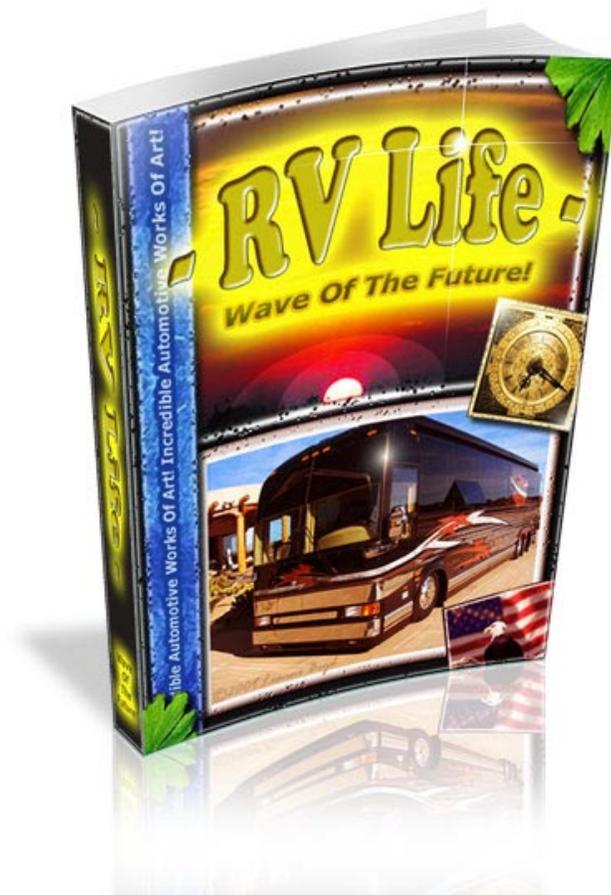


RV Life – Wave Of The Future!

Incredible Automotive Works Of Art!



The Legal Stuff

Legal Notice: The author and publisher of this Ebook and the accompanying materials have used their best efforts in preparing this Ebook. The author and publisher make no representation or warranties with respect to the accuracy, applicability, fitness, or completeness of the contents of this Ebook. The information contained in this Ebook is strictly for educational purposes. Therefore, if you wish to apply ideas contained in this Ebook, you are taking full responsibility for your actions.

The author and publisher disclaim any warranties (express or implied), merchantability, or fitness for any particular purpose. The author and publisher shall in no event be held liable to any party for any direct, indirect, punitive, special, incidental or other consequential damages arising directly or indirectly from any use of this material, which is provided "as is," and without warranties.

As always, the advice of a competent legal, tax, accounting or other professional should be sought. The author and publisher do not warrant the performance, effectiveness or applicability of any sites listed or linked to in this Ebook. All links are for information purposes only and are not warranted for content, accuracy or any other implied or explicit purpose.



He who strives for the pot of gold at the base of the rainbow finds himself alone in the gathering dusk after the rainbow disappears, miles from home, feeling foolish, having to walk home in the dark. ~ Glenn Carson

Copyright ©2009 –ALL RIGHTS RESERVED



Table Of Contents

Contents

The Book’s Cover	1
The Legal Stuff.....	3
Table Of Contents	4
Chapter 1: Recreational Vehicle (RV) Sales On The Rise.....	7
Let’s Define “Recreational Vehicle”	7
A Bit Of History For “Recreational Vehicle”	8
As The Baby Boomers Retire, The Recreational Vehicle Industry Has Seen An Upsurge In Sales	8
RV Travelers Realize The Cost Savings Of This Type Of Travel.....	9
Many RV Travelers Come To Love The Freedom Of The Open Road And The Easy Care Lifestyle	10
A Well-Known Fact In The RV Community Is The Free Camping At Walmart.....	10
Chapter 2: Go RVing! You Will Love The Freedom That RVing Lets You Have!	11
RVing Is A Great Way To See America	11
RVing Is Traveling In Your Home On Wheels	11
RVing Is Not Limited To America – RV The World!	12
The Greatest Thing About RVing Is Being Able To Stop When You Want To	12
Traveling With Children Or Pets.....	13
Chapter 3: Buying An RV – Take Some Advice	14
Buying An RV Is An Important Decision And Something The Whole Family Needs To Be Involved In..	14
Look Before You Leap	14
Will Owning An RV Work For You?	15
So, What Do You Look For When Renting An RV?	16
What About The Size Of Your RV, From Small To Large?.....	16
It’s Mostly Just Commonsense.....	17
Chapter 4: “RV” Can Mean A Lot Of Things – Which One Is Right For You?.....	18
Motorhomes – Usually Summed Up As “Winnebago”	18
Get Historic! Van Conversions & Volkswagen Campervan Models	19
Other Recreational Vehicles Are Better Suited To Temporary Arrangements, Not Full-Time Living	19
Chapter 5: Motorhome Ownership – All The Comforts Of Home	20
Type A, Or Recreational Vehicle	20
A Type B Motorhome Category Includes Van Campers And Travel Trailers.....	21
Do Your Homework.....	24
Don’t Take The First Deal That You Are Offered!	24
Chapter 6: Types Of Motorhomes	25
Type C Motorhomes Are Often Called Mini-Motorhomes	25
The 5th Wheel.....	26
Inexpensive Option – The Truck Camper	26
Truck Campers Are The Most Versatile Form Of Recreational Vehicle	27
Truck Campers Continue To Be Most Popular In The Western United States And Canada	27
Pop Ups – A Tent On Wheels	28
Making Your Decision	28
Chapter 7: Finding The Best Motorhomes For Sale	29



More Info About RV Classes..... 29

Class A Motorhomes Are Considered To Be Top Of The Line 29

Class A Motorhomes Come With Any Of The Luxury Amenities You Can Fathom 30

This Is Just The Tip Of The Iceberg – In Fact, Some Of These Class A Motorhomes Can Be More
Elaborate Than Homes Themselves..... 30

Last, But Not Least, Are Class C Motorhomes..... 32

The Magic Of The “Slide-Out” 33

Class B – The “Van Conversion” 33

Chapter 8: RV Loan Calculators To Help With Your RV Purchase 34

 Be Prepared With Specific Info 35

 How To Use An RV Loan Calculator..... 36

Chapter 9: An Informative Review Of RV Insurance Companies 37

 Gilbert RV Insurance 37

 RV America Insurance 38

 Progressive RV Insurance..... 38

 Good Sam RV Insurance..... 38

Chapter 10: No Need To Buy An RV When Hiring One Is Possible 39

 Say You Want To Tour The Country? See The Highways And Byways, And The Small Towns And Rural
 Roads Of America! 39

 So Don’t Buy An RV – Hire One Instead!..... 39

 Consider The Savings! 39

 See Your Chosen Destination At Your Own Pace..... 40

Chapter 11: Reserving That RV Space 41

 Traveling In An RV Is Not All A Bed Of Roses 41

 Reservations – A Good Habit To Get In To..... 41

 But It Still Doesn’t Hurt To Call Ahead!..... 42

Chapter 12: Camping In An RV For Fun And Pleasure 43

 The Ultimate Camping Adventure 43

 1. Truck Campers – Basic But Comfy..... 43

 2. Next, There Are Van Conversions Called Class B Motorhomes 44

 3. Next Up Is The Class C Motorhome 44

 4. The Next Step Up Is The Class A Motorhome 44

 5. The Trailers..... 44

 You Can Buy New Or Used 45

Chapter 13: Family And Holiday Fun On An RV Road Trip 46

 Road Trip + Vacation = Great Fun!..... 46

 Great Traveling For The Kids!..... 47

 Cutting Costs 47

 Many Scenic Places You And Your Family Can Experience Along The Way To Your Ultimate
 Destination..... 48

 Yellowstone And Yosemite National Parks Are Popular Vacation Spots For RVing Families..... 48

