

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [I lived in a van for 6 months because covid ruined the economy, AMA](#)

FlashyBeach - November 16, 2020, 3:41 am

I'll answer anything and everything. Here's a picture of the kind of place I slept at:

Now I've upgraded to a shitty room because there isn't enough sun to charge my battery with the solar panel, but jobs are still taking months to hear anything back.

MostaqIGigs - November 16, 2020, 3:54 am

whats the most that you are missing (or anyone can miss) at this point in you journey?

Wespa - November 16, 2020, 4:02 am

What was the biggest challenge you had to overcome?

Do you have any pics from inside the van?

OBAMASELF - November 16, 2020, 4:33 am

Would you recommend someone going to a Van life for 6 months?

FlashyBeach - November 16, 2020, 4:37 am

(Nov 16, 2020 04:54 AM)MostaqIGigs Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) whats the most that you are missing (or anyone can miss) at this point in you journey?

Strangely enough, nothing. I think I'm unable to feel feelings.

(Nov 16, 2020 05:02 AM)Wespa Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) What was the biggest challenge you had to overcome?

Do you have any pics from inside the van?In summer? Space.

In winter? solar power

I can try to get some

(Nov 16, 2020 05:33 AM)OBAMASELF Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Would you recommend someone going to a Van life for 6 months?

Yes

Rezon ® - November 16, 2020, 5:58 am

That's a nice camera shot, what you using?

TheGoobr - November 16, 2020, 6:03 am

How/where did you store your food? Did you have some sort of refrigerator?

FlashyBeach - November 16, 2020, 6:10 am

(Nov 16, 2020 06:58 AM)Rezon ® Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) That's a nice camera shot, what you using?
5D Mkii + 16-35mm f/2.8 L

(Nov 16, 2020 07:03 AM)TheGoubr Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) How/where did you store your food? Did you have some sort of refrigerator?

Yes, a 44 litre 12v refrigerator powered via my solar panel :)

Rezon ® - November 16, 2020, 6:11 am

(Nov 16, 2020 07:10 AM)FlashyBeach Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) 5D Mkii + 16-35mm f/2.8 L
Nice, looks ace mate. I know a good bit if equipment when I see pics like this.

Deany - November 16, 2020, 6:11 am

Sounds kinda comfy actually
I want to live in a cabin in the middle of nowhere

FlashyBeach - November 16, 2020, 6:19 am

(Nov 16, 2020 07:11 AM)Rezon ® Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Nice, looks ace mate. I know a good bit if equipment when I see pics like this.
Cheers, dude!

(Nov 16, 2020 07:11 AM)Deany Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Sounds kinda comfy actually
I want to live in a cabin in the middle of nowhere
It was pretty great until I crashed my bike and broke my collarbone, and then winter came and it was always cold/wet. Also wanna do the cabin life!

A + - November 16, 2020, 6:23 am

That doesn't sound too bad actually. Would you do it again just to disconnect from society?

Btw best of luck with the job. Start calling places back or showing up where you put an application in. That usually shows people that you want to work and they're more likely to hire you (at least where I live).

jzander - November 16, 2020, 8:33 am

Good luck to you man. And that's a cool pic.

siddy357 - November 16, 2020, 5:27 pm

Now i am kind of confused you are complaining on missing the best view or now living in a room.

Yanix - November 16, 2020, 5:47 pm

If you are getting to used of it I don't see anything wrong with that as long as you are happy and living peacefully but I know somehow having your own house is a much more comfortable than living on a van.

Hoping in the coming months you can able to get back on track and have a house for your shelter.
All the best for you. God bless.

Black Whale - November 16, 2020, 5:57 pm

How many bitches did you get in the van? How many miles travelled total during Covid? Computer setup?

Artisan - November 16, 2020, 6:10 pm

Thats a killer view right there. Good times will come mate. The shitty apartment will be your stepping stone to greatness.

Omniscient - November 16, 2020, 6:25 pm

Which was harder? Living on the road or living in a very small space?

I ask because I have considered living in an RV and traveling.

Lindros - November 16, 2020, 6:37 pm

You're actually doing something that a lot of people dream of doing. Only ideally you do it with a good mobile income and bank fat stacks.

FlashyBeach - November 17, 2020, 2:25 am

(Nov 16, 2020 07:23 AM)A + Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) That doesn't sound too bad actually. Would you do it again just to disconnect from society?

Btw best of luck with the job. Start calling places back or showing up where you put an application in. That usually shows people that you want to work and they're more likely to hire you (at least where I live).

I want to build a bigger/better van and possibly do this again in a much more comfortable setup with a lot more power :) alternatively, I would like a cabin or "tiny home" with some land that costs me like \$30k tops. Small house + big warehouse means I sleep/live comfortably but still have space to play, lift weights, weld cars, etc.

(Nov 16, 2020 09:33 AM)jzander Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Good luck to you man. And that's a cool pic. Cheers bro!

