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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024

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and tiny campers
MAGAZINE

5TH ANNUAL GIFT GUIDE

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Letter from the Editor:



AS WE TURN THE CORNER into the season of reflection and thanksgiving, I find myself overwhelmed with gratitude for an experience that was both humbling and transformative. This past year, I had the privilege of taking a four-week sabbatical from my day job - an opportunity few are granted and one I will never take for granted.

During that time, my family and I embarked on a journey that took us to new places, introduced us to unforgettable sights, sounds, smells, and flavors, and, most importantly, allowed us to spend time together. In the stillness of nature and the simplicity of a tiny camper, I discovered not just the world but also myself.

For many of us who are passionate about tiny campers, the allure lies in the freedom they provide: the ability to pull off the beaten path, set up camp under a blanket of stars, and wake up to the sound of birds or crashing waves rather than alarms. But on this trip, I came to understand another layer of that freedom - a freedom from excess.

Living for a month in a small space without the distractions of "things" was a reminder that life doesn't need to be as complicated as we sometimes make it, (although traveling with three small, elderly dogs, was challenging). There were no closets bursting with unworn clothes, no gadgets demanding constant updates, no endless notifications pulling at my attention. Instead, there was room for what truly mattered: mornings with coffee in hand, watching the mist rise over the water; walking on the beach with the full moon lighting the way; reading and enjoying a crafted cocktail around a campfire; and the profound sense of peace that comes from simply *being*.

Life in a tiny camper has a way of stripping away the noise. You start to notice the small, often overlooked details: the smell of pine needles after the rain, the way sunlight filters through tree branches, the warmth of a shared blanket on a chilly morning. These moments don't need embellishments; they are perfect just as they are.

This sabbatical gave me a chance to pause and recalibrate, to reframe how I view time and possessions. It reminded me that the best memories often come from shared experiences, not shiny new things. And it solidified my belief that, while tiny campers might seem modest to some, they hold the potential for living abundantly - with intention and gratitude.

As we enter the holidays, I encourage each of you to reflect on what you're grateful for - whether it's the community of fellow travelers who share their wisdom and stories, the thrill of planning your next adventure, or the quiet contentment of being present in the moment.

Here at the magazine, we're grateful for you - our readers and contributors who inspire us with

your ingenuity, your spirit of adventure, and your willingness to embrace the simplicity of life on the road. Thank you for being part of this journey. May your holiday season be filled with moments that remind you of what truly matters, and may the road ahead bring you new experiences to treasure.

Safe travels and happy camping! ■

Live Tiny. Live Free.

Lisa Adams

Editor

Cool Tears Magazine™

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Engaging our Community

Help shape the future of Cool Tears Magazine and the tiny campers industry **BY LISA ADAMS**

AT COOL TEARS AND TINY CAMPERS MAGAZINE (CTM), we've always prioritized keeping our finger on the pulse of the teardrop and tiny camper community. Whether you're a seasoned adventurer exploring rugged forest service roads or a weekend warrior enjoying cozy campground getaways, your voice matters to us. That's why we're excited to launch a comprehensive survey that aims to bring our readers directly into the conversation. This initiative is twofold: first, we want to better understand how Cool Tears (CTM) can serve you, and second, we want to amplify your voice to the manufacturers crafting the tiny campers we all

love.

Here's a breakdown of what we're looking to learn and how you can make a difference.

Your Feedback Shapes Our Magazine

For eleven years, Cool Tears and Tiny Campers Magazine (CTM) has been your go-to resource for everything teardrop and tiny camper related - whether it's detailed reviews, inspiring owner interviews, gear spotlights, or tasty recipes for the campfire and galley. Now,

we want to take it a step further and ensure that the way we deliver this content matches your preferences.

The media industry continues to rapidly evolve, driven by advances in technology and changing consumer behaviors. Readers now expect content that is accessible across multiple platforms, whether it's on their smartphones, tablets, or computers. Digital media has made it possible to deliver more personalized and interactive experiences, with innovations like augmented reality, embedded multimedia, and dynamic content that adapts to user preferences. By staying adaptable and leveraging these technological advancements, Cool Tears and Tiny Campers Magazine (CTM) aims to remain at the forefront of these changes, ensuring we deliver the best experience for our readers.

Our survey dives into important questions about how you like to engage with the magazine. For instance:

- **Preferred Formats:** Do you love flipping through a traditional PDF-style magazine, or would you prefer shorter articles delivered directly through a blog format on our website? Would a print option be something you'd value, or are digital options perfect for your on-the-go lifestyle?
- **Content Types:** Are there topics you wish we'd cover more often, such as in-depth gear reviews, DIY camper builds, or destination guides? Perhaps you'd like to see expanded sections, like cocktail recipes or cooking tips for the tiny galley?
- **Community Interaction:** Would you like more opportunities to contribute your own stories, photos, or travel tips? We're

exploring ways to make Cool Tears a more interactive platform for our readers.

Your answers will directly impact how we evolve the magazine to better meet your needs. We're passionate about ensuring that every issue is a reflection of the community it serves, and your input will guide our next steps.



