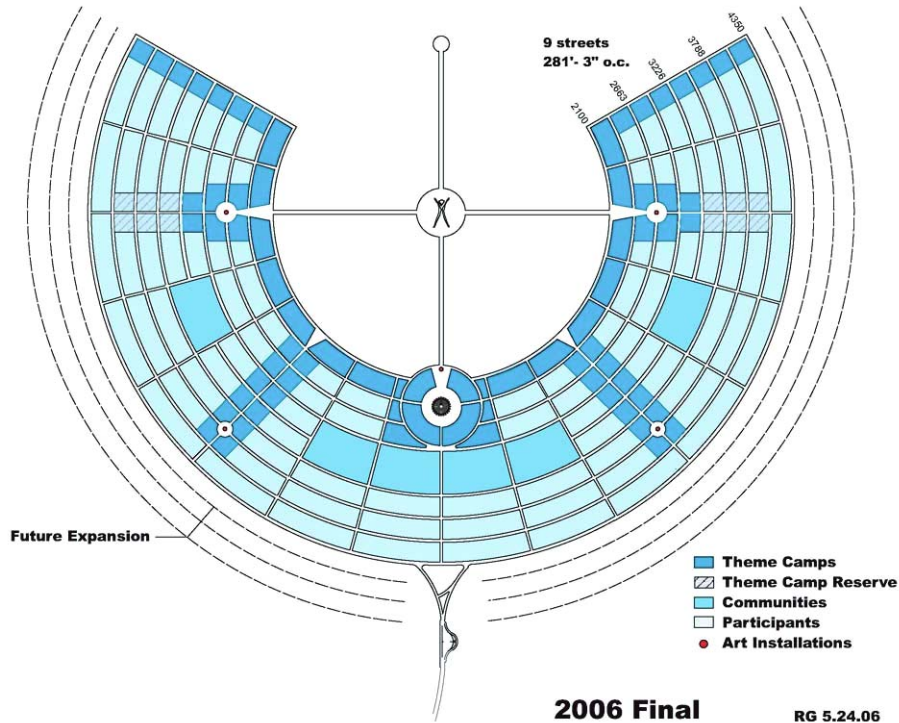


## Camping Options - Camping Tips

There are many options & choices open to you for **Camping @ Burning Man**. Though to understand what those options are we should first take a look at the Layout of **Black Rock City**.



The layout of **Black Rock City** is in a semi-circle from **2:00 - 10:00** and includes nine **Radial streets** from the **Inner circle (The Esplanade)** outward, with each street being approx **200** feet deep. The city encompasses about **five-square miles**.

The areas outlined in **Dark Blue** are designated to **Registered Theme Camps**, with the areas of **10:00 & 2:00** designated as **Large Scale Sound Art...i.e. VERY LOUD MUSIC**. The rest of the space is open to be claimed by anyone on a *First-Come-First Land grab* basis.

**Registered Theme Camps** must submit a '**Theme Camp Questionnaire**' to the Burning Man Organization by July 1st. This allows the BMORG to know how much area they need to set aside for Theme Camps on the Map, Make sure all camps are conforming to LNT efforts, knowing what kind of Art is expected to be transported to the Playa (Shooting Fire, Art to be burned)

---From the BM website---

Theme Camp concepts represent a wide variety of ideas and activities, from the sublime to the ridiculous. They offer interactive experiences to the participants of Black Rock City, like applying for and receiving a BRC passport, posing for a portrait,

## Camping Options - Camping Tips

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getting or giving a foot massage (or a good spankin'), searching for a soul mate, bouncing on a trampoline, or getting a fashion makeover, a shampoo, or a custom shave. As you can see, the possibilities are virtually limitless. A Theme Camp is a special camping experience that usually involves coordination, patience, teamwork, and a sense of playful adventure.

A Theme Camp must be participatory in some way to the citizens of Black Rock City. Having just a '**Chill Space**' is not considered interactive, though having a **Chill Space** and getting massaged or your hair washed is as you can see interactive.