Chapter 14: Fulltime RV Living – Choosing The Best Mobile Accommodation..... 49

 At The Budget End 49

 And For The Rest Of Us... 50

 The Popular Options Among Nomadic Travelers Today 50

 Tent 50

 Tent Trailer..... 51

 Camper Trailer 51



Motorhome..... 52
Caravan 52
So What Do I Recommend? Well, Unfortunately There’s No Simple Answer!..... 53
Chapter 15: Be It Ever So Humble, There’s No Place Like A Motorhome RV 54
 A Mobile Living Space For Whoever Owns It 55
 A Motorhome RV Can Be Used As A Far Cheaper Alternative To An Actual House 56
Chapter 16: Alternative Transportation During Your RV Pit Stop..... 57
 Spread Your Wings And Take To The Open Road! ...Uh, Honey? Where’s The Gas Money? 57
 The Next Wave In Alternative Transportation 57
 What Is All Of The Talk About? Just Two Words – Electric Scooters 57
 If You Want To Save Money, Then Getting An Electric Scooter Is The Way To Go 58
 Easy To Store..... 58
 If Speed Is A Concern, Don’t Worry 58
 A World Of “Simple”! 59
 Toss In That Electric Scooter!..... 59
Chapter 17: Baby Boomers And RVs 60
 Since The Baby Boomers Have Hit Retirement Age, Things Have Really Exploded..... 60
 The Baby Boomers – You May As Well Enjoy It! 60
 The Get-It-Now Generation Certainly Has Kept The Economy Strong By Their Spending Habits 61
 RVs Are Getting Bigger And More Luxurious With Every New Model..... 61
 Home Away From Home Is What We Want 61
Chapter 18: Top 2 Reasons Why Motorhomes Are The Wave Of The Future..... 62
 Incredible Automotive Works Of Art 62
 1) Retirement 62
 2) Cheap Mobility..... 63
Imagination... And The Gift Of Time 64
Appendix A: Video – Bavaria Motorhome By Frankia..... 65
Appendix B: A Bit Of History For “Recreational Vehicle” 66
 A Bit Of History For “Recreational Vehicle” 66
Appendix C: Van Conversions & Volkswagen Campervan Models 68
 North America: Van Conversions..... 68
 Ford Econoline Van Conversion 68
 Volkswagen Campervan Models..... 69
 Historic Volkswagen Camper 70



RV Life – Wave Of The Future! *Incredible Automotive Works Of Art!*

Chapter 1: Recreational Vehicle (RV) Sales On The Rise

Let's Define "Recreational Vehicle"

In [North America](#) the term **recreational vehicle**, and its acronym **RV**, are generally used to refer to a vehicle equipped with living space and amenities found in a home. A **Recreational Vehicle** normally includes a kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and a living room.

RVs are intended for everything from brief leisure activities such as [vacations](#) and [camping](#), to full-time living, for which they are often parked in special [trailer parks](#). (However, many trailer parks are reserved just for [mobile homes](#), not to be confused with RVs/motorhomes.) RVs can also be rented in most major cities and tourist areas.

Furthermore, they are occasionally used as [mobile offices](#) for business travelers and often include customizations such as extra desk space, an upgraded electrical system, a generator, and satellite Internet. (See [Appendix A](#))



[A Bit Of History For “Recreational Vehicle”](#)



A minimal RV typically contains beds, a table, food preparation and storage areas. Larger models add full bathrooms, refrigerators, living areas, master bedrooms, etc. Some RVs are very elaborate, with satellite TV and Internet access, slide-out sections, and awnings, and either storing a small car inside it, or providing the option of towing it behind the RV.

RVs can cost (new) from less than US\$10,000 to \$1,500,000 or more. Very high-end Class A motorhomes, for example, can cost between US\$100,000 to \$650,000 new. [Cool Amphibious Manufacturers International](#) makes the **Terra Wind** – an amphibious Class A RV which costs between \$850,000 and \$1.2 million. In 2006, **Featherlite Luxury Coaches**

debuted the **Featherlite Vantare Platinum Plus**, a motorhome featuring marble floors, a built-in treadmill, and other luxury features valued at US\$2.5 million.

Some people craft their own RVs out of cars, vans, school buses, and buses.

(Also see [Appendix B](#))

[As The Baby Boomers Retire, The Recreational Vehicle Industry Has Seen An Upsurge In Sales](#)

For many people, nothing measures up to the independence and flexibility of enjoying the open road in a recreational vehicle (RV). There is certainly much to be said for taking your hotel with you wherever you go, and the savings on hotel costs can more than pay for the initial cost of an RV.



RV Travelers Realize The Cost Savings Of This Type Of Travel

There are no hotel rooms to book and dining in your RV can save an enormous amount of money compared to eating in restaurants every day.



Owning a fifth wheel or travel trailer, where you can unhook your RV from your truck, saves you from having to book a rental car. For those in motorhomes, many travelers will tow a vehicle behind them.

When considering the purchase of a recreational vehicle, you will be faced with three choices:

- ◆ A fifth wheel which is pulled by a pickup truck and attaches to a wheel inside the truck box (hence its name fifth wheel).
- ◆ A travel trailer which is usually pulled by a truck with a rear hitch.
- ◆ A motorhome.

All three types of RVs have their pros and cons, and each point will need to be considered, based upon your needs and your budget.

Another consideration for the RV lifestyle is the price of gas. However, it is still more economical than staying in hotels and eating at restaurants every night.

Traveling in a recreational vehicle or motorhome is often a good choice for those who want to travel to different locations; however, it may be less suited to those who visit the same location year after year. Travelers who visit the same location every year may find it more economical to buy a vacation home. Buying a vacation home, and renting it out when it is not being used, can be a good way to both save money on lodging and build equity for the future.

Many RV Travelers Come To Love The Freedom Of The Open Road And The Easy Care Lifestyle

Traveling cross-country and stopping at various parks along the way is a wonderful adventure. The traveler can choose to stay a day or as long as they want at a particular location.

A Well-Known Fact In The RV Community Is The Free Camping At Walmart

In most states, you are allowed to camp in a Walmart's parking lot for as long as you like. I am sure you have seen recreational vehicles lined up in Walmart's parking lot at least on one occasion.

This is a win-win situation for the traveler and Walmart. The traveler has a well-lit place to camp for the night, at no cost, and Walmart receives income from those RV owners who frequent the store.

However, recently there has been an uprising among campground owners against Walmart's free camping policy. Therefore, it is well advised that you check with the local chamber of commerce before you decide to stay a week at Walmart.



Chapter 2: Go RVing! You Will Love The Freedom That RVing Lets You Have!

RVing Is A Great Way To See America

It's a way for families to be together, while continually learning about our great country.



I love to travel but I hate packing suitcases, eating out when other people want to, waiting for a table, and not knowing whether the food is good or bad.

RVing Is Traveling In Your Home On Wheels

- ◆ Eat what you want and when you want to.
- ◆ Don't get me wrong, I love to eat out if I know where I'm going and know what is on the menu.
- ◆ RVing also lets me sleep in my own bed at night.





[RVing Is Not Limited To America – RV The World!](#)

Exploring Canada or Mexico can be rewarding. If you are traveling abroad, you can rent an RV in most countries and see that country at your leisure.

Many countries, such as UK and Germany, have RV clubs, with tons of resources.

[The Greatest Thing About RVing Is Being Able To Stop When You Want To](#)

Often times my husband and I may drive about three or four hours, then stop and rest, eat a meal or snack, watch TV, or take a nap. There are lots of Rest Areas along your way.

I love the freedom that RVing lets me have. If we see a place we like, we stop and park and spend as much time there as we like – we have our “home on wheels” with us. Some amazing but simple comforts go a long way!