Your Voice, Heard by Manufacturers

Beyond the magazine, we know you have strong opinions about what makes a tiny camper great. That's why this survey also includes questions about what you value most in a teardrop or small camper.

We're going to share this information with several leading manufacturers, and your responses will help influence the future of tiny camper design. Here are just a few areas where your voice can make an impact:

- **Features:** What's on your must-have list? Whether it's an off-road suspension system, upgraded insulation for four-season camping, or a clever indoor kitchenette,

we want to know what features top your priority list.

- **Build and Materials:** Are you drawn to campers with lightweight aluminum frames or rugged fiberglass exteriors? Does sustainability in materials factor into your purchasing decisions?
- **Layouts and Customization:** Would you like to see more flexibility in interior layouts or do you prefer tried-and-true designs? What storage solutions work best for your needs on the road?
- **Technology Integration:** Are solar panels, lithium batteries, or other tech upgrades critical to your camping experience? Should manufacturers focus more on seamless tech integration to make your adventures easier?

This feedback won't just sit on a shelf - it will be shared with the top players in the industry to help them understand what consumers truly want. Whether you're passionate about durability, aesthetics, or practical features, your insights will shape the next generation of tiny campers.

Why This Matters

The tiny camper community is unique, and no two campers are alike. From the minimalist who loves a no-frills "bed on wheels" to the tech-savvy explorer with all the bells and whistles, everyone brings something special to the table. By participating in this survey, you're not just helping us grow as a publication - you're helping to elevate the entire tiny camper movement.

Your feedback has the potential to:

- Influence the kinds of innovations manufacturers pursue.
- Highlight trends and preferences

that reflect the evolving needs of the community.

- Build a stronger connection between manufacturers and the people who use their products every day.

How to Participate

The survey is quick and easy to complete, taking only about 10-15 minutes of your time. It's open to all Cool Tears Magazine (CTM) readers, tiny camper owners, and enthusiasts across various forums. To participate, simply visit [Cool Tears Survey](#) and share your thoughts. The survey will be live until January 25, 2025, so don't miss your chance to weigh in!

What's Next?

Once the survey closes, we'll analyze the results and share key takeaways with our readers in an upcoming issue of Cool Tears. You'll get a sneak peek into the trends shaping the tiny camper world and learn what's next for both the magazine and the manufacturers you care about.

Let's Shape the Future Together

At Cool Tears Magazine (CTM), we're more than just a publication - we're a community of dreamers, builders, and explorers. This survey is an opportunity for you to play a direct role in shaping the future of the magazine and the tiny campers we all love. So don't wait - join the conversation today and help us continue to celebrate the beauty of life on the road.

Thank you for being an essential part of the Cool Tears family. We can't wait to hear from you! ■



Tiny Campers in the News

BY COOL TEARS STAFF

nuCamp Announces 2024 Top Dealers, Celebrating Outstanding Performance

Sugarcreek, Ohio. November 11, 2024 – nuCamp, a leading manufacturer of high-quality teardrop trailers and truck campers, is thrilled to announce its 2024 Top Dealers, recognizing their extraordinary achievements during the 2024 model year. These dealers have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the nuCamp brand and to enhancing the customer experience through exceptional sales and service.

Jesse Mullet, President and CEO of nuCamp, expressed the company's dedication to supporting and celebrating its dealer network: "At nuCamp, building strong partnerships with our dealers is fundamental to who we are," he emphasized. "Each of our dealers plays a vital role in our mission, and we are especially proud to acknowledge those who have achieved top-level sales this past year. Their dedication directly contributes to our shared goal of providing unparalleled experiences for our customers."

This year, nuCamp is delighted to honor excellence across four unique categories, showcasing the significant accomplishments of our standout dealers. These awards celebrate their exceptional commitment, hard work, and contributions that have set a standard in our industry.

2024 Top Dealers:

Top Overall Dealer: Pete's RV Center (VT, MA, IN, VA, CT, PA)

Top Canadian Dealer: Groupe Alliance (QC)

Top Cirrus Dealer: Apache Camping Center (WA, OR)

Towable Dealers by Region:

East Region:

Pete's RV Center (VT, MA, IN, VA, CT)
Southland RV (GA)
D&H RV Center (NC, FL)

Central Region:

Princess Craft RV (TX)
Mark Wahlberg RV (OH)
Veurink's RV Center (MI)

West Region:

Apache Camping Center (WA, OR)
Blue Compass RV (AZ)
Teton Adventures RV (ID)

Top Cirrus Dealers:

Apache Camping Center (WA, OR)
Groupe Alliance (OC)
Teton Adventures RV (ID)

For more information on the nuCamp products, please visit nuCamprv.com

About nuCamp

nuCamp manufactures the highest quality teardrop trailers / campers and truck campers available on the American market. Our recreational vehicle and trailer products are the results of extensive research and development, customer feedback, and the fusion of technology and old-world craftsmanship. The dedicated craftsmen and women who work at the nuCamp facility in Sugarcreek, Ohio, are committed to the principles of simplistic design, high-quality fabrication, and fanatical customer support. nuCamp is the world's largest manufacturer of teardrop trailers.