A Theme Camp must abide by some Rules & Regs from the BMORG and can be found @

### **Theme Camp Criteria**

Camping as part of a Theme Camp can provide some advantages over camping by yourself or with a non-organized group.

Most Theme Camps have a Yahoo Group or web site or some other online communication tool to allow everyone to get to know each other and share ideas. It will allow all who are going to camp within its bounds to see who is bringing what like Shade, Food, Kitchen supplies and water. This will allow people to bring only what is necessary and duplication can be eliminated. Remember everything you take to the Playa; however it is consumed must be transported off the Playa as well, by YOU.

Remember the **BRC Map**? Theme Camps get '**Placed**' on the Map and have a Known address on the Playa, they are also printed in the **Who, What, Where, When** pamphlet that you will receive at the Greeters Station.

The Theme camp will undoubtedly be a place of *higher traffic* as Playa Citizens interact with the camps

Art or Activities, giving you additional opportunities to meet new people.

Theme Camps are as well placed closer to Center Camp which is important cause that is where you buy ice...

Camping within a Theme Camp will usually require you to be part of and participate in planned Theme Camp activities and otherwise be available to help whenever things need to be done. Of course this participation level or requirement will vary from Theme Camp to Theme Camp.

Theme Camps may also offer a Meal Plan that you can participate in and be part of. Either bringing food for your campmates, preparing food and the inevitable Clean-up...Again this all will vary per Theme Camp.

### Camping within a Village.....

---From the BM website---

The concept of a village spontaneously emerged from the experiences of participants that have come to the event in the past. Friends camped together, perhaps working on a theme camp, and in the process they met other camps and decided to form a group the following year. They embraced each other's ideas and, as other participants passed through, they too were brought into the fold. Strong friendships were formed, future plans and commitments were made, and as a result, these communal groupings over the years have prospered. We can now expect each village to contain a great number of theme camps, venues for entertainment, individual living quarters, a central meeting area, public art, communal eating arrangements, and above all, a willingness to welcome and embrace everyone that ventures into their domain. A village is, in fact, a micro-model of "community" within the larger macrocosm of Burning Man. A village citizen's duty has grown from a communal commitment to a civic commitment: Offering gathering areas, help, entertainment and information to those who enter the space.

Because of the massive amounts of coordination that must take place between **'multiple'** camps to form a Village, there are only a handful of them on the Playa.

In '05 there were seven main Villages: (The Conglomerate, Shangri-La, Infinite Oasis, Alternative Energy Zone village, Gigsville, Hushville, Snowflake) out of 477 Theme Camps placed.

A listing of all **Theme Camps & Villages** that have been registered for '05 can be found @ [Theme Camps | Villages '06](#)

With all that talk about camping within a **Theme Camp or a Village**, there is nothing wrong with camping by yourself or with a small group of friends. When you get to the Playa you will see **'Marked'** space as **Open Camping**. Find a nice spot, claim some space (Of course only take what space you 'Really' need) and start to set up camp. As I said there will be designated area as Open Camping and all Theme Camp space will be marked.

If you arrive on the **Playa After Dark**, just park your vehicle just inside the city and wait till first light to get things started. It is much easier to start to setup camp during daylight hours.

## Camping Options - Camping Tips

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If you are camping with a Theme Camp or people you are camping with are already there be careful while driving through the city as setup time means there are a multitudes of pieces of structures strewn across large expanses of the Playa. Be careful as you drive around....**SLOW DOWN 5mph PLEASE!!!**

If you are the First to arrive from your group...Have some pre-agreed upon thingamajig that will serve as a beacon for persons trying to find you in Open Camping...(Flag, Wind Sock...ect)

### **Camping Tips: Rebar, Tent Pegs, Building Things, Keeping things Organized**

No matter what you use for stakes, cover the tops to protect the humans at Burning Man. There are more injuries on the playa from rebar stakes than any other type of injury! Save our feet; save your feet!

Bend the top of the rebar. One way is to heat and bend. Another method is to get two long pipes and use leverage. Slide the rebar inside one pipe, leaving about 5 inches of rebar sticking out. Slide the other pipe over the exposed rebar end. One person stands on the 'long' end, while another bends the short end by pulling up on that pipe. Be careful: don't hurt yourself.

