



ArcticTerns

## Worldschooling Newsletter

### Moriah, about RV-ing through the US

Every time I hear about a family RV-ing, I imagine myself and my kids in an RV travelling around. RV-ing has been my dream ever since I was too young to drive, but so far an unfulfilled dream. Moriah did not leave the opportunity unfulfilled and did tons of adventures RV-ing in the US. Read about her experiences and see what advice she has for beginning RV families.

Every Worldshooler has a story to tell

Every traveling family has a unique background, experience or knowledge, that they can share with other to expand and inspire.

In our newsletter we offer a platform to all the different stories that are out there.

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- This week in Worldschooling Bansko

### Moriah Meyskens, about RV-ing through the US

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#### ***Hello Moriah, can you tell us a bit about yourself and your family?***

My name is Moriah Meyskens (49). I have three amazing sons Dante (13), Enzo (10) and Tiago (7) and a wonderful husband Dany. We are based in San Diego, California where my husband is a medical doctor. I worked in Finance, Nonprofit and as a business school professor for 20 years and for the last four years have had the opportunity to homeschool my children and travel all over. We travel about 5 months a year. The last three years my sons have gone to our local school September-March and then we homeschool and travel from

March – June. When we are home we usually go on local RV trips about once a month. In 2021 and 2022 we traveled across the United States in our motorhome from San Diego to Orlando, Florida one year and from San Diego to New York City another year (6,000 and 10,000 miles respectively). Last Spring we spent in Buenos Argentina where my husband is from and this Spring we are exploring Europe. We will go on a 3 week RV trip through an exchange we organized through a French company swaptheroad. We are currently at Worldscool Bansko and loving the program, community and Bulgaria!

***What made you start traveling as a family?***

Both my parents are avid travelers – my dad traveled extensively for work and often took us along and my mother went on the Semester at Sea twice in the 1960s and travels at any opportunity she gets. So when I got the chance to study and live abroad I did extensively from 18-25. After high school I went on an exchange program to Venezuela and during college lived in Mexico, Germany and Brazil. My first few jobs provided the opportunity to travel a lot as well. My husband didn't travel as much as a kid, but once we got together we explored a lot before we decided to have kids. After my third son Tiago was born we wanted a way to travel in a comfortable easy way as a family. My sister who has 4 sons bought an RV and we got one too when Tiago was 4 months! We started out with a 24 foot to check it out and have upgraded to 28 feet and 33 feet motorhomes over the last 6 years as our children have grown. The beauty of an RV is that you can be anywhere, but at night you go home to your little house. It's amazing and has been a perfect way to travel for our family. Our RV is our second home. We started out going on weekend trips and two week trips during summer and winter breaks. Then at the start of the pandemic we went about a week per month to a national park in the United States (as that's how often my husband could take off and come with us). We then started going on longer trips and finally twice across the United States on 2 month and 4 month long trips.



***What are some essential tips for families intending to embark on RV adventures across the United States?***

When we plan a longer RV trip we often map out a general plan, get advice from family RV facebook groups and plan accordingly. We generally only book a week or two out as plans change all the time. We live off cancellations. Most hard to get campsites or locations have people cancel in the last week (or whenever cancellation deadlines falls). We generally stay one day a week at a Harvest Host campsite (as a way to check out a local small business – winery, brewery, farm, tourist spot, golf course – you -park in their parking lot), a few days at a private campground (to do laundry, go in a swimming pool and many have free mini-golf), and a few days at a state park or national park. It's nice to stay longer at a spot as often as possible. Often less is more (I

always tell myself that, but don't follow it)! Check out Apps for Harvest Host, Campendium, All Stays, iOverlander, Recreation.gov (for national parks) and to see where there are places to get propane, sleep for free (many Wal-Mart & Cracker Barrel parking lots or rest stops on side of high way). I often go on RV trips with the kids without my husband so driving more than two hours at a time can be tiring. We usually stop at a place to run around or at Wal Mart Superstores as temperature is controlled, you can walk around, there are big parking lots and we can buy everything (including RV toilet paper!) Also be sure to check the weather as icy roads and high winds are more difficult with an RV. Also get a good coffee machine – motorhome life became perfect when I got an Nespresso maker for our motorhome!