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We appreciate your support. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact either of us at Lisa@cooltears.com or Anne@cooltears.com

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Unlocking Adventures with AI

Our series wrap up of artificial intelligence (AI) trip planners **BY ANNE COX**

OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, we've explored an exciting frontier in trip planning: the integration of AI tools into crafting the perfect getaway. With the rise of tools like ChatGPT, Wonderplan AI, Curiosio, Trip Planner AI, AdventureGenie, and Layla, planning an epic journey has become faster, smarter, and in many cases, more personalized. For those of us who love the open road, unique experiences, and teardrop camping adventures, AI tools hold tremendous potential to streamline trip logistics and unlock hidden gems.

Here's a summary of our findings, how these tools can elevate your tiny camper trips, and what's next as we continue to explore this tech-savvy trail.

The Big Picture: AI in Trip Planning

AI-based tools for trip planning are designed to save time and effort while helping you discover destinations and activities tailored to your preferences. These tools harness massive datasets - ranging from user reviews to geographic information - and apply sophisticated algorithms to provide itinerary suggestions, accommodation options, and recommendations for dining, activities, and scenic routes.

For tiny campers, where minimalism and flexibility are key, these AI tools offer both structure and adaptability, helping to avoid over-planning while ensuring you don't miss

the highlights of your journey.

Highlights of the AI Tools We Reviewed

ChatGPT

As one of the most versatile tools, ChatGPT stands out for its conversational approach. While it's not purpose-built for trip planning, it proved to be an invaluable brainstorming partner. Whether we were asking for recommendations on scenic routes through the Maritimes or unique campsites in New England, ChatGPT provided detailed

suggestions with flexibility to tweak itineraries on the fly.

Best for: Brainstorming trip ideas and creating a starting framework for your adventures.

Wonderplan AI

Focused on helping users plan multi-day itineraries, Wonderplan AI impressed with its ability to create detailed day-by-day plans. Its interface was user-friendly, and it excelled at grouping activities by proximity, which is a huge advantage when trying to maximize your time in a new area.

Best for: Creating efficient, organized plans



when time is limited.

Curiosio

What set Curiosio apart was its emphasis on unique, off-the-beaten-path recommendations. For adventurers seeking hidden gems rather than tourist hotspots, this AI tool delivered. It also allowed for a more personalized input process, factoring in travel styles and niche preferences.

Best for: Adventurers looking for authentic, lesser-known destinations.

Trip Planner AI

This tool catered to those who wanted quick results and a simple user experience. While it lacked some of the depth we found in other tools, it excelled at offering broad, family-friendly options and suggested destinations that could easily accommodate tiny campers.

Best for: Families or beginners looking for no-frills trip planning.

AdventureGenie

For outdoor enthusiasts, AdventureGenie stood out with its focus on camping-related activities. It included campsite reviews, detailed route options, and weather-integrated planning. This was one of the most relevant tools for teardrop and tiny camper enthusiasts, thanks to its focus on road trips and nature-based activities. This makes sense, because it was created by a tech couple after they went on a long RV trip and realized that tools were lacking.

Best for: Tiny camper trips that center around camping and outdoor exploration.

Layla

Layla was the sleekest of the tools we reviewed, offering a polished interface and itinerary suggestions that felt curated and refined. Its integration with booking platforms made it easy to turn a plan into reality without jumping between multiple websites. However, it sometimes leaned more toward luxury and boutique experiences, which might not suit minimalist campers.

Best for: Travelers who enjoy blending rugged camping with occasional luxury.

What We Loved

Each tool brought something unique to the table, but the unifying factor was how they made trip planning feel less daunting. These tools removed the guesswork from logistics, allowing us to focus more on dreaming up the ultimate road trip and less on agonizing over where to stay or what route to take.

For tiny campers specifically, AdventureGenie and Curiosio were among our favorites due to their ability to align with the spontaneity and adventurous spirit that tiny camping represents. But even general-purpose tools like ChatGPT and Wonderplan AI offered surprising utility for crafting itineraries that were both practical and imaginative.

Room for Improvement

No tool was without its quirks. Some struggled with integrating camping-specific needs, such as finding remote boondocking spots or accommodating non-traditional lodging preferences. Others excelled in broad planning but lacked the fine-tuning needed for niche travel styles like camping. Additionally, many of these tools still rely

heavily on user input for refining plans - something we expect to see improve as AI becomes more sophisticated.

What's Next?

As AI technology continues to evolve, we're eager to test updates to these tools and any new entrants to the field. The potential for integrating real-time data - like gas prices, road closures, or campsite availability - could make future iterations game-changing for teardrop campers and adventurers alike.

We also plan to dive deeper into each tool's ability to assist with multi-day trips across varied terrain, as well as evaluate how they handle niche requirements like forest service road navigation or off-grid camping resources.