### **BRING YOUR REBAR TO THE 5TH ANNUAL REBAR BENDER AUGUST 7TH**

Small stuffed animals from the thrift shop are wonderful for covering the tops of your stakes: use zipties to anchor them in place. You can reuse the same stuffed animals year after year. They love the trip to the playa!

You can also use plastic soda bottles or tennis balls on the top of your stakes. Pounding the stakes all the way down to the ground also minimizes their injury potential. Add flagging to your stakes and ropes to mark them in the daytime and lights to mark them at night.

Make your camp safe for yourself and others: don't let your camp be Camp Hazard!

### **Burning Man Rebar 101:**

#### Rebar 101

Keep your structure from blowing away by using long, sturdy stakes to anchor it to the playa. Wimpy 8inch tent stakes won't work in a windstorm.

Match your stakes with the size of the shelter you will anchor: large structures need large stakes! Extra long or wide-profile stakes (like sand hog stakes) might work for some applications. Be aware that it takes a \*sturdy\* stake to impale the playa: lightweight aluminum ones will just bend!

## Camping Options - Camping Tips

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The angle of your stake and rope determines how well it holds in the playa.

You may have trouble getting your stakes back out of the playa. Try pouring a little water around them, then rotating with vice grips. Or get a 'stake puller' tool for added leverage.

What ever you do, **DON'T LEAVE YOUR STAKES IN THE PLAYA!**

### **Stake Pullers**

[Stake Pullers More Stake Pullers Even More Stake Pullers](#)

### **Managing your vehicle's keys at Burning Man - There will be NO locksmith service On-Playa**

### **Shelter**

Shelter should protect you from the weather: sun, radiant heat, wind, dust and maybe even rain. Shelter also provides privacy, security and storage for your belongings.

Shelter creates functional space for your playa activities: food preparation and storage, dining, socializing, sleeping, clothes changing, and showering.

It's easy to 'get carried away' with ideas for building shelter. Remember that you \*do\* have some constraints about how large and how complex a shelter you can build.

To some extent, the size of your shelter is limited by your ability to transport the pieces to the playa. A fairly large shelter can be made with lightweight, easy-to-transport parts, but be careful not to overload your vehicle.

Keep your shelter simple. Don't overestimate your level of interest in 'shelter building'. The playa has many distractions: you may not want to spend days erecting a large, complex structure. You want to have time to play, eh? Plan your shelter so that it does not exceed the time, effort, and skills of the humans who will build it.

You've heard the warnings about the weather. They are \*not\* exaggerated. Anchor your shelter well. Here is 'the word' from the official Burning Man site:

[Securing your structure on the Playa](#)

### **Setting up camp - Arranging your space**

Building your camp with some organized concept in mind will help you enjoy yourself on the playa. You don't want to spend hours trying to find stuff. But don't be so inflexible that you have to spend hours organizing your stuff! (Bringing less stuff is helpful here)

## Camping Options - Camping Tips

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Divide up your camp space into areas with designated purposes. Put things back in the same place every time after you use them. This way you'll at least have some idea where to look for things.

Almost all camps have a multi-purpose space that gets used for sitting, socializing, eating, and resting. All you need is a few chairs and maybe a small table. Let's call this room "the parlor".

What about food preparation and/or food storage? You can have a large elaborate set up or something simple. You will want space for your coolers that is protected from the sun.

Make your vehicle part of your camp. Use it for theft-protected, 'low dust' storage. Position the vehicle doors for easy access from the rest of your camp. Your vehicle can also be a small space for social activities like safety meetings or good shelter during dust storms. A vehicle can also provide a windbreak: park it on the windward side of camp.

Zip Lock bags of all sizes on the Playa will help you better manage your belongings as well as keep them as dust free as possible.

Face your entrance E/NE as much as possible. It cuts down on dust in your living/sleeping area and in general creates "living space" more sheltered from the prevailing winds.