***Could you share some recommendations for must visit destinations and hidden gems that families shouldn't miss while exploring the US?***

There are so many amazing places to visit! Ask your kids what they want to see or gauge their interests. My older son Dante was super into fossils and rocks for a long time so we visited a lot of places to dig for fossils or find cool rocks. We went digging for diamonds and crystals in state parks and private campgrounds in Arkansas and found fossilized shark teeth in Florida, New Jersey, Maryland, and California as well as other remnants of fossils in South Dakota, Wyoming and Utah. I love hiking so we often go to National Parks or National Monuments or State Parks where there's lots of nice 2-3 mile hikes that you can do from your campground (we try not to leave our campground during the days as we don't pull a car and packing up a motorhome every day is tiring). My son Enzo loves Harry Potter so while in New York City we went to see the play, the store and went to a tour at the Met Art Museum based on Harry Potter. My kids loved staying in a nice hotel in Orlando after being in the RV for a month. They also love ziplining so we did that over Niagara Falls and over Crystal Mines in the south. We also visit friends from different stages of life wherever we are which is so nice for the kids and a great way for us to share our lives pre-kids with our children.



***What are some practical considerations or challenges that families should be aware of before hitting the road for an extended journey?***

Start small and see how your family likes Rving. Go on a weekend trip. Rv life isn't for everyone. Driving a huge vehicle is scary at times – it's a monster! Also lots of people don't like living in a small space. Don't take too much as it doesn't fit in the RV! Also if you're going for a long time store stuff in the bottom of the RV (for different climates). However, caution – so much stuff you never use! I took about 3 storage boxes of games and homeschool stuff that I never used on our first cross country trip. Less is more! We brought 5 of everything for each of us (5 shirts, 5 shorts, 2 swimsuits etc). Establish family routines and traditions – like cinnamon rolls on Saturday or playing Uno after we reach a destination on a hike. Also establish develop a system to lessen sibling bickering. We generally have a point system equivalent to dollars for behavior, homework, and helping out. Since you'll have a lot of time on the road determine early on if you want kids to watch screens while driving. We generally don't – they listen to tons of audio books and read a lot. Ultimately the most important is to enjoy the journey and have fun!

**Check us out!**

@moriahmeyskens on Instagram or Facebook

What is **your** story? Share it with the Worldscool world.

## Important question about Worldscooling Bansko

As we are in the proces of putting all the pieces of the puzzle together for the next season, there is one important question that remains: When will we run Worldscooling Bansko 2025?

We have decided we will to do two 6-weeks sessions. We have noticed that the bonding between families goes to a different level after about 2-3 weeks, and strengthens in the weeks after. 6-weeks sessions are more aligned with our vision: Creating strong connections between worldscooling families.

We will end the last session late March/early April. Our question to you is, when do we start the first session? Since the ski season in Bansko starts around Christmas our most important question is: Do we start before Christmas, or do we start after new year?

Let us know what your family would prefer. Do you want to spend Christmas in a hub or with your family?

We put a poll on Facebook. We value your reply, especially if you are considering joining, your opinion can help shape our program to your needs.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/worldscoolingbansko/posts/2...>

Waitlist

## This week in Worldschoooling Bansko

Many fun activities happened this week as well at Worldshooling Bansko.

The week started with a skiing session in the morning, followed by many different activities in the afternoon. An immersive "Wannabe a Vet" experience that allowed the kids to step into the shoes of a veterinarian, while the teens and parents dived into the world of Bulgarian cuisine with banitsa cooking. The kids also got to try 3D drawing and built a tower of spaghetti and marshmallows. The day ended with a game night: young Dungeons and Dragons enthusiasts rolled the dice, while the parents and teens enjoyed a fun casino night.

Tuesday was a relaxing day with the weekly swimming session and a delightful dinner at Deska House, where traditional Bulgarian food, lively entertainment, and dances with the Deska sisters created cherished memories.

After another morning of skiing, the kids had a Sponsor Run where they ran laps in support of Bansko Street Dogs. Afterward they got to make their own pizza at the Kid's Restaurant, while the teens made a comic book, and parents took part in a round table discussion about "choosing your next destination". The day ended with a relaxing soak in the hot springs.

Thursday started with volunteering at Bansko Street Dogs taking the doggies on a walk in the city park, followed by a visit to the Rila Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The day ended with a movie night for the kids, and a parent's night out at a karaoke bar!

Friday brought another round of skiing with friends. The kids also had a puppet show, face painting and the bigger ones embarked on a secret club mission. The kids also created a fun radio show to showcase the week's happenings at the weekly presentation, and made Oobleck during science class.

The week ended with a gaming night for the kids, hangout for the teens and hot wine and chat for the parents, a perfect wind down of the week for all ages.









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