

alwaysanadventure

4th and Memorial Day weekend. Motorcycle-only campgrounds are invariably located in prime riding areas. Two Wheels Only (www.twowheelsonly.com) in Suches and 29 Dreams (www.29dreams.com) near Barber Motorsports racetrack outside Birmingham are two such campgrounds in the southeast. Both have terrific restaurants on the property making a great steak only a short stroll from your campsite.

Freeze dried meals are edible. When there's no restaurant nearby, or you would

simply rather not saddle up again, freeze-dried meals are an easy and edible alternative. Freeze-dried beef teriyaki, chili, and many chicken meals are at least as good as what we claimed was delicious as kids! Most freeze dried entrees are far better than a double cheeseburger from the nearest fast food selection. Even the bacon and eggs are quite good, especially if you're not an oatmeal lover. If camp cooking is a skill you're aching to perfect, JetBoil makes a personal cooking system that's amazingly lightweight, packs small, and includes a pan for cooking meats and vegetables.

Odds and ends\$100
(sleeping pad, propane,
other stuff)\$480 - \$680

If you take as few as two or three motocamping trips per year (and hopefully more!), you reach the break even point for your investment pretty quickly. Seven motel nights will run \$450 - \$600. Seven nights camping will run around \$100. After only a week you saved the equivalent of your gear cost, and you own and can use the gear for years to come.

I'm not quite ready for a round-the-world moto-camping trip. Meanwhile, the day trips open up an entirely new frame of reference when you are out to enjoy the ride for a few days. We are already planning our 2009 moto-camping adventure to Colorado, Montana, and Canada. As my mother always told me before serving Brussels sprouts; "Try it. You'll like it." ☺

Retiring from a 27-year career in the U.S. Navy in 2004, Al now works in the defense industry and lives in Huntsville, Alabama. He has been motorcycling since he was 14 and rides a 1200RT, his third BMW. Drop him a note at amaiorano@aol.com.

Online Resources

- <http://www.bmwmoa.org/camping/camping.htm>
- www.REI.com
- www.aerostich.com
- www.llbean.com
- www.jetboil.com
- www.backpacker.com
- <http://www.ibmc.org/>

Bottom Line

Sounds great, but what's it going to cost to get properly moto-camping equipped? If you're starting from scratch, we're not talking chump change but nor are we talking a mortgage payment or first born child (although some might offer!). As in any endeavor, the price ranges vary widely.

- 2/3-person tent \$150 - \$250
- Sleeping bag/3-season \$150 - \$250
- Jetboil cooking system \$80



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