Your Input Matters

Have you tried any of these tools during your tiny camper adventures? We'd love to hear your experiences - what worked, what didn't, and what you'd like to see in the next wave of AI trip planning tools. Share your stories and tips, and we'll incorporate them into our future testing.

Whether you're embarking on a short weekend getaway or planning an epic cross-country trip, AI tools are reshaping how we hit the road. As we continue to test and refine these tools, one thing is clear: the future of tiny adventures has never looked brighter - or smarter. ■

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Plan Ahead

Tiny camper gatherings in 2025 **BY COOL TEARS STAFF**

AS WE WRAP UP the year, it's time to start looking ahead to all the adventures that 2025 has in store. For tiny camper enthusiasts, there's nothing quite like attending a gathering. These events bring together a community of like-minded individuals, all eager to share their love of teardrops, squaredrops, and other tiny campers. Whether you're a seasoned camper or new to the lifestyle, attending a gathering is a fantastic way to connect, swap tips, and make memories.

To help you prepare, we're encouraging you to start exploring the 2025 event calendar now. Most campgrounds open their reservation systems six months in advance,

and the best spots tend to book quickly. Here's how you can stay informed about upcoming gatherings, make your reservations, and even create your own event if nothing's happening nearby.

Stay in the Loop

TearJerkers.net and Facebook Forums

One of the best ways to find upcoming tiny camper gatherings is through TearJerkers.net. This online forum has been a cornerstone of the tiny camper community for years. Organized into regional chapters, TearJerkers

is an excellent resource for discovering events near you. Whether it's a small weekend meetup or a large-scale gathering, the forums often have the most up-to-date information about what's happening in your area.

Similarly, Facebook groups dedicated to tiny campers are another great way to find events. Many regions have their own groups where members share everything from tips on camper builds to plans for upcoming gatherings. If you haven't already, take a moment to join a few groups specific to your area or interest. Don't forget to check the "Events" tab in these groups - organizers frequently post invitations there.

Mark Your Calendar: Crossroads of America

One event you definitely don't want to miss in 2025 is the **Crossroads of America** gathering, held in Indiana. This iconic meetup has become one of the largest tiny camper gatherings in North America, regularly attracting 80 or more campers from across the midwest. Scheduled for September 24 - 28 at Brown County State Park, Crossroads of America is a must-attend for anyone looking to experience the heart of the teardrop community. (Earlier this year, we camped at Brown County State Park and I was blown away by the rolling hills and natural beauty of central Indiana.)

From shared meals to possible group excursions and endless camper tours, this event offers something for everyone. Whether you're looking to showcase your camper's unique design, just soak in the atmosphere, or visit nearby Nashville or Bloomington Indiana,

Crossroads of America is a highlight of the camping season. Be sure to keep an eye on their updates and book your campsite as soon as reservations open. Spots fill up fast!

Can't Find an Event? Create Your Own!

If you're checking the forums and Facebook groups and don't see anything planned in your area, why not take the lead and organize your own gathering? Creating a local event is easier than you might think, and it's a wonderful way to bring tiny camper enthusiasts together.

Start small - choose a campground that's central to your region and accessible for different types of campers. Reach out to local Facebook groups or post on TearJerkers to gauge interest. Once you have a few people on board, set a date and start planning activities like potluck dinners, camper tours, or group hikes.

Many successful gatherings started as informal meetups organized by passionate individuals. Don't be afraid to take the initiative - you might just spark a tradition that grows year after year.



The Time to Plan is Now

Whether you're looking forward to joining established events like Crossroads of America or starting your own local meetup, now is the time to start planning. Check out TearJerkers.net and your favorite Facebook forums, and make those campground reservations as soon as they open.

Gatherings are about more than just camping - they're about community. Sharing stories around a campfire, admiring creative camper setups, and making new friends are what make these events so special. Don't let the best spots pass you by - start planning your 2025 adventures today!

And remember, if you create your own gathering, let us know! We'd love to highlight your event in an upcoming issue of the magazine. Happy camping! ■



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Capturing the Spirit

2025 Photo Contest Recap **BY ANNE COX**

AS WE WRAP UP another year of our annual calendar photo contest, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated. Once again, your passion for tiny campers and adventure has blown us away! The submissions this year showcased breathtaking landscapes, creative setups, and the undeniable charm of your teardrops and squaredrops. From mountain peaks to tranquil lakesides, your photos were an incredible

reminder of why we all love this unique lifestyle.

This year, our calendar features winning entries from not just across the United States, but also from Poland and Estonia. It's amazing to see how the love for tiny campers transcends borders, uniting enthusiasts from all over the globe. These stunning photos highlight the universal appeal of tiny camping:

the joy of exploring epic locations, finding solitude off the beaten path, and connecting with nature in the coziest of ways.

A Celebration of Variety and Creativity

Among the winners, we're thrilled to include two DIY teardrop campers. These personal creations are a testament to the ingenuity and dedication of their builders. Whether it's a camper built in a garage over countless weekends or one meticulously customized for a dream journey, these DIY teardrops (and canoe!) add a unique, personal touch to our calendar.

