

# The Traveling Nature Photographer Blog – Traveling by Vehicle

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Part of the issues with being a traveling photographer/journalist is that there is so much to see and do. I travel by roads and not the sky. Many ask why and to me that is an easy question to answer. Can you see a black bear cub up-close or baby owls from the seat on an airplane? Many will counter with you can fly there and then rent a car and go see them. To a point that is valid however it does nothing to address the thousands if not hundreds of thousands of images, I have taken by finding places not on the normal path and certainly not on the average person's radar.

It is all perspective and how you see things. I want to see the horses in Arkansas in the early morning fog especially the lone white old one that was in its last few days according to the farmer who owned him. He came up to the fence like saying goodbye and wanting a photo taken so people could remember him. I did so and now his image is online. I meet some of the best people on the road and in the campgrounds. Some have looked at the images of the young models. I met them in an out-of-the-way campground. The ability to be on private property in eastern Tennessee is from a chance meeting in an out-of-the-way store. None of these would have happened if I had flown.

I see a photographer that flies everywhere as more of a picture taker than a true photographer. That is my personal opinion and many will disagree. I think the backstory is just as important as the final image. Some images I have gotten took weeks to get. The backstory is as interesting and important as the image. People want to know how did you get that shot and why the time and effort of a snapshot. If I fly to a place it is a severe hassle. Time and money are at a premium in my work. The backstory if I flew is I went to the airport, took a plane rented a car took the shot, and went home. Driving it can be quite amazing. I drove to where the photograph was to be taken. On the way, I met a mom and 4 kids living in a minivan in a campground and forest. The story is continuing as their modeling careers are now in process. I had to leave to finish my work and take the image I was supposed to take. Flying I would never have met them. I would have not been able to help them at least explore a modeling career.

The idea of not meeting these groups of people and seeing what I have been privileged to see is not something I relish. I understand others feel differently it does not mean I am wrong and they right nor does it mean I am right and they are wrong. It means we all see and experience things differently.