(Nov 16, 2020 06:27 PM)siddy357 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Now i am kind of confused you are complaining on missing the best view or now living in a room. Just complaining about jobs taking forever to pan out

(Nov 16, 2020 06:47 PM)Yanix Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) If you are getting to used of it I don't see anything wrong with that as long as you are happy and living peacefully but I know somehow having your own house is a much more comfortable than living on a van.

Hoping in the coming months you can able to get back on track and have a house for your shelter. All the best for you. God bless. Cheers, bro!

(Nov 16, 2020 06:57 PM)Black Whale Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) How many bitches did you get in the van? How many miles travelled total during Covid? Computer setup?

0 bitches, did a monk mode few months. About 5000 miles all around the south of Norway.

I had fast 4g internet anywhere I went except for some very isolated valleys :)

(Nov 16, 2020 07:10 PM)Artisan Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Thats a killer view right there. Good times will come mate. The shitty apartment will be your stepping stone to greatness. Cheers bro, hope so!

(Nov 16, 2020 07:25 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Which was harder? Living on the road or living in a very small space?

I ask because I have considered living in an RV and traveling.

The small space, and the fact that humans are addicted to energy. I want to build a new one with a much larger battery bank and capacity to stay offgrid longer even in winter. This one was full offgrid ready, but without sun I had to choose if I wanted power for the computer or for the heater. Which isn't ideal if I had a remote job in software, for example.

(Nov 16, 2020 07:37 PM)Lindros Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You're actually doing something that a lot of people dream of doing. Only ideally you do it with a good mobile income and bank fat stacks. Yeah, I would

like to do it again with a remote job, although I find it hard to actually do work and not just go play outside all day :)

siddy357 - November 17, 2020, 2:27 am

Hope the hiring gets started again.

Rezon ® - November 17, 2020, 2:28 am

Glad your still having fun.

False King - November 17, 2020, 4:41 am

So out of curiosity (also based on your replies), were you forced into living in your van, or was it a conscious choice to do this, because you were already planning on doing so?

FlashyBeach - November 17, 2020, 4:58 am

(Nov 17, 2020 05:41 AM)Wessel Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) So out of curiosity (also based on your replies), were you forced into living in your van, or was it a conscious choice to do this, because you were already planning on doing so?

I was planning on doing so, but at the time I moved into it, I also didn't have a choice. So basically the choices I had were what I wanted to do anyway. Not terrible.

I have a piano in it:

Although this is when I used it for camping, before I moved in, so it's much cleaner.

False King - November 17, 2020, 5:01 am

(Nov 17, 2020 05:58 AM)FlashyBeach Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I was planning on doing so, but at the time I moved into it, I also didn't have a choice. So basically the choices I had were what I wanted to do anyway. Not terrible.

I have a piano in it:

Although this is when I used it for camping, before I moved in, so it's much cleaner.

That actually looks really cool. I guess in a way, you've been able to make a dream into a reality during shitty times. Talking about "when life gives you lemons".

Another question, how are you handling hygiene? Like, going to the toilet, having a shower, all that kind of stuff.

FlashyBeach - November 17, 2020, 5:06 am

(Nov 17, 2020 06:01 AM)Wessel Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) That actually looks really cool. I guess in a way, you've been able to make a dream into a reality during shitty times. Talking about "when life gives you lemons".

Another question, how are you handling hygiene? Like, going to the toilet, having a shower, all that kind of stuff.

Great question! I have a small portable toilet in the van for emergencies, but otherwise I just shit in the woods. I showered outside in cold ass lakes/rivers(it's Norway, and it snowed a few times in July/August), but made sure the soapy water wasn't poured back into the lake. In summer it's totally doable, but in winter it starts to get cold.

My last river shower was on a snowy day. I can handle it, but it's far from comfortable.

L1ON - November 17, 2020, 5:06 am

This is literally my dream bro. The idea of living out of a van with the basics, being able to pack when you want and travel to wherever you want.

I'm thinking of doing this over the couple of years. Is there any advice you can give me?

FlashyBeach - November 17, 2020, 5:09 am

(Nov 17, 2020 06:06 AM)The Lion King Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) This is literally my dream bro. The idea of living out of a van with the basics, being able to pack when you want and travel to wherever you want.

I'm thinking of doing this over the couple of years. Is there any advice you can give me?
Make sure you get plenty of ventilation or you WILL get mold.

Don't be afraid to spend good money on good batteries. A guy I know has over 5000 dollars just in lithium batteries that can provide serious power.

Stay away from cities if possible, this is a lot more fun in the woods/mountains.

There are a few fb groups about this lifestyle, it's quite popular and a lot of fun!

Goku - November 17, 2020, 5:30 am

Yo [FlashyBeach](#) ,

That view looks beautiful. I'm sure it's cold at night but I would enjoy it so much.

The Amazing Sinner - November 17, 2020, 5:37 am

I have always wanted to go on an adventure like this. How much would a decent van cost you?

\$!uo2H%gE# - November 17, 2020, 10:24 am

Oh, man. I am a mountain climber. I live for moments like that. That Vivaro is yours or?

(Nov 16, 2020 07:25 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Which was harder? Living on the road or living in a very small space?

I ask because I have considered living in an RV and traveling.
Be honest, something like this? ?