We also have two squaredrop campers featured this year, proving that tiny campers come in all shapes and styles. Squaredrop designs combine functionality and simplicity, and their presence in the calendar showcases how versatile these campers can be. Whether you're drawn to their streamlined design or the comfort they bring to rugged terrain, squaredrops are truly making their mark in the tiny camper community.

Behind the Winning Shots

Each winning photo tells a story. Maybe it was the morning dew glistening on a camper's window while parked in a serene forest. Perhaps it was the moment of awe standing at the edge of a dramatic cliff, tiny camper in tow. From Poland's rolling landscapes to Slovakia's pristine wilderness, and the diverse beauty of the United States, this year's winners have brought us along on their adventures through their lens. We're working with a few

of the winners so we can bring their stories to life of their builds and their adventures.

A Calendar to Remember

The 2025 wall calendar is shaping up to be one of our best yet. Packed with your awe-inspiring photos, it's a celebration of the tiny camper lifestyle and the incredible places these little rigs can take us. The calendars are now available for pre-order, so don't miss your chance to grab one and keep the spirit of adventure alive all year long. The calendars will start to ship on December 2nd.

Thank You Again!

To everyone who submitted a photo this year, we cannot thank you enough. Your creativity and love for tiny camping inspire us daily. Whether your camper is a DIY marvel, a squaredrop, a traditional teardrop, or something entirely unique, you're part of a wonderful community that reminds us all to chase the open road and discover the beauty of the world around us.

Congratulations to the winners, and here's to another year of epic adventures! Keep exploring, keep snapping, and keep sharing your journeys with us. We can't wait to see where your tiny campers will take you next! ■



5th Annual Gift Guide

BY COOL TEARS STAFF

WELCOME TO OUR 5th annual gift guide! The holidays are just around the corner, and we're back with our annual Gift Giving Guide for tiny campers! Whether you're shopping for a fellow adventurer or treating yourself, we've got you covered with thoughtful gift ideas to make life on the road even better. This year, we're highlighting gifts to bring the fun - think games and gadgets to keep you entertained on rainy days - practical tools to elevate your galley game, and smart solutions to keep your cozy camper organized. Best of all, every item in this guide is something we personally use on our camping trips, so you can trust

they're road-tested and ready to enhance your adventures.

Deck of cards

A deck of cards is a perfect gift for anyone who camps in a tiny camper because it combines entertainment with practicality. Its compact size makes it easy to stow away in even the smallest storage spaces, while offering endless possibilities for fun, whether it's a quiet game of solitaire or a lively round

of rummy. We often play a few games of rummy in the evenings if we're stuck under an awning or in the cabin of the teardrop due to weather. Plus, if you camp with kids, have them come up with card tricks to show you!

Multibit or compact screwdriver set

A multibit screwdriver or compact screwdriver set is an essential gift for tiny camper enthusiasts because it combines functionality and space-saving design—both critical for life on the road. Our campers often require small, efficient tools for on-the-spot repairs, and having a versatile screwdriver with interchangeable bits ensures we're prepared for a variety of tasks without the need to carry many different tools. Whether it's tightening a cabinet screw, adjusting a light fixture, or dealing with a loose hinge, this compact tool kit can be a real lifesaver. Additionally, its lightweight design ensures it won't add unnecessary weight to the camper, making it a practical and thoughtful gift for anyone who values preparedness and efficiency while adventuring. I keep one set in the tongue box of the teardrop and one set in the house so I don't forget to take it camping each time.

Cooler lid light (or small, motion-controlled light)

A cooler lid light or a small motion-controlled light is a fantastic gift for tiny camper owners because it solves the challenge of illuminating tight or dark spaces with minimal effort. These compact lights are incredibly versatile, perfect for brightening up hard-to-reach areas like the back of cabinets, storage compartments,

or the tongue box—places where traditional lighting often falls short. Their motion-sensor functionality ensures they turn on only when needed, conserving battery power and adding convenience, especially during nighttime searches. Easy to install with either screws or adhesive strips, they provide a simple, low-



profile lighting solution that enhances the camping experience. Whether it's finding gear in the dark or adding extra light for safety, these lights are a thoughtful and practical addition to any tiny camper setup. Our tongue box is black and it's often difficult to find what I'm looking for even during the day. We've been using a few of these lights this year and it's made a huge difference.

Campfire Starters

Campfire starters are an excellent gift for tiny camper owners because they take the stress out of building a fire, especially in less-than-ideal conditions. Wet wood, damp kindling, or a lack of fire-building expertise can make starting a campfire a frustrating experience, but with reliable fire starters, even novice campers can enjoy a warm and cozy blaze. We've tried using homemade fire starters

from toilet paper tubes stuffed with dryer lint that are then wrapped in wax paper, but we haven't had a lot of success with them. So these tiny fire starters are our go-to's now. On a chilly morning when warmth and hot coffee are a must, campfire starters are a thoughtful and indispensable gift for anyone who loves the great outdoors.

Cord Organizers

Cord organizers make an incredibly thoughtful and practical gift for tiny camper owners because they help keep small spaces tidy and functional. Adjustable organizers for USB cords are ideal for managing phone, tablet, or camera cables, preventing them from tangling or getting misplaced in tight quarters. In a tiny camper, where every inch counts and where your USB charger may not be conveniently located, these organizers keep essentials neatly in place, making it easier to charge devices without clutter. Larger sizes can go beyond tech management, doubling as holders for toothbrushes or even small power cords. Their versatility and space-saving benefits make them a must-have for any camper looking to maintain order and efficiency on the road.

Gerber Gear Dime multitool

The Gerber Gear Dime multitool is an ideal gift for tiny camper enthusiasts because it combines portability, functionality, and durability in one compact package. Measuring less than 2 inches long, it's small enough to fit comfortably in a pocket or clip onto a keychain, ensuring it's always within reach. Despite its size, it's packed with essential tools like a knife, scissors, tweezers, and even a bottle opener, making it incredibly versatile for

a wide range of camping tasks. Whether it's cutting rope, opening packaging, removing a splinter, or tackling small repairs, this multitool is a reliable companion for life on the road. I initially bought this multitool to take on a week-long canoe camping trip on the Allagash Wilderness Waterway in Maine. It did get some use while on that trip, like cutting out tags of clothes so they wouldn't rub while



padding, but it's proven to be extremely useful in my tow vehicle/daily driver. I've used the scissors, box opener, knife and screwdriver quite a bit in the few months I've owned this little tool.

One-burner Portable Induction Cooktop

A one-burner portable induction cooktop is an innovative and practical gift for tiny camper owners who want a cleaner, more efficient way to cook on the road. Unlike propane stoves, induction cooktops eliminate the need to carry and refill propane, which simplifies planning and removes concerns about running

out of fuel. They also eliminate issues with wind blowing out flames and don't produce exhaust. These cooktops heat up quickly and provide precise temperature control, perfect for boiling water, simmering soups, or frying up a campsite favorite. Compact and lightweight, they fit seamlessly into a camper's limited kitchen space, and when paired with



shore power, a portable battery bank, or the camper's inverter, they become an eco-friendly cooking solution. For campers looking to modernize their setup, this is a gift that combines convenience, safety, and versatility.

We're still experimenting with using our portable induction cooktop and we'll highlight in a future issue our results. We've had a Jackery 1000 for years and to date, we're able to cook several meals on a single charge. This winter we're going to continue our testing to confirm if we can charge our Jackery enough with solar to cook at least two plus meals per charge. It's a completely unscientific study, but with the reduced daylight hours and angle of the sun, it might mimic camping in the upper Midwest, where we often are cloudy or partially shaded.

BlendJet Blender

The BlendJet Blender is a game-changing gift for tiny camper enthusiasts, especially those who love smoothies, shakes, or quick blended meals on the go. Its battery-powered design makes it perfect for boondocking,



where traditional blenders aren't feasible. The USB charging capability ensures it can be recharged using a camper's power bank, solar panel, or vehicle, adding to its convenience. Lightweight and compact, it's easy to store and carry, making it ideal for tiny camper kitchens. Beyond smoothies, it can handle tasks like mixing pancake batter, whipping up sauces, or blending cocktails for a cozy evening under the stars. This portable blender brings a touch of home comfort to off-grid adventures, making healthy, delicious meals a breeze no matter where the road leads. For years, our go-to breakfast has been smoothies with frozen fruit and a protein powder. It's simple, healthy, and can be consumed while driving to work. I used to miss these when we would go camping until I bought a BlendJet.

We can make two per day for several days before it needs to be recharged. It's a fantastic galley tool!

Lifestraw Home Water Pitcher

The LifeStraw Home Water Pitcher is an outstanding gift for tiny camper owners who prioritize safe and clean drinking water while on the road. Unlike standard water filter pitchers, this one goes the extra



mile by removing bacteria, parasites, and microplastics - essential for those sourcing water from uncertain or non-potable supplies. It also reduces harmful contaminants like lead, mercury, PFAS, chlorine, and pesticides, ensuring peace of mind with every sip.

Compact and stylish, the LifeStraw Home fits seamlessly into a tiny camper setup, providing

a simple and reliable way to enjoy clean water without the need for bulky filtration systems. This is more than just a filter - it's an investment in health, convenience, and sustainability for any camper. Earlier this year, we went on a four week adventure to the Canadian Maritimes. Our dogs don't drink water that's been in either our fresh tank (our teardrop has a sink) or in our plastic jug with a spigot that we fill up at campgrounds. So I purchased this hoping that I could get our dogs to drink water without having to buy gallons of water from a store. It worked! I also appreciated that no matter where we filled up our tanks our drinking water was also crystal clear and had no odor. We have the 7-cup plastic version.