- ◆ It’s amazing how a 15 or 30 minute nap can rejuvenate you, so you can safely continue on your journey.
- ◆ Make a good cup of coffee and a snack and you are good to go.



As you have probably guessed, I am retired and living a mostly blissful “mobile” lifestyle, but if you are a typical family with job, kids, and the usual overfilled life... and have limited time... RVing is great! You can travel great distances in less time. So you can get to where you are going and spend most of your time there. And exploring the byways is a wonderful tactic for de-stressing!

Traveling With Children Or Pets

If you are traveling with children and or pets, then a rest area is a good place for them to run and play, so they are ready for the rest of the trip. If you are traveling in a motorhome, then they can watch TV or play video games while you are traveling, which makes their trip more enjoyable.



If RVing is new to you and you want to try it, a great place to start is to *rent* an RV – and follow the road where it takes you! Happy RVing!

Chapter 3: Buying An RV – Take Some Advice

“I fancy buying an RV, darling.”

“Ok Honey, go out and get one and we can spend all our vacation time in it, and have great fun.”

Wrong, very wrong.

Do *not* buy an RV if this is how you are thinking. Your RV will just be a waste of money.

Buying An RV Is An Important Decision And Something The Whole Family Needs To Be Involved In

An RV is also an investment, an investment in time and cost... but you will not see a profit on an RV – well, not in financial terms, but it can have a huge payback in terms of satisfaction and enjoyment – if you just rush out and buy an RV without giving it a lot of thought.

If you do rush in, then it could be, at best, an expensive waste of money, and an RV can be, at worst, a marriage breaker. I know, as I have seen it happen.

Look Before You Leap

When I was trading up to a larger and newer RV, my sister-in-law from Atlanta decided she was going to buy our old RV. The trouble was, it was *her* idea and not a joint family decision. She had been on vacation with me a few times and liked the lifestyle.



She thought it would be great for her daughter to spend more time in the countryside, but she never really considered if her husband wanted an RV.



He was the type who would choose a sports car to drive, without thinking of where his daughter was going to sit. He liked speed, acceleration, and easy maneuvering... *not* something you tend to find with an RV!

It lasted a few years with him being unhappy with all his vacations in the RV. He bumped into a few trucks and did some damage to the RV (which I had to repair), and was just generally unhappy with the whole idea of having a vacation in an RV.

It got to the stage of seriously damaging their marriage.

What went wrong? Well my sister-in-law did not sit down and really *think* about an RVer's lifestyle.

[Will Owning An RV Work For You?](#)

Think about it:

- ◆ RVs can be small, and they can be cramped compared to your house.
- ◆ RVs can be hard to drive.
- ◆ You can end up spending all your vacation just driving around.



What my sister-in-law should have done was to *rent* an RV first, to try things out. This way she could easily have seen if owning an RV was going to work for them.

So, What Do You Look For When Renting An RV?

Well, I would think the most important thing is the location where you will be using it. Pick the area you would like to vacation in, and then:

- ◆ Look for a reputable local RV rental service.
- ◆ Think about how you are going to get there:
 - Driving allows you to take more things with you than flying.
 - So, if you are flying, then you may need to make sure that you rent an RV that comes fully equipped, as some do not have things such as kitchen utensils in them – or towels and so on. (One solution is that many companies will supply these, but sometimes they come at a price.)

What About The Size Of Your RV, From Small To Large?

I suppose this depends on what you want to achieve. If you are a family, then you need a larger RV, and so on.

- ◆ Just make sure that everything you need is available, but remember this may mean extra rental cost.
- ◆ Do you want to tow a car behind your RV? Some companies will let you, some will not.
- ◆ If you are in a hire car, does the hire company allow it to be towed behind an RV?
- ◆ Is the RV you want to rent capable of towing a large car or only a small car?



- ◆ These questions could go on, but the best people to answer them are the folks at the RV rental company you are dealing with. They are the RV experts, so ask them.

It's Mostly Just Commonsense

I could go on with information like this, but truly, most of it is just commonsense.

- ◆ Think about where you are going to vacation in your RV.
- ◆ Think about how to get there.
- ◆ Think about your RV in terms of size.
- ◆ Think about the equipment you need for your RV.
- ◆ Think about pets in the RV if you have a pet.
- ◆ Think about whom to rent your RV from.
- ◆ Get several quotes from RV rental companies, and compare them.
- ◆ Read the fine detail to see what you get for the price, and what extra you need to spend.

Once you have done all this, pick a suitable RV to rent and a suitable company to rent your RV from, and then *JUST DO IT*.

Once you have tried renting an RV, you will then have a much better idea if being an RV owner is for you, and can then make the commitment to buy an RV.

Good luck and just enjoy it. I do!



Chapter 4: “RV” Can Mean A Lot Of Things – Which One Is Right For You?

The term “recreational vehicle” or RV usually calls to mind a motorhome, perhaps a Winnebago brand, specifically. It’s a large vehicle in which the living space and the driver’s seat are all part of the same structure, rather than having the “car” part towing the “living” part.

Many people, especially retirees, live in motorhomes full-time, touring the country and enjoying their mobile lifestyle. RV parks have sprouted up all over the country, offering traveling recreational vehicle enthusiasts a place to stop and rest, hook up to electrical posts, and even use the Internet.



But recreational vehicles come in many other shapes and sizes, too, and are still properly called RVs. Which one you buy depends on your needs.

Motorhomes – Usually Summed Up As “Winnebago”

The motorhome (commonly called a Winnebago even when it’s actually a different brand) is convenient because it offers reasonable living quarters, including places to sleep, to prepare food, and to use the bathroom. The driver is



not disconnected from his passengers; they're in the "back seat," as the living quarters are right behind him.

[Get Historic! Van Conversions & Volkswagen Campervan Models](#)

Volkswagen Campers were available from Volkswagen dealers throughout the world. Vehicles were also delivered via the Tourist Delivery Program where a new owner would pick up their new van in Germany and transport it back home, typically to the USA. Many Volkswagen campers were purchased by USA Servicemen and brought back to the USA in the 50s and 60s. (See [Appendix C](#))

[Other Recreational Vehicles Are Better Suited To Temporary Arrangements, Not Full-Time Living](#)

[A Simple Truck Camper](#)

The most basic kind of RV is a simple truck camper, where a shell is attached to the bed of a pickup truck. This is usually for day or weekend trips, with supplies in the covered bed of the truck. The shell can serve the same purpose as a tent would (protection and warmth), making it useful for outdoor camping, too.

[Fifth Wheel](#)

Also common is the "fifth wheel," a trailer that attaches to a pickup or medium-duty truck and is hauled that way. A fifth wheel is similar to a motorhome, except that the living quarters are separate from the vehicle. This means the driver cannot communicate directly with people in the trailer unless it's by walkie-talkie or cell phone. Fifth wheels are generally not as comfortable as motorhomes, either, and therefore are most useful for relatively short road trips and sightseeing.



Chapter 5: Motorhome Ownership – All The Comforts Of Home

Today's motorhomes or recreational vehicles have all the comforts of home. If your wallet can afford it, they come with plasma TVs, washers and dryers, ceramic tile floors, granite countertops, and with spaces that are professionally designed.

Type A, Or Recreational Vehicle



A Class A motorhome with the slide-out extended. And a cute little dog who knows this is HOME! Constructed on either a commercial truck chassis, a specially designed motor vehicle chassis, or a commercial bus chassis. The addition of slide-outs, first appearing in 1989, dramatically changed the industry, as they allow a wider room than would fit on the road.

The best known type of motorhome is the Type A, or recreational vehicle. This is the roomiest of all motorhomes, the largest, and the most expensive. They come fully equipped with all the luxurious amenities as listed above, plus some.

- ◆ Some recreational vehicles come with custom stained glass.

