



BOONDOCK ADVENTURES OUT WEST

Camping Apps and Maps Resource Guide

**Our boondocker's handy list of cell apps
and online resources to enrich your
camping experience**

Our lists are in alphabetical order for your convenience.

Where to find camping

Boondockers Welcome:

<http://www.boondockerswelcome.com/referrals/27498/>

A nice resource for finding a welcome spot to camp, in your self-contained camper, on private property hosted by others who like to boondock.

I get a small referral commission at no extra cost to you, for becoming a member or become a host and get half off. This website also has a great camper resource page.

Bureau of Land Management:

<https://www.blm.gov/maps>

Info on dispersed as well as campground camping on BLM land with downloadable PDF maps and web map apps.

Campendium:

<https://www.campendium.com/free-camping>

A free comprehensive search tool organized by state, national parks and national forests. This app is geared for RVs but works great for truck campers as well.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/Campendium> A good intro to using Campendium.

Google Maps:

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.google.android.apps.maps&hl=en_US

Don't forget Google Maps. Use **satellite view** to find forest service roads with turn outs, etc. for potential camping.

Remember this app relies on cell service, so you may want to check out locations before heading to remote areas. Make and plan your own map using <https://www.google.com/maps/about/mymaps/>.

Drop a map "pin" and send to your family and friends so they can keep track of your adventures.



GPS maps:

<https://caltopo.com/> and <https://www.gaiagps.com/>

There are multiple options for GPS, that range from a handheld Garmin “In Reach” satellite unit, to built-ins for your vehicle. We have a portable Garmin GPS for driving, which is really handy when we have no cell reception.

Both of these program links offer 4x4 off-road mapping to create your own maps to download and or print. You can get current weather and fire info too. CalTopo and Gaia have apps for cell phones.

Harvest Hosts:

<http://harvesthosts.refr.cc/makingtraxcamping>

Self-contained RV and truck campers are welcome to camp at vineyards and farms via membership to this online catalog of hosts. Get 15 percent off your membership by using my affiliate link, with my thanks.

Free Campsites:

<https://freecampsites.net/>

The focus here is free camping on public lands for all types of campers. We have used this to find Sno Parks for off season camping.

Park Advisor:

<https://www.parkadvisor.com/>

When you can't get in the back country this is a good reference for finding an RV park or campground.

**Pinterest:**

<https://www.pinterest.com/boondockercamping/>

You wouldn't believe the help you can get with planning your next camping trip on Pinterest! Use their search for finding dispersed camping trips as well as tips and hacks for enjoying the outdoors. Or, check out our own camping pins at: <https://www.pinterest.com/boondockercamping/>

U.S. Forestry:

<https://www.fs.fed.us/ivm/index.html>

A very comprehensive guide offering road cams, weather, downloadable maps, BLM areas, and OHV (Off Highway Vehicle) roads.

Search for the forestry area where you want to camp and get their rules for dispersed camping on forest land with phone numbers for ranger stations to get current visitor info.

U.S. National Forest Campground Guide

<https://www.forestcamping.com/index.htm>

A research project done by the Dows, traveling across the U.S and compiling a directory guide of all the National Forest campgrounds.

Offline maps

Boondocker Camping guide and map reviews:

<https://boondockercamping.com/category/camping-gear/camping-maps-and-guides/>

A “real” map is great when you have no cell reception or internet! Guide books help to discover interesting as well as important info you may otherwise miss from seasoned travelers.

You will find links in our “Guidebooks and maps” section on the Gear page of our Boondocker Camping blog for area specific trips.

State Benchmark Atlas Maps are book style maps with detailed landscape info of each U.S. state.

Garmin Overlander:

<https://amzn.to/3saGKAS>

We invested in a satellite navigation system as cell phone connection is often unreliable. The Overlander offers turn-by-turn directions for on-road navigation and topography maps for off-road guidance covering North and South America. Plan to spend time learning how to use it before going off-grid. An affiliate link is included to further investigate for which we get a small commission, thanks.

Miscellaneous apps to enhance your camping

Cheap gas:

<https://www.gasbuddy.com/App>

A cell phone app to help you find cheap diesel or gas while you’re on the road. This little app has saved us a bundle.

Hiking trails with maps:

<https://www.alltrails.com/>

You can download the maps and take with you on your hike if you get the Pro version at \$30 bucks a year. Users review and post pics of their hikes.

National Weather Service:

<https://www.weather.gov/nwr/>

Storm / flash flood / severe weather warning. Many hand-held radios offer NOAA warnings. Type in your location for weather warnings.

Plant ID:

<https://www.picturethisai.com/>

I really like this easy to use plant encyclopedia to identify wildflowers, trees and bushes while camping out. With your phone camera, simply snap a photo of the plant you want to know about and “Picture This” will provide matches with pertinent info.

Star gazing:

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.t11.skyviewfree&hl=en_US



We love this app for both at home as well as camping under the stars. Identify stars, planets and constellations. Sky View works on both Apple and Android phones.

What's my elevation?:

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.rdh.mulligan.myelevation&hl=en_US

My Elevation is a practical and fun app for knowing your altitude when hiking and camping.

Other good stuff in random order

Find Me Search and Rescue:

<https://findmesar.com/>

Important site to help search and rescue to find you with GPS coordinates for your location to use on your cell phone.

Western States Off-Road Recovery Groups:

<https://boondockercamping.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Western-States-Off-Road-Groups.pdf>

Facebook off-road recovery group list to help when you get stuck in the backcountry where normal towing services are not available. We were helped by the SNORR group to recover our truck camper after a wreck in the Inyo Mountains. Read the story here: <https://boondockercamping.com/real-help-from-off-road-recovery-groups/>

Boondocker Camping:

<https://boondockercamping.com>

Explore our camping tips, adventure stories, gear reviews and trip info on our blog! Look for our subscribe button and get our latest tips in your inbox. Or, follow us on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/BoondockerCamping/> .

California Campfire Permit:

<https://www.readyforwildfire.org/permits/campfire-permit/>

Free online application for permit that is required for most campstove, campfire and camping BBQ grills in California. Watching a short video and taking a quiz is required.

Dispersed camping guidelines:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/fishlake/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5121831>

Dispersed camping is the term used for camping anywhere in the National Forest OUTSIDE of a designated campground.

There are extra responsibilities and skills that are necessary for dispersed camping. It is your responsibility to know the rules before camping in the wilderness. Camping regulations apply to make your experience safe, and to keep the natural resources scenic and unspoiled for other campers.

Sunset magazine:

<https://www.sunset.com/travel/camping/free-camping>

Sunset's listing of 32 best free camp sites organized by state or province.

<https://www.sunset.com/travel/camping/blm-camping>

The Bureau of Land Management's vast holdings offers untold opportunities for wilderness exploration. Here are Sunset's favorites, from deserts to rivers to untamed coastline.

Truck Camper Adventures:

<https://www.truckcamperadventure.com/category/roads-and-destinations/>

Off-road camping trips with truck campers in mind with emphasis in Arizona

Destination 4x4:

<https://www.destination4x4.com/>

Western U.S. off-road trips with interesting sites to visit

List your own finds here:

