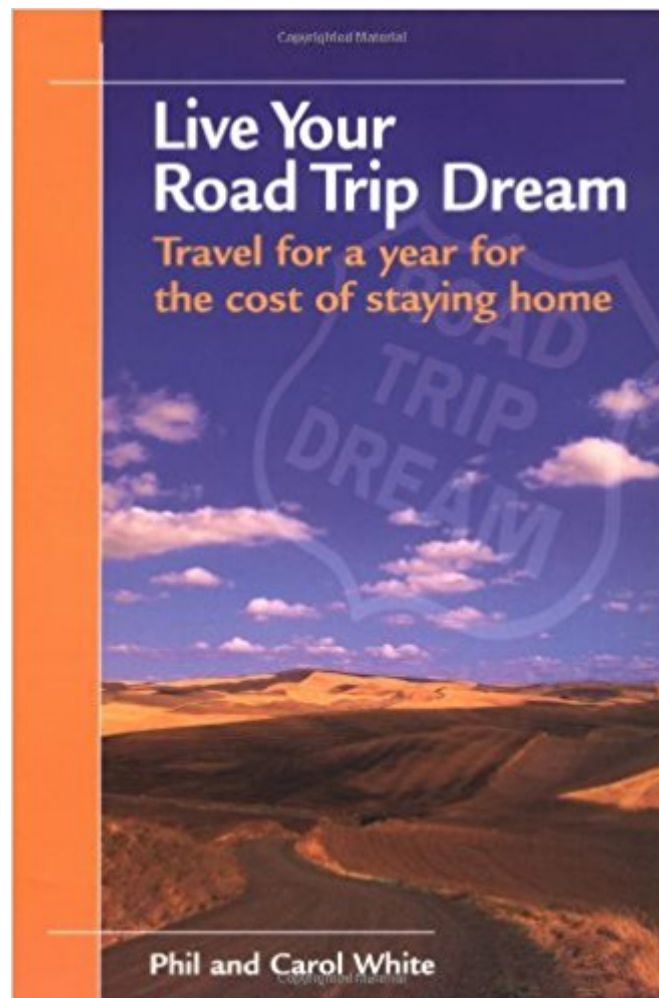




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Live Your Road Trip Dream: Travel For A Year For The Cost Of Staying Home



Synopsis

Dreaming of that long trip of a lifetime? Turn your travel dream into reality - this well thought out, how-to guide will inspire action. Included is step-by-step, real-life information on planning the trip you've always wanted to take -- along with generous doses of humor and advice on topics such as: Determining your budget and where the money will come from How to garner the support of your friends and family What to do with your house, cars and other lifestyle entrapments How to pay your bills and keep track of your investments What electronics you should consider taking How to unravel all your current commitments so you can go Planning your route and deciding what to see along the way How to handle emergencies that crop up along the way Once you've decided to "leave it all behind", Live Your Road Trip Dream takes you along on an action-packed, whirlwind tour of the authors' trip - just to help you visualize what months on the road might really be like, and to offer a glimpse into how decisions and discoveries are handled.

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Customer Reviews

"...offers ... advice and instructions on how anyone with the free time can put things on hold ... and go traveling." -- Wilsonville Spokesman, July 28, 2004 "The book that launched a thousand road trips ...see what (they) learned on the road trip of a lifetime." -- The Villager, June, 2004 (This book) is very well planned and well laid out. It is a wonderful presentation... a fun book to read. -- Jana Oliver, Host DIY Author Show, Leisure Talk Radio, October, 2004...a practical and inspirational gift for RV owners, new retirees, or anyone who's ever dreamed of a cross-country expedition. -- Beth Harpaz, Travel Editor, Associated Press, November, 2004...fascinating - I've never come

across a book that approaches traveling with such a carefree adventure-type attitude. -- Mike Miller, guest co-host, The Travel Hub, October, 2004 Not just a dippy "how we spent our vacation" tome, but a solid, how-to volume -- Judi Janofsky, Rich Steck, Where to Go Next.com, January 18, 2005 Plan, pack light, and expect the unexpected along the way. -- Maya Blackmun, The Oregonian, April 7, 2005 The book accomplishes its goal of stirring one's imagination about embarking on a modern American odyssey... -- Dennis Gaub, for KOA Kompass, March, 2005 This is really an incredibly neat book ... nothing is going to surpass the resources you find in this book. -- Jeff Gerstl, host The Travel Hub, October, 2004; the authors pack their book with advice on making your dream happen. -- Christine Delsol, San Francisco Chronicle, December, 2004

Exploring America's Favorite Dream: The Road Trip Where would your journey take you if you had a whole year just to travel? How often have you thought, "it's a great idea, if only I knew how to start planning such an adventure." What if someone helped guide you through the whole process and got you moving from the dreaming to the doing? Many people dream of taking that long trip of a lifetime, but few actually make it happen. With humor, advice and loads of practical tips, Phil and Carol White provide a "road-map" for planning your own trip in their new information-packed book, *Live Your Road Trip Dream: Travel for a year for the cost of staying home* (ISBN 0975292803). With 10,000 baby boomers turning fifty each day, and many gen-Xers heading out on mid-life sabbaticals, *Live Your Road Trip Dream* captures the spirit of our times. The Whites finally decided that the time had come for them to live their road trip dream. Once they were on their adventure, people peppered them with questions, not so much about what they were doing; everyone has their own dream! but about how they actually made it happen. Phil says, "It was with the encouragement of these want-to-be travelers everywhere that we decided to share what we had learned." Included is step-by-step real-life information on planning the trip you've always wanted to take. Your vision may not be a road trip, but perhaps a sailboat trip around the world, a trek through Asia or a bike trip through Europe. Whatever your dream is, the planning process is the same; only the details will vary. Whatever your dream, be sure to take the Whites' guide along as you plan your adventure.

While reading "Travels with Charley" by John Steinbeck and "Blue Highways" by William Least Heat Moon, I got bitten by the Great American Road Trip bug. This book looked like a "must read." I'd now classify it as a "helpful read." Section 1 contains useful suggestions that get the reader thinking about how to finance the trip, what to do with your home while you are gone, etc. I found this section

very informative. Although I'd covered much of this territory when planning a summer spent on the Appalachian Trail 20 years ago, there were helpful ideas I hadn't seen. The Whites do a good job of helping people think through what they want their trip to be like, and what challenges they will encounter. I would recommend this section for any reader who is about to undertake a trip unlike anything they've ever done, especially if traveling with a partner. Section 2, the travelogue, was of little interest to me, because the Whites' trip was very different from the one that my husband and I dream about. Their dream was to see 43 national parks in a year. I felt that they traveled so fast that they only had time to get superficial impressions of each of the places they visited. We plan to visit fewer places, stay longer, and get to know each place a little better. The Whites' budget was about double what ours will be. They freely admit that they didn't use the inexpensive and remote US Forest Service campgrounds because they just aren't into dirt. We've enjoyed such campgrounds and plan to use them extensively. I'm sure I can find information about them on my own, but I'd hoped to find a little of that information here. Ditto for low-priced lodgings. Though the Whites mention using inexpensive mom-and-pop motels, most of the lodgings they name are upscale spots that we have neither the desire nor the cash to visit. Instead, I'm expecting a membership in Hosteling International to pay for itself. The journal entries remind me, at best, of a travel piece written for a regional magazine, with enthusiastic but bland descriptions of tourist attractions. I kept hoping for some insightful discussions of local customs, or the local economic or political situation, or unforgettable characters, or just about anything at all, but I was disappointed--just constant chatter about how awesome it all was. In general, the style reminds me of a series of Facebook posts strung together. If someone had disabled the exclamation point on their computer, this part of the book would have seemed less tedious. The appendix, with its checklists, is helpful, but we plan to pack much lighter. I think I understand why they didn't camp very much in their nice Class B van. After packing it with more clothes than my husband and I own, and almost as much cookware as we have in our kitchen, there was probably no room to sleep. I appreciate the Whites' generosity in sharing their planning skills, and their trip, with the public. They've helped my husband and me define our dream. As we tow our ultralight camping trailer to a secluded site by a lake, where we will pump our drinking water and pee in a vault toilet, we will owe them as much as we do Least Heat Moon, who, on a laid-off college professor's budget, valiantly tolerated being awakened by local cops while attempting to boondock. Like Steinbeck, they help keep the dream alive.

