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## Campsite types—where to take your RV

OKEMOS, Mich.—Trying to decipher what type of campsite you are looking for depends on what type of camping you are into—rustic, resort or glamping; what your needs are—full hook-up or rustic; and how long you anticipate staying—overnight or longer. Luckily, there are more than 1,000 private campgrounds in Michigan that offer something for every camper. Fees associated with overnight accommodations can vary as much as the facilities themselves, but expect anywhere from free (parking lots of certain retail stores and restaurants) to \$50 or more per night. Reservations aren't always required, but during the busy season are strongly recommended.

**RV Park:** An RV park is a great option for longer or seasonal stays and they often include family activities like swimming, movie nights and additional amenities like laundry areas, bathrooms and showers. Most RV parks have creature comforts that RV owners appreciate—water and electrical hook-ups, recycling bins and waste removal. Along with an area for the RV, many sites offer space for lounging chairs or picnic tables. Many sites have RV size and age restrictions, so be sure to visit the park's website for details.

**RV Resort:** Two differences between an RV Park and an RV Resort are the luxurious amenities provided and the clientele. Typically, an RV Resort caters to the more established RV owners, usually traveling without children and expecting more perks. Often, RV owners have the option of purchasing their RV lot and can customize with outdoor kitchens, pavers and privacy landscaping. Some also have regulations on what size RV is allowed. Resorts almost always have a lodge or clubhouse and an active social scene.

**RV Campground:** RV campgrounds are a bit more eclectic ... some are more pastoral than others—located in serene and secluded spots miles away from the nearest town; while others are very family friendly with campers nestled close to others, dotted with tents and campfires. General stores, laundry facilities and even bathrooms are not always guaranteed, but a stunning vista is often part of the parcel. Size does matter when it comes to site selection, so before making a reservation, make sure your RV can fit and the campground has the amenities you require.

**National/State Parks:** The National Park System and Michigan state parks are very popular destinations for campers and RVers, often for their extremely stunning views. But often, the best views are accessible only by hiking—not driving and parking. Campsites are often first come, first serve, with some parks accepting reservations days or months in advance. Tight squeezes and backing into assigned camp sites are typical in these park settings. Water is available, but be prepared to carry it to your site.

No matter where you take your camp gear or RV this upcoming camping season, visiting [www.michiganrvandcampgrounds.org](http://www.michiganrvandcampgrounds.org) before you go can help you plan an adventure you won't soon forget.

The Michigan Association of Recreation Vehicles and Campgrounds (MARVAC) is a statewide, nonprofit organization dedicated to encouraging growth in the recreation vehicle and private campground industries while contributing to the quality of Michigan tourism. For more information, visit MARVAC's website, [www.michiganrvandcampgrounds.org](http://www.michiganrvandcampgrounds.org). MARVAC, 2222 Association Drive, Okemos, Mich. 48864-5978; 517.349.8881.