- ◆ Some have large garden/tub showers.
- ◆ Recreational Vehicles come up to 45 feet in length.
- ◆ They generally range between \$85,000 used, and \$400,000 new.
- ◆ Don't forget, they get somewhere between 5 and 8 miles per gallon. This is another consideration. If you can't swallow that type of gas mileage, you may want to consider another form of motorhome.

[A Type B Motorhome Category Includes Van Campers And Travel Trailers](#)

[Van Camper \(a.k.a. Campervan\)](#)

A campervan is a self-propelled vehicle that provides both transport and sleeping accommodation. The term mainly describes vans that have been fitted out for use as accommodation. Campervans are considered Class B recreational vehicles or motorhomes because of smaller size and more van-like handling. In the UK they are sometimes referred to as motorcaravans or campers.

A typical campervan is equipped either with a "pop-up" roof which is raised during camping or has a fixed hightop roof.

Campervans usually have a small kitchen with a gas/electric refrigerator and a two-three burner gas hob and grill. They generally have dual-voltage lighting which can work off either a dedicated battery (other than the van battery) known as a leisure battery, or off AC power, supplied at a campsite via a hook-up cable. Larger models may include a water heater, a portable toilet and even a shower. Toyota Landcruiser 4WD camper.

Class B recreational vehicles are commonly known as Dormobiles or caravanettes in the UK, or as 'Kombis' in Australia and other countries. This trend started in the 1950s after Volkswagen commissioned the Westfalia company to use the Kombi version of their Type 2 transporter as the basis for a campervan.





An Autosleeper Harmony Campervan on a Talbot Express base vehicle, 1991.
Camper vans are built using a conventional van, to which either a raised roof has been added or had the back replaced by a low-profile body (aka coach-built).

- ◆ The van campers generally range from 18 feet to 22 feet in length.
- ◆ They can comfortably sleep four.
- ◆ A fully contained van camper can have a shower, toilet, kitchen.
- ◆ They also can have TV, couches and beds.
- ◆ The beds are close together, affording less privacy than a travel trailer or recreational vehicle.
- ◆ Most only have enough head room to allow for full standing in the center of the vehicle.
- ◆ Much smaller than the Type A motorhomes they have less storage area.
- ◆ The van campers range in price between \$43,000 and \$70,000.

Travel Trailers (Caravan)

A travel trailer or caravan is a trailer towed behind a road vehicle to provide a place to sleep which is more comfortable and protected than a tent (although there are fold-down tent trailers).

It provides the means for people to have their own home on a journey or a vacation (holiday), without relying on a motel or hotel, and enables them to stay in places where none is available.

Travel trailers and caravans vary from basic models which may be little more than a tent on wheels to those containing several rooms with all the furniture and furnishings and equipment of a home.

They are used principally in North America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand and are rare elsewhere.



In the United States and Canada, the history of travel trailers can be traced back to the early 1920s, when those who enjoyed their use were often referred to as 'Tin Can Tourists'. As time progressed, trailers became more livable and earned a new name in the 1930s and 1940s which was the House Trailer. In the 1950s and 1960s, the industry seemed to split, creating the two types that we see today, that of the recreational vehicle (RV) industry and mobile home industry. Today travel trailers are classified as a type of RV along with motorhomes, fifth wheel trailers, pop-up trailers, and truck campers.

- ◆ These units come in sizes 16 feet to 38 feet.
- ◆ They range in price from \$6,000 for a used trailer, upwards to \$45,000 for a new travel trailer.
- ◆ You can generally find a fairly wide range of amenities in travel trailers.
- ◆ The larger the size, the more you can sleep, and the more likely you will be to have a private bedroom area.
- ◆ A lot of travelers like the fact that they can park their travel trailer in a trailer park and take their vehicle, touring the area. It does, however, take lots of practice learning how to properly drive with a travel trailer hitched to the back of your SUV.

Do Your Homework

When you are considering the purchase of a new motorhome there are some of the same considerations you have when purchasing a new car. Remember, a dealer can take advantage of an uneducated customer. Do your homework. Know how much you should be paying before you visit the dealership. Ask to see the MSRP (manufacturer's suggested retail price) for the vehicle. Remember, dealers receive nice incentives from manufacturers, so they have a 15% to 35% mark-up.

Don't Take The First Deal That You Are Offered!

Visit two or three dealerships. Make sure that the dealership you buy your motorhome from has good follow up service. A lot of dealers are your best friends while you're buying the motorhome. Once they've sold you the motorhome they don't want to be bothered.

Check with the Better Business Bureau and family and friends who have motorhomes.

Seriously. DO THAT!



Chapter 6: Types Of Motorhomes

Motorhomes are categorized into several different types. We have reviewed in earlier chapters, Type A, the recreational vehicle. Then we reviewed Type B motorhomes... these are the van camper and travel trailer.

Type C Motorhomes Are Often Called Mini-Motorhomes



Chateau Sport Class C Motorhome.

Built on a truck chassis with an attached cab section, which is usually van based, but may also be pickup truck based or even large truck based. They are characterized by a distinctive cab-over profile, the "cab-over" containing a bed or an "entertainment" section. Also referred to as "mini-motorhomes".

- ◆ These often have the same amenities of larger motorhomes.
- ◆ They can be ordered with quite luxurious amenities.
- ◆ But these mini-motorhomes are much easier to handle on the road than the larger recreational vehicle.
- ◆ Type C mini-motorhomes range in price between \$5,000 and \$20,000+ used, and up to \$65,000+ new.

The 5th Wheel



The Outer Banks, NC. 19' Scamp 5th Wheel + 6-cyl Toyota Tacoma.
Designed to be towed by a pickup or medium duty truck equipped with a special hitch called a fifth wheel coupling. Part of the trailer body extends over the truck bed, shortening the total length of vehicle plus trailer combined. Some larger fifth-wheel trailers, usually over 40 feet (12.2 m) in length and 18,000 pounds (8,200 kg) in weight, are pulled by small semi-trucks, such as a small Freightliner.

Another type of motorhome that we discussed is what is called the 5th Wheel. This is the “L” shaped trailer you see being pulled by large pickup trucks. These are also available for those who can afford them, with luxurious amenities and design. As with the travel trailer, these 5th wheel motorhomes can be parked in a camp ground and you have your vehicle to go exploring with.

Inexpensive Option – The Truck Camper

Technically speaking, any RV that can be easily dismantled from its carrying vehicle qualifies as a truck camper. In Australia it is very common to see them mounted on flat bed trucks, or even on – what, in North America – would be considered a car.

Truck Campers Are The Most Versatile Form Of Recreational Vehicle

They are capable of going virtually anywhere a pickup truck can go. The truck camper has been around since the early 1950s, and has gone through an evolution in development that places it on par with many larger RV types.

North America's largest truck camper manufacturer is Lance Camper Manufacturing Corporation of Lancaster, California, followed by Arctic Fox of La Grande, Oregon.

Truck Campers Continue To Be Most Popular In The Western United States And Canada



Wally Herral. From the North American Truck Camper Owners Association. Web page <http://www.natcoa.com> In North America the term truck camper and its derived acronym, TC, are generally used to refer to any recreational vehicle or RV that may be carried in the bed of a pickup truck. In North America, this RV type is sometimes known as a slide-in or cab-over.

This is where most manufacturers are headquartered

They are slowly making inroads into the eastern part of the continent as the Baby Boomer generation retire, and are looking for comfort combined with freedom and versatility. The truck camper is also becoming a very popular RV type in Australia, where rugged terrain makes them a practical choice.

Truck campers are a popular choice for horseback riders, fishermen, hunters, and other sportsmen as a boat or horse trailer may be easily towed behind, and you may camp off-road in relative comfort.



A good quality truck camper *can* cost as much as a much larger RV. All the amenities have to be put into a much smaller package, and the RV has to be able to tolerate the abuse of rough roads. A very popular family motorhome is the truck camper. They are often very inexpensive, ranging between \$8,000 and \$22,000+ new. These work well for those that are single, or parents and kids. They are basic in design and function.

Pop Ups – A Tent On Wheels

A lot of families use pop ups for camping. These are essentially a tent on wheels and are a great first step for those thinking about RVing. These pop-ups can sleep from two to eight people. They usually have a small kitchen, stove top and sink, and storage. The disadvantage is that you have less room and less protection from the elements, due to the fact that you have screening and canvas as protection.

Making Your Decision

Talk to family and friends who have RVs. Go to RV shows in your area and check out the different models of motorhomes and recreational vehicles for yourself.

Decide What Type Of Vacationing You Will Be Doing.

- ◆ Are you going to be vacationing in one area or are you going to be exploring a different area each day and staying in different places each night?
- ◆ What time of year are you going to be vacationing? Certainly a pop up wouldn't be your warmest choice for a winter vacation.
- ◆ What is your gas budget? Can you afford to fill the 100 gallon gas tank of a recreational vehicle that gets 5 to 8 miles per gallon?
- ◆ Do you have to be more cost conscious? In that case a mini-motorhome may be for you.



Chapter 7: Finding The Best Motorhomes For Sale

More Info About RV Classes

There are some things you need to know before buying motorhomes. Motorhomes or motorized recreational vehicles (RVs), as we've discussed, come in different classes. Two of those classes are usually confused with each other, those being Class A and Class C motorhomes.

It's essential to look at the physical appearance of the motorhome in order to determine whether it is Class A or Class C.

- ◆ Class A motorhomes resemble a bus design with a flat or vertical front end and large windows.
- ◆ Class C motorhomes have a truck cab with an over-cab bed, in some ways resembling a camper.

Class A Motorhomes Are Considered To Be Top Of The Line

- ◆ They measure at about 24 feet or 7.3 meters and can be as long as 40 feet or 12 meters.
- ◆ Their weight can range between 15,000 to 30,000 pounds or 6,804 to 13,608 kg.
- ◆ The undercarriage may be custom or a 3 to 10 ton truck chassis.



Class A Motorhomes Come With Any Of The Luxury Amenities You Can Fathom

- ◆ Fully equipped kitchen.
- ◆ Bathroom with shower and a tub.
- ◆ Sometimes a separate bedroom at the back, depending on the floor plan of the truck.
- ◆ Heating and air conditioning.
- ◆ Hot and cold running water.
- ◆ 100-125 volt electrical system.
- ◆ Dinette or living room area, complete with couch and recliners.
- ◆ Closets.
- ◆ Entertainment center.

This Is Just The Tip Of The Iceberg – In Fact, Some Of These Class A Motorhomes Can Be More Elaborate Than Homes Themselves

Depending on the model and the floor plan a Class A RV can accommodate up to 8 people. But all of this luxury comes at a price.

- ◆ New, lower-end models are sold at up to \$50,000 US dollars.
- ◆ Larger and much nicer Class A RVs can even cost more than any house in many states, coming in at about \$300,000+.



- ◆ Class A RVs are really very expensive; in fact even a used Class A RV can still be sold for \$30,000-\$40,000.
- ◆ If you prefer luxury lines, you may start saving about \$325,000+ up to over \$1 million, if you prefer the crème de la crème of all RVs.

Class A motorhomes are usually utilized by famous bands especially when they are in tour. There are also some rich families that own Class A motorhomes for vacation and travel. The following example is called a Bus Conversion, and fits within the extreme high-end Class A category.



Prevost Marathon Luxury Bus Conversion.

**Bus Conversion - A commercial passenger bus that has been converted into an RV.
Highly customized with luxury components, bus conversions are typically
the largest motorhomes available.**

A Class A motorhome is perfect for those who can afford its high cost. Most Class A motorhomes have all leather interior, a wet bar, big screen TVs, an advanced sound system and other high technology that may not be available to lower income families.

Last, But Not Least, Are Class C Motorhomes

Class C motorhomes can also come in very luxurious models, or more economical ones, depending on your budget.

- ◆ Because of the overcab bed, a Class C motorhome can sleep more than a comparable Class A motorhome, accommodating up to 10 people.
- ◆ The cost of Class C motorhomes ranges from \$50,000 to \$170,000+.
- ◆ They are much lighter in weight, ranging only from 10,000 to 15,000 pounds.
- ◆ They generally run from just under 20 to 44 feet in length.
- ◆ They are constructed on cutaway chassis, depending on the model.
- ◆ The cab is usually similar to that of the truck, with a bunk above, plus a rear bedroom.
- ◆ Just like the Class A, Class C motorhomes have all the amenities of home including kitchen, bathroom, dinette, heating and air conditioning system.
- ◆ They can have an entertainment center for additional cost.
- ◆ Dinettes are not always present in Class C motorhomes.
- ◆ If the dinette is included, it usually converts into a double bed.
- ◆ If a dinette is not present, two captain chairs are available instead.
- ◆ Sometimes, the motorhomes contain a couch and chairs instead of captain chairs.
- ◆ The couch may also be turned into a sleeper couch.



The Magic Of The “Slide-Out”

The common features of Class A and Class C motorhomes are their slide-out, wherein with a simple touch of a button, the wall of the living room expands outwards to extend the living space by several inches.

Class B – The “Van Conversion”

Another type of motorhome is the Class B, which is usually referred to as van conversion.

- ◆ Class B motorhomes look like pop-top camper vans and are self contained, but cramped compared to their big motorhome counterparts.
- ◆ The advantage of purchasing a Class B motorhome is in terms of handling and size – that is, if you don’t want a spacious motorhome.
- ◆ They are usually promoted as a place to sleep more than what is deemed comfortable by most people.
- ◆ The Class B motorhome can also be used as a second car.
- ◆ Its price ranges from \$38,000 to \$75,000+.

Motorhomes are great for camping, road trips, or just simply living in style.

If you are interested in purchasing a motorhome, it is definitely wise to take time to do some comparison shopping and research, as these motorhomes can prove to be very expensive.



[Chapter 8: RV Loan Calculators To Help With Your RV Purchase](#)

An RV (recreational vehicle) is a major purchase for just about anyone. That means it is typical to not buy the RV outright, but rather to look for financing to spread the expense, and pay off a part of it each month.

RV Loan Calculator

Search [Go!](#) [Find a KOA](#) [RV Services](#) [Hot Deals](#) [Value Kard Rewards](#) [50% Off](#) [Home](#) [Member Photos](#)

RV Services

KOA RV Loan Center

Loan Calculators

Monthly Payment Calculator

Loan Amount:

APR: %

Number of Years:

Loan Amount Calculator

Monthly Payment:

APR: %

Number of Years:

More Information

- [Up To \\$600 Free Camping](#)
- [Save \\$195 On Loan Fee](#)
- [Finance Options](#)
- [How Do I Apply?](#)
- [Current Rates](#)
- [Get a Rate Quote](#)
- [Loan Calculators](#)
- [FAQs About RV Loans](#)
- [FAQs About Boat Loans](#)
- [Our Partner Essex Credit](#)
- [KOA RV Loan Center](#)

[Apply Now!](#)
[Contact Us](#)

APPLY ONLINE NOW

Or call toll-free 1-866-562-5648

[Visit the KOA RV Loan Calculator - Click the image.](#)

<http://www.koa.com/rvloancenter/calculators.asp>

Though obviously easier on the wallet commitment immediately, you still need to give serious consideration to the total amount you will spend on an RV, since the final amount you pay back will increase because of the interest on your loan. That's why an RV loan calculator is so useful.



Be Prepared With Specific Info

You will find an RV loan calculator on several different web sites. Although they have a different appearance from site-to-site, they all work in fundamentally the same way. Before you utilize one of these calculators, you need to have an idea of approximately how much money you want to spend on the purchase of an RV.



- ◆ One helpful way to work this out is to search online for the average prices of new and used RVs, as well as in local RV dealerships.
- ◆ If, on the other hand, you are simply refinancing an existing RV loan, that's easy; just enter on the calculator the amount you still have to pay on your loan.
- ◆ An RV loan calculator will have all the current interest rates on loans for new and used RV loans and for refinancing the same.

Next, you need to determine (at least estimate) the amount of time over which you want to repay your RV loan. You can pay off your loan over the course of a few months or for as long as twenty years.

Obviously, the longer you are prepared to hold your loan, the smaller your monthly repayments will be; but you will also pay higher interest and a much larger total amount by the retirement of the loan. That step will show you the monthly repayments - to help with your decision about affordability, or the need to consider a lesser RV loan.

How To Use An RV Loan Calculator

You can locate an RV loan calculator by performing a simple Internet search. Once you have it:

- ◆ Type in the amount that you want to borrow into the RV loan calculator; start with the price of your “dream machine” RV if you want to.
- ◆ Then also enter the preferred length of your loan period because, of course, that will affect how much you must pay each month.
- ◆ Something to bear in mind is that if you have bad credit, your RV loan is likely to cost you a little more. However, as your credit improves while keeping up with your repayments, you are then later able to refinance at a lower rate.
- ◆ The RV loan calculator quickly calculates your monthly repayments for you.

If you're happy with repaying that amount, great. If not, you can work with other numbers on the calculator until you find a loan amount that enables you to purchase an RV that is suitable to your needs with monthly repayments you can afford.



Chapter 9: An Informative Review Of RV Insurance Companies

There are a number of insurance companies that focus primarily on insuring recreational vehicles (RVs). These companies provide comprehensive policies that thoroughly protect RV owners.

Some of the top RV insurance companies are:

- ◆ Gilbert RV insurance
- ◆ RV America Insurance
- ◆ Progressive RV Insurance
- ◆ Good Sam RV insurance.

Each of these companies has numerous options for RV coverage.

RV owners will be able to find the coverage they need with one of these top companies, for a reasonable price.

Gilbert RV Insurance

Gilbert offers several options for RV owners. Some of the best things about Gilbert are the replacement cost coverage, the purchase price coverage, and the full timer coverage. The replacement cost coverage guarantees that the client will receive a new RV of the same model, body and size if the original RV is totaled. The purchase price coverage is similar. It gives people the option of being paid the total price paid for the RV in the event that it is totaled. The full timer policy is perfect for people whose RV is their primary residence. This policy provides total coverage for the RV and has higher liability limits.



[RV America Insurance](#)

[RV America Insurance](#) provides a number of options for owners of all types of recreational vehicles. The most unique aspect of RV America Insurance is that it works with six different RV insurance companies. This insures that RV owners will get coverage that is specialized to meet their needs at a low cost. Some of the options available include flood, theft and fire coverage; full timer coverage; total loss replacement; and 24/7 roadside assistance.

[Progressive RV Insurance](#)

[Progressive RV Insurance](#) is perfect for covering many types of recreational vehicles. Progressive is a top rated car insurance company. They apply their excellent vehicle coverage for RVs, but also understand that an RV is like a home on wheels. Progressive offers full RV coverage including personal effects coverage, campsite coverage, and emergency placement coverage in case RV owners need somewhere to stay while their RV is being repaired.

[Good Sam RV Insurance](#)

[Good Sam RV Insurance](#) is a part of the Good Sam Club for RV owners and campers. The Good Sam Club offers members emergency roadside seRVice and extended warranties on RVs as well as comprehensive insurance. Some of the many features offered are full RV replacement, full timer coverage, permanently attached items coverage, and personal effects coverage. Good Sam saves RV owners on average of \$300+ a year on RV insurance and received an “A” rating from A.M. Best.

These top-rated RV insurance companies can provide RV owners with the coverage they need. From occasional RV users to full timers, everyone can find a policy to fit their needs.



Chapter 10: No Need To Buy An RV When Hiring One Is Possible

Say You Want To Tour The Country? See The Highways And Byways, And The Small Towns And Rural Roads Of America!

A great way to do it is in an RV, or motorhome. But buying a recreational vehicle is a huge commitment, and they don't come cheap.

So Don't Buy An RV – Hire One Instead!

Many companies specialize in RV hires, renting out recreational vehicles by the day or week so that people can enjoy the amenities without having to buy one. Some firms even operate worldwide, allowing travelers the opportunity to experience foreign lands on a budget. This is especially useful for Americans, who, even if they own an RV, wouldn't be able to use it to tour a foreign country without undergoing a lot of hassle in transporting it abroad.

Consider The Savings!

Renting an RV means:

- ◆ You don't have to pay for hotels. You sleep in the comfort of the hired recreational vehicle instead, thus saving hundreds of dollars over the course of a vacation.
- ◆ You also save on transportation costs such as train tickets.
- ◆ RVs often get poor gas mileage, but the savings can still be considerable when compared to other travel methods.



See Your Chosen Destination At Your Own Pace

An RV hire also grants you the freedom to see your chosen destination at your own pace, rather than being at the mercy of group tours.



You can choose your own places of interest, map your own itinerary, and function on your own schedule.

- ◆ Bus and train schedules mean nothing to do when you're at the wheel of an RV.
- ◆ Want to spend a few extra hours at a location you hadn't expected to find interesting? No problem. Your vehicle and mobile hotel room are ready to go when you are.

So, if you're thinking of taking a scenic road trip, consider using an RV. Hire one for this vacation and you might find yourself buying one in the future.

Chapter 11: Reserving That RV Space

I have done extensive traveling in my RV since retirement. It is a wonderful and relaxing way to enjoy the “Golden Years.” (And, in my case, the “pre” golden years... I could not wait! I leaped in, about a decade ahead of time!) I have enjoyed staying in RV parks in Orlando, all the way out to RV parks in Phoenix, and points “West Coast.” You meet a lot of wonderful people and make new friends everywhere you go.

Traveling In An RV Is Not All A Bed Of Roses



You should think ahead and try to avoid stressful situations that may occur.

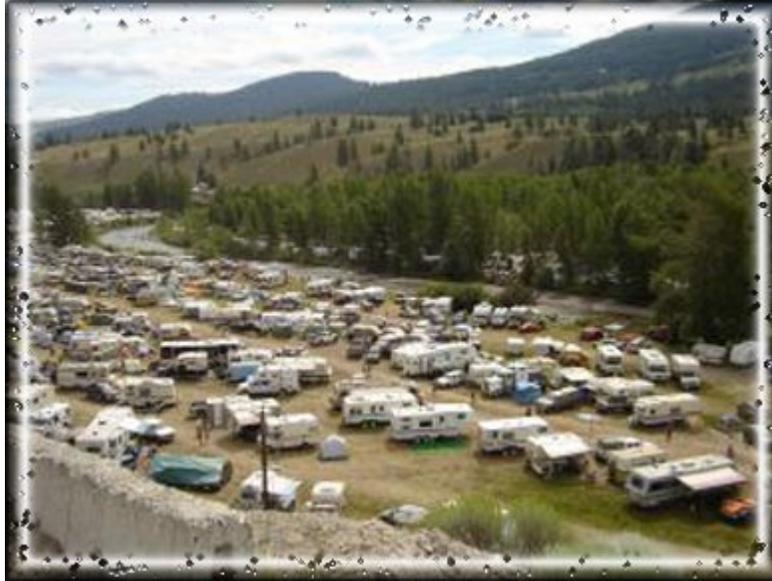
Naturally, one’s mind first goes in the direction of mechanical breakdowns.

That is a great concern, and you should have your RV inspected by qualified mechanics before starting

out on your adventure. Make sure that you replace any worn belts and such, and change the oil if necessary.

Reservations – A Good Habit To Get In To

What I really wanted to talk about, though, was making reservations at an RV park before arrival.



This may not be necessary all of the time, but it is a good habit to get in to. In the winter months, RV parks in South Florida, or Florida Keys RV parks are usually pretty full. It would not be a pleasant experience to travel all of that way and then have a hard time finding a place to stay. Just a phone call can save you a lot of stress. Now granted, Yuma Arizona RV parks are not going to be full in the summer months, as are RV parks in Eugene Oregon during winter months.

But It Still Doesn't Hurt To Call Ahead!

By making reservations ahead of time, you can possibly reserve that favorite location that you were in last year. You also may discuss reduced rates for long term parking. And it certainly never hurts to establish a friendly relationship with the managers of the campgrounds.

Now, making reservations requires a small deposit, but it is usually refunded if something comes up and you are not able to get there, providing that you let them know. If you are a member of a motor club, sometimes they will plan your trip and make reservations for you.

Making reservations is another good way in making RV travel more pleasurable!



Chapter 12: Camping In An RV For Fun And Pleasure

The Ultimate Camping Adventure

Camping, for most people, means a tent and sleeping on a mat on the ground.



If that doesn't really appeal to you, then camping in an RV is what you need. It is the ultimate camping adventure. So, let's review what we've discussed in the prior chapters.

RVs come in many sizes and shapes. Here is a quick run-down of what we've been discussing.

1. Truck Campers – Basic But Comfy

RVs start with campers that fit in the back of a pickup truck. These can have full kitchens, beds, a shower and toilet in them.

2. Next, There Are Van Conversions Called Class B Motorhomes

Class B homes are basically a cargo van converted into a camping vehicle. These can have a raised roof for more head room. They also contain the same amenities as the truck camper.

3. Next Up Is The Class C Motorhome

The front end looks like a pickup truck, but the similarity ends there. There is a sleeper extension over the cab and the back end looks like any motorhome you are probably familiar with... basically a cargo box with windows, but much prettier. The Class C has all the amenities of home... a kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and living room. You could live in a Class C.

4. The Next Step Up Is The Class A Motorhome

This is roomiest of all motorized RVs. These motorhomes are like a mini one bedroom apartment. They are fully self-contained. From the queen sized bed to the dinette that seats four people, you find luxury. A refrigerator and stove are complimented by a microwave oven. You might even have an ice maker capable of making over 20 pounds of ice a day. Party ready!

5. The Trailers

If that weren't enough choices, there are still the trailers. First is the travel trailer you can pull behind a larger sedan or SUV. Then the 5th wheel trailer that hooks into the back of a pickup truck. Both of these trailers are equally as luxuriant as the best motorhome. An advantage is they cost a lot less.





No matter which RV you choose, you will have your own bathing facilities! No makeshift, "creative" bathroom solutions!

You Can Buy New Or Used

Whichever way you choose, you should do a lot of research on the Internet first. Learn all you can about RVing. There are RV forums that you can find by doing a search in your favorite search engine.

When you decide that an RV might be for you, attend an RV show or two. There are major RV shows at fairgrounds and stadiums where many dealers and vendors are selling every type of RV there is. There are also local RV shows usually put on by one or two dealers to show and sell some of their inventory.

If you really are not sure you would like to spend \$40,000 or \$250,000 on a hobby

you are not sure you would like, buy a used RV.

You can get into RVing in a 34 foot used Class A motorhome for under \$10,000.

The older and larger the motorhome the less fuel efficient it will be. You may get 5 to 7 miles per gallon on many older motorhomes. 7-9 mpg is realistic for mid 1990's motorhomes and up to 12 miles a gallon on new ones.

Camping in an RV is a fun adventure awaiting you and your family.



Chapter 13: Family And Holiday Fun On An RV Road Trip

Road Trip + Vacation = Great Fun!

Vacations are usually something most people save up for and plan carefully. The goal is to have a memorable, fun vacation and, oftentimes, to see and do as much as you can fit in.



Just to get out of our congested urban jungle is a delight in itself! Once you get that RV beyond the confines of the city highways, just feel that rush of relief!

Vacations are not a time to waste money on unnecessary service or items, but rather a time to research your trip and plan to save as much money as you can. If this sounds like your approach to vacationing, you may want to consider a road trip and even better, RV vacation.

Road trips are one of the best vacations in which saving money is easier, and RVs offer the most convenient transportation choice for travel on road trips. Here are

a few simple steps to make your RV holiday one of the most memorable, fun, and cheapest vacations you have taken.

RVs come in a variety of sizes you can purchase, and which one you should choose depends on the number of people traveling and the types of accommodations you desire. One of the benefits of an RV is that you will save money on lodging during every trip. You will also be able to take more personal items from home when traveling in an RV, as compared to traveling in your car.

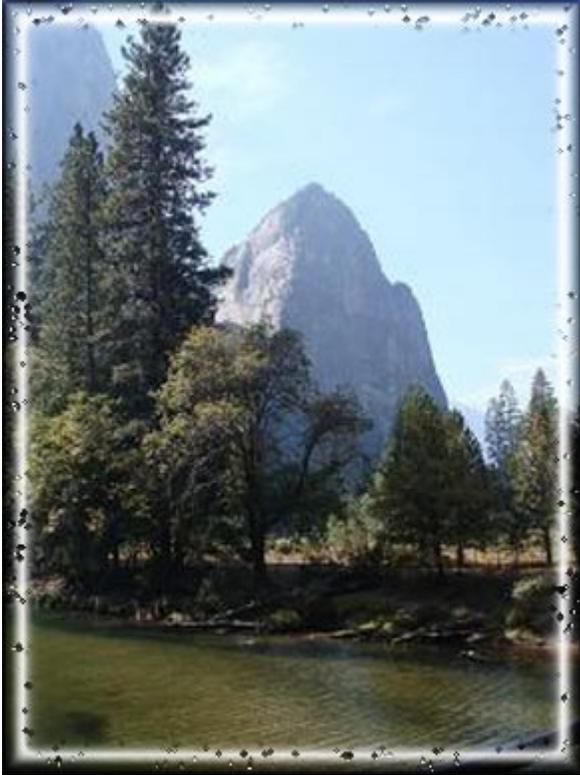
Great Traveling For The Kids!

If you are traveling with children, you will probably face the challenge of keeping them entertained during the trip. RVs offer much more room than a car, allowing children to play, spread their wings, and roam around a little if they get bored. Some RVs include DVD players so the kids can watch movies or even possibly hook up their video games to the television.



Cutting Costs

Investing in an RV for your vacationing needs will help cut the cost of lodging, which will provide you extra money for other things you come across during your



trip. Basically, you can take your family with you on your new “home on wheels” whether you want to go on a quick mountain getaway or a trip to the beach.

[Many Scenic Places You And Your Family Can Experience Along The Way To Your Ultimate Destination](#)

With a little research on vacation in an RV, you will find that there are many scenic places you and your family can experience along the way to your ultimate destination.

For example, a family of four can go camping for a week at a national park or state forest. Campground fees, which are usually charged per night, camping gear and miscellaneous travel expenses, will more than likely keep you under a \$1,000 budget. You can bond with your family, enjoying the beautiful outdoors during the day and enjoy the amenities of the RV at night.

[Yellowstone And Yosemite National Parks Are Popular Vacation Spots For RVing Families](#)

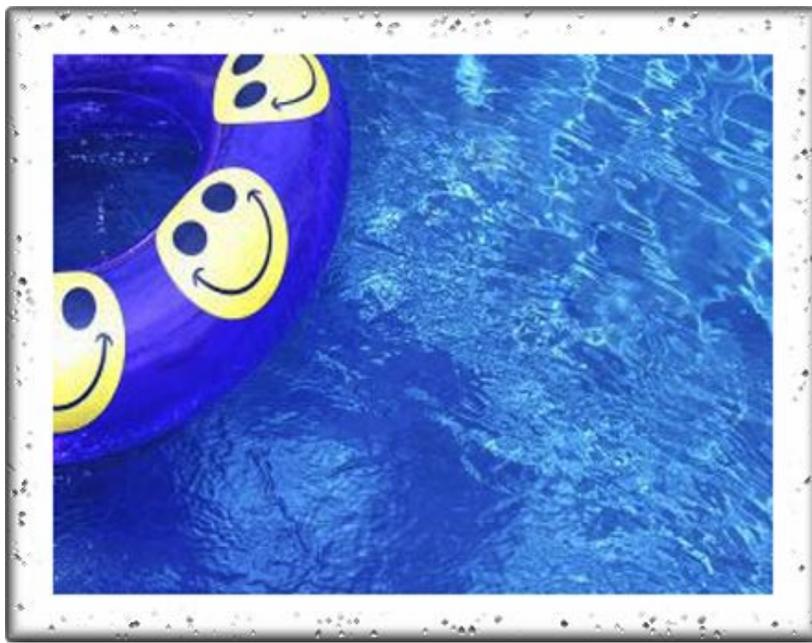
You will find that it has plenty of entertainment and activities for your family. There are many other campgrounds and RV parks available, though. You will find them all throughout Canada and the United States, all offering ideal vacations for your family.

A little research and planning will have you on your way to an unforgettable RV vacation with your family!



Chapter 14: Fulltime RV Living – Choosing The Best Mobile Accommodation

Be it suburbia or the outdoors, lifestyle is very much influenced by our personality, our needs, and – perhaps most of all – our budget. Fortunately, in affluent countries, the diverse range of mobile accommodation options allows us to travel virtually anywhere we choose, both comfortably and economically.



What suits *me*, though, is not necessarily going to be *your* first choice, nor are your preferences likely to match those of your close friends or relatives. Result is, all segments of the camping and RV markets are doing quite nicely.

At The Budget End

Of course, at the budget end of the accommodation spectrum, tents are always high on the short-list of options, particularly for lovers of true outdoor freedom. On the other hand, there are those who simply must have a few creature comforts, while still maintaining some degree of independence. This latter group is likely to opt for either a fully appointed caravan/travel trailer, or motorhome.

And For The Rest Of Us...

For the rest of us, somewhere along that cost/comfort scale our ideal niche is there to be found. Keep in mind, however, “ideal” is really a sneaky way of saying “acceptable compromise.” After all, no matter what your choice – tent, tent trailer, camper trailer, caravan, campervan, or motorhome – compromise will be necessary, between the key deciding factors of cost, comfort, self-sufficiency, and mobility. The trap is, only *you* can balance that mix!

The Popular Options Among Nomadic Travelers Today

Nevertheless, to help you identify your personal niche, here are a few of the essential differences between the popular options among nomadic travelers today:



Tent

Camping under canvas has always attracted a strong (and growing) band of devotees. Tents are relatively inexpensive, available in a vast range of sizes and complexities, and allow the outdoor lover to retain complete freedom, flexibility, and mobility.

With tenting, though, the biggest drawbacks are the time it takes to get your camp set up, and the relative vulnerability to weather extremes. Together with sleeping, cooking, and other equipment, a lot of vehicle space is required, and frequent changes of location become quite a chore with daily set-ups and pack-ups.

Tent Trailer

Moving up the budgetary scale, tent trailers might be your next consideration. These are essentially a small trailer with a built-on, collapsible frame-tent. Generally, they are more robust than regular tents, far easier to erect, and your bed (and some floor area) is raised above the ground. With a raft of optional awnings and add-ons, a tent trailer can become a canvas castle!

Keep in mind, towing a trailer of any kind does impact, to some degree, on campsite accessibility, although heavy-duty and “off-road” models minimize this effect (especially if towed by a 4x4).

Another advantage is the freeing up of most of your vehicle load space, although you should also anticipate a quantum jump up the financial scale. (But if you already own a sturdy box-trailer, it may be adaptable.)

Camper Trailer

Even a low-spec camper trailer represents a further – significant! – hike in potential outlay over tent trailers (though the huge second-hand market is worth exploring). Even so, you stand to gain a considerable boost in comfort levels, particularly for long-term camps or extended touring.

Certainly, camper trailers still require setting up in camp, but this is a fairly quick and painless operation. Towing, too, remains reasonably stress-free considering



As you move up “the food chain” of RVs, the visitations by members of the great outdoor food chain won’t be so much of a pain!!

their low profile and lighter weight compared with full-size caravans. Even so, bush mobility and maneuverability does suffer over tent or tent trailer outfits.

And don't forget those extra costs, such as insurance, registration, and increased fuel consumption!

Motorhome

For long-term or fulltime nomadic lifestyles, a full-size motorhome provides optimum comfort, convenience and all-round security. No towing is involved, while driving and parking is a breeze (except in very narrow streets and parking lots). Making camp, and moving off in the morning, is the easiest of all possible options.

Their main disadvantage is the high cost (in motorhome rather than campervan configuration), and the fact that every time you move – even to the store for milk or bread – you have to pack-up your “home.” And if repairs become necessary out on the road, you may be faced with motel costs.

Little brother of the motorhome, the campervan, has a similar set of pros and cons, but is far less expensive to buy and operate, and considerably easier to get about in. For two people they represent an excellent all-round compromise for long-term touring, but get very “tight around the shoulders” for a fulltime lifestyle.

Caravan

For the best balance of all between space, comfort, and security, it's hard to beat a reasonable size caravan/travel trailer. For lengthy stays at a “base camp”, while getting out and about in your car or 4x4, they are ideal. There are sizes, makes, and models to suit most family needs and all budgets.

And the pre-loved market is endless!



Here again, though, mobility on backtracks can be greatly curtailed (even with some of the 4x4-rated rigs), and generally speaking, driving is more tiring, costly, and slower. Visits to major towns, with tricky parking or tight turn-arounds, often become a real pain in the tailpipe.

So What Do I Recommend? Well, Unfortunately There's No Simple Answer!

For example, depending on *our* plans, our camping and travelling alternates between lightweight touring (sleeping in our 4x4), and towing our home – a 16 foot caravan. Every so often, we use a canvas tent for lengthier bush camps while visiting the high country.

To my mind, there is no “one-size-fits-all” solution. But, if you’re planning to embark on a fulltime traveling lifestyle, my advice would be to identify – and carefully examine – your personal needs and aspirations, then set yourself up to suit the destinations and activities of most interest.

Best part is, you have plenty of options.



Chapter 15: Be It Ever So Humble, There's No Place Like A Motorhome RV

When going on an extended road trip, there are usually two options. First is to take whatever vehicle you have handy and drive, hoping to find a motel or someplace where you can stay if it gets too late out on the open road.

The other option is to rent a motorhome RV and do away with the worrying of where you'll be sleeping at night during your trip.

A motorhome RV, or recreational vehicle, may not have all the comforts and nuances that you have in an actual house, but when you're out there, these vehicles offer a level of luxury that comes as close as you can get.



A motorhome RV generally comes in two varieties: the trailer that you can haul behind your main vehicle, or the house-on-wheels variety.

- ◆ The first variety is best suited for extended family vacations driving the open highway, particularly if the family in question is going to be driving up and down backroads.
- ◆ The second variety is also as useful in similar situations but many hold the opinion that it would be better-suited for short-term excursions, such as camping or fishing trips.

Of course, if you are looking for other options, there are other varieties to the RV, but the two previously mentioned are the most prominently used.

[A Mobile Living Space For Whoever Owns It](#)

While the features that all the various motorhome RV models have tend to differ between the variety and the manufacturer, a few features are constant.

Chief among these is the simplicity of the