Tabletop smokeless fire pit

A tabletop smokeless fire pit, like the well known Solo Stove brand, is a fantastic gift for tiny camper enthusiasts who want the ambiance of a campfire without the hassle of



smoke or a full-sized setup. Its compact design makes it easy to transport and store, while its efficient airflow system ensures a nearly smokeless flame, perfect for close quarters or when neighbors are nearby. The versatility of using twigs, small wood chunks, or wood pellets adds convenience, allowing campers to fuel their fire with readily available materials or packable options. It's ideal for creating a cozy atmosphere, roasting marshmallows, or simply enjoying a small, controlled fire that can be quickly extinguished when it's time to pack up. I received the East Oak Brasa Mini Tabletop Fire Pit as a Christmas gift last year. We've used this small fire pit on our front porch as well as while camping. It fits neatly in the included bag and it is compact enough to fit in the tongue box. To make things easier, I bought a 50 pound bag of wood pellets and we use a few plastic cups worth for each fire. We transport the wood pellets in a small plastic container that holds about 5-10 pounds of pellets at a time. If you want to have a fire for an hour or two then this is a good option. If you prefer a roaring campfire for hours, this is not for you. We've never used this on a table, although you can with the provided silicon mat. Our preferred method is to put this on the grate of the existing firepit at a campground. With the price of firewood at or near campgrounds, this mini fire pit will pay for itself in no time! Our 50 pound bag of wood pellets cost us less than \$10USD!

<https://www.eastoak.com/products/brasa-mini-tabletop-fire-pit>

National or State Park Pass

A national or state park pass is an incredibly thoughtful gift for any tiny camper owner who loves exploring the great outdoors. These passes provide unlimited access to

your favorite parks that have entry fees, making them a cost-effective option for those who frequent specific locations throughout the year. Whether it's the iconic beauty of a national park or the charm of a local state park, this pass encourages more trips to stunning natural spaces without the worry of repeated entry costs. For campers, it's not just a money-saver but also an invitation to immerse themselves in nature, discover new trails, and enjoy serene camping spots. By gifting a park pass, you're not only offering financial savings but also the priceless opportunity to create lasting memories in some of the most breathtaking places. It



feels weird that the first national park pass that I purchased was for Canada and not the United States! However, this park pass saved us some money on our Canadian Maritimes trip a few months ago and it won't expire until next summer. We live just a few hours from Ontario, so we still have more opportunities to use our pass before it expires.

Small Journal

A small journal is a wonderful gift for tiny camper enthusiasts, offering a personal and meaningful way to document their adventures. Compact enough to fit in a glove box or camper drawer, it's perfect for jotting down camping experiences, favorite spots, or even the unexpected challenges that make trips memorable. Beyond serving as a logbook, it can be a space to record gear ideas, sketch scenic views, or plan future journeys. Reflecting on past trips through journal entries adds depth to the camping experience, turning it into a keepsake of cherished memories. For those who love creativity and mindfulness, a journal transforms any camping trip into an opportunity for reflection and inspiration, making it a thoughtful and versatile gift. We always have a set of colored pencils next to our small journal so we're always ready when inspiration hits!

12-volt USB outlet

A 12-volt USB outlet with fast-charging capabilities is a highly practical and thoughtful gift for tiny camper owners looking to upgrade their setup. These outlets are a game-changer for quickly charging phones, tablets, cameras, and other devices, ensuring campers stay connected and powered during their adventures. The combination of a USB-A and USB-C port offers versatility, accommodating both older and newer devices without the need for multiple adapters. Installing one in a camper allows for efficient use of 12-volt power, making it perfect for off-grid camping or boondocking. Compact and easy to install, these outlets are a simple upgrade that delivers big convenience, helping campers

make the most of their limited space and power resources. These are typically easy to swap out in your tiny camper. The USB-C port is a smart output, meaning it will automatically turn off when the device is charged. It even has enough output to charge a laptop! We changed out one outlet in the teardrop and I'm thinking about putting the other in one of our vehicles too. One of the best features of these outlets is the on/off button that controls the LED light on the outlet. I don't have to put a piece of electrical tape over the lights anymore to keep the interior of the teardrop dark!

Propane Tank Y Splitter

A propane tank Y-splitter is a fantastic gift for those who rely on propane for cooking, heating, or other appliances, like a propane fire pit. This handy tool allows users to connect two devices to a single propane tank simultaneously, providing added convenience and flexibility. Whether it's running a stove and a heater at the same time or powering a grill while keeping a lantern lit, a Y-splitter maximizes the utility of a single propane tank. It's particularly useful for those who want to minimize the hassle of switching connections or carrying multiple tanks. Compact and easy to install, it's a space-efficient addition to any camper's toolkit, offering both practicality and enhanced functionality during camping adventures. This tank splitter will not allow gas to escape even if one port is not connected to a propane appliance. Our teardrop has a Propex heater (propane) and a pull-out propane campstove. We only use the heater for winter camping when it's really cold (below freezing or colder). Switching the hose from the cookstove to the heater is less than ideal in cold weather, so I bought this so I

could keep both hoses connected at the same time. I've not tried to use the cookstove and heater at the same time, but it's just nice to not have the hassle of swapping hoses when my hands are already freezing! This handy splitter doesn't get a lot of use, but it's well worth the approximate \$18USD.