Omniscient - November 17, 2020, 11:16 am

I'd rather find a used low-budget trailer instead of living in the van.

Searching on Craigslist you can find a ton of reasonably priced options for mobile living.

Alex The Guru - November 17, 2020, 12:09 pm

That looks like some great scenery. Nice going!

jecoylecroy - November 17, 2020, 9:36 pm

Where did you take a bath? Did you take a bath every day?

FlashyBeach - November 18, 2020, 12:59 am

(Nov 17, 2020 06:30 AM)Goku Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Yo [FlashyBeach](#) ,

That view looks beautiful. I'm sure it's cold at night but I would enjoy it so much.
I have a pretty good heater, but I turn it off at night, so it's just pretty cold in the morning, sometimes below freezing ? but it warms up fast when I turn the heater on.

(Nov 17, 2020 06:37 AM)The Amazing Sinner Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I have always wanted to go on an adventure like this. How much would a decent van cost you?

My van was \$3500, and I spent about \$2000 on converting it, some people do it for much less, others for much more.

(Nov 17, 2020 11:24 AM)'Ndrangheta Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Oh, man. I am a mountain climber. I live for moments like that. That Vivaro is yours or?

Yes sir! I'm a mountain biker and there was a YT jeffsy in the back:

(Nov 17, 2020 01:09 PM)Alex The Guru Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) That looks like some great scenery. Nice going!Cheers bro!

(Nov 17, 2020 10:36 PM)jecoylecoy Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Where did you take a bath? Did you take a bath every day?Lakes/rivers. If I was active I would take a bath, otherwise, you don't need to shower every day. If you're by cities you can use gyms, but the thing about vanlife is that if you're in the woods, it's glamping, and if you're in the city, you're basically homeless ?

Jinu - November 18, 2020, 1:24 am

That was an awesome shot and a serene place. I wish to be live like that with some amount of earning. My status of living is worse than you.

jecoylecoy - November 18, 2020, 4:04 pm

(Nov 18, 2020 01:59 AM)FlashyBeach Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Lakes/rivers. If I was active I would take a bath, otherwise, you don't need to shower every day. If you're by cities you can use gyms, but the thing about vanlife is that if you're in the woods, it's glamping, and if you're in the city, you're basically homeless ?

I can't imagine living alone in the woods. I hope you can get a good job with a high salary my friend.

Zeus - November 18, 2020, 4:31 pm

Looks like a nice van maybe i can join you!

runner - November 19, 2020, 5:09 pm

Can you charge your van with a \$5000 battery as an electric car?

Psilocybinaut - November 25, 2020, 9:45 pm

Did you hunt for food? What survival skills do you know? Did you eat snake? Was it really cold at night ?

FlashyBeach - November 26, 2020, 12:46 am

(Nov 25, 2020 10:45 PM)Psilocybinaut Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Did you hunt for food? What survival skills do you know? Did you eat snake? Was it really cold at night ?

I fished a lot.

Hmm I can handle myself quite well, but van camping is quite "Luxurious", I have a heater and electricity...

Never tried snaked.

Some nights yes, we got below freezing even in summer.

Lyrarei - November 26, 2020, 2:55 am

Sounds fun, what kind of solar panels and batteries are you using? or are you also using your van to get a bit of energy? regardless, stay safe out there man, especially with the weather there.

?roye - November 26, 2020, 2:58 am

That's pretty cool, I always wanted to own an RV and take road trips with my loved ones. Though I do not own an RV nor do I have someone I love.

Proxies.tv - November 26, 2020, 10:34 am

Op you are living a hippies dream! The child molesting van, the solar power clean green, and the open road. :)

FlashyBeach - November 26, 2020, 11:41 am

(Nov 26, 2020 03:55 AM)Lyrarei Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Sounds fun, what kind of solar panels and batteries are you using? or are you also using your van to get a bit of energy? regardless, stay safe out there man, especially with the weather there.

I had a super small/simple setup with a 160 watt panel + 105Ah lead-acid battery, and a 300 watt pure sinewave inverter. It also charges when the engine is on as I hooked it up to the alternator. Now I'm in a house :)

(Nov 26, 2020 03:58 AM)?roye Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) That's pretty cool, I always wanted to own an RV and take road trips with my loved ones. Though I do not own an RV nor do I have someone I love.
?

(Nov 26, 2020 11:34 AM)RNS 4G Networks Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Op you are living a hippies dream! The child molesting van, the solar power clean green, and the open road. :)
Hopefully the clean solar offsets my diesel burning ?

Malthemar - November 26, 2020, 11:50 am

I am so, incredibly envious of you, OP.

Retired Entrepreneur - November 26, 2020, 12:19 pm

Show us pics from the inside of your van.

?roye - November 27, 2020, 4:59 am

(Nov 26, 2020 10:53 AM)James Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) how depressing ey
mhm :(

Snapbytes - November 27, 2020, 5:02 am

Where do you take a shit or take your shower? How do you manage to do it and what about your daily food?

Aredsa - November 29, 2024, 12:58 am

ur still homeless bro? let me know...