My husband and I have been on the road for almost a year, and we owe much of this successful year to Phil and Carol's book. I bought the book because I wanted to figure out how we could take

some time off without going broke, and Road Trip Dream succeeded in helping us do just that. We aren't even close to retirement, and this book really helped us to see that a trip like this was possible at our age. With the release of its second edition, the Whites' book is as vital as ever when it comes to considering every critical aspect of how to plan, execute and live your own road trip dream. Don't even think of embarking on a journey without reading and following the advice laid out by these two seasoned road trippers.

Great Budgeting Information Based on our own spending habits over the last year, I can vouch for the fact that the book's budgeting methodology is on the money. Their budget's "memory joggers" will help you look at every aspect of road trip living that you'll spend money on, from postage to Internet access. They also spotlight important things to consider, like realizing that you need to plan for fluctuating costs in different regions around the country (for example, campground fees in the east are much higher than in the west).

Get Creative, and Get on the Road NOW! For working age people like my husband and I, the Whites have included a section about sabbaticals, working from the road, and even "road schooling" for families. The information, suggestions and ideas provided in this section help get a reader's mind around the fact that you don't have to be retired to take time off to travel. With some creativity and flexibility, they illustrate how even working people and families can hit the road. In this edition of the book they've provided a number of resources and ways to research this further.

Keeping In Contact on the Road Technology changes so much in just a couple of years, and the revised tech section in the book is great. I can appreciate how the Whites do a good job of presenting a general overview of road technologies, without going over the heads of novice users. They did a fabulous job of explaining air cards for internet access, which is what most people end up using on the road. A comprehensive resource section at the end of the book includes lots of great websites to consult.

Hit The Road with the Information You Need By reading and following the White's advice in Live Your Road Trip Dream, we were able to pull off our journey in the kind of organized, budgeted and well-prepared manner that makes us both comfortable. If we had just taken off without doing our research first, this journey might have ended months ago. There are so many things to consider and planning for something like this can seem overwhelming. Don't let it. Buy Road Trip Dream, and you will receive the comfort and encouragement that it takes to believe in yourself, and know that you can get your way to living your own road trip adventure.

Pretty dated information in this book. It doesn't look like the author keeps an updated website either so I would give this one a pass if you are using as a planning guide. There are tons of blogs now on RVing where you can get better and updated information for free.

I knew I wasn't the only one who wanted to hit the road in an RV. The writer of this book did too and she chronicled the trip quite well. This couple hit all the National Parks in their RV and put into perspective what it takes to do this trekking. My only question is why the wife is not listed as the author or co-author as the beginning of the book is written in the first-person of the wife. I have only finished the first part of the book on the intricacies of what to do once you decide you want to engage in this fantasy. She takes you through her thought process on what to do with your car - sell it or store it, Their house is owned so do they sell it, rent it or leave it vacant - if they rent it, do they rent it furnished or unfurnished. It is a complicated process that everyone must parse each question to find if they can complete each task. It is interesting as to how they do it and she cautions everyone that this is their way which may not be your way ... You must solve your own puzzles and this book will be a good companion guide for everyone who reads it.

These folks sound a lot older than in their 50s. If you have grandchildren, this may be the book for you. Didn't do us much good. And who still uses film in their camera?

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