Travel Bidet

I saw this on a canoe campers YouTube channel and wanted to give it a try. This travel bidet is a unique and thoughtful gift for tiny camper owners, offering a convenient and eco-friendly way to stay clean while on the road. Compact and lightweight, it's easy to pack and takes up minimal space, making it perfect for minimalist campers. Unlike relying solely on toilet paper, a travel bidet provides a gentle, thorough clean that's ideal for those seeking better hygiene, especially during extended trips or when facilities are limited. I love that it helps me use far less toilet paper, which not only reduces waste but also aligns with a more sustainable lifestyle - something I value deeply. Its refillable design allows it to be used anywhere, whether at a remote campsite or a rest stop, ensuring cleanliness



no matter the situation. For campers looking to reduce waste and improve personal care while traveling, this simple tool is a practical and environmentally conscious solution. Best of all, it's inexpensive!

Portable bartending kit

A portable bartending kit is an incredible gift for tiny camper owners who enjoy crafting cocktails or hosting outdoor happy hours. With its thoughtfully designed compartments, this kit allows campers to carry everything they need to mix drinks in style, from cocktail shakers and glasses to bar tools like jiggers and pestles. The padded dividers ensure wine or other fragile bottles remain safe during travel, while the waterproof bottom and durable nylon construction make it perfect for outdoor adventures. I particularly appreciate the convenience of the front compartment for tools and the padded sleeve for extras like a cutting board or recipe book—it makes organizing and accessing everything effortless. Whether it's for a sunset cocktail at a campsite, a picnic in the woods, or a



wedding on the road, this versatile bartending bag turns any camping trip into a celebration. Plus, its messenger-style design with a padded handle and shoulder strap makes it easy to carry, freeing up hands for other gear. For amateur mixologists and seasoned bartenders alike, this kit brings a touch of sophistication to any outdoor gathering.

12 piece bartending kit

A 12-piece bartender kit is the perfect complement to the portable bartending bag, turning any camping trip into an opportunity for professional-level mixology. This comprehensive set includes everything needed to craft cocktails like a pro: shakers,



strainers, a jigger, muddler, mixing spoon, ice tongs, liquor pourers, and even a recipe booklet to inspire creativity. Made from

durable, food-grade stainless steel, this set ensures reliability and longevity, whether shaking up margaritas or stirring a classic Manhattan. Its watertight shaker tins are expertly designed for both beginners and experienced bartenders, making it versatile for any skill level. I also love how easy it is to clean, with all parts being dishwasher-safe or simple to rinse by hand.

When paired with the bartending bag, this kit creates a portable cocktail station that's perfect for camping, picnics, tailgating, or any outdoor gathering. It's not just functional but also a fantastic gift for any occasion, from housewarmings to holidays, offering recipients the tools to enjoy and share the joy of handcrafted drinks. Whether you're impressing fellow campers or simply enjoying a quiet evening under the stars, this kit brings fun, flair, and functionality to the mix.

Zippered Waterproof mattress protector

A zippered waterproof mattress protector is an incredibly practical gift for tiny camper owners, especially those who travel with pets or children. We personally use one to protect our camper's mattress when traveling with our three elderly dogs, providing peace of mind in case of any unexpected accidents. This also saved our mattress when we were hauling our food inside the teardrop years ago and nearly all of the eggs that we were hauling in a crate broke and oozed out. This queen-sized protector fully encases the mattress with its zippered design, ensuring 360-degree protection from spills, stains, or leaks. Its durable TPU backing is 100% waterproof, keeping the mattress clean and extending its lifespan.

The stretchable knitted polyester fabric adds a layer of comfort, making it feel soft and cozy while remaining lightweight and easy to pack. It's also bed bug and dust mite-proof, which is a bonus for campers who may encounter less-than-pristine environments. Maintenance is simple, with machine-washable care for hassle-free cleaning, although it can be a challenge to put on and take off in a tiny camper. Whether protecting against pet messes, spills, or outdoor dirt, this mattress protector is a thoughtful and essential addition to any camper setup, offering both functionality and peace of mind.

We hope this year's Gift Giving Guide for tiny campers has inspired you with ideas for the adventurers in your life - or perhaps even a treat for yourself! Every item on this list has been thoughtfully chosen and personally road-tested to ensure it enhances the camping experience, whether through added convenience, practicality, or just plain fun. From tools and gadgets to keep your camper organized, to galley upgrades and cozy touches that make life on the road a little easier, these gifts are sure to delight any camping enthusiast.

If you decide to purchase any of these items, please consider using the links provided in this guide. (Click on the pictures or any underlined text). We may earn a small commission, which helps support the creation of content like this, at no additional cost to you. It's a win-win: you get great gift ideas, and we can continue to share tips and insights for enjoying tiny camper life to the fullest.

The holidays are the perfect time to show

your appreciation for the campers in your life, and there's no better way to do it than with gifts that make their adventures even more memorable. Whether you're gifting the joy of cozy campfires, practical tools, or a little indulgence in the form of a perfectly mixed campsite cocktail, these items are sure to bring smiles and create lasting memories.

Happy holidays, and happy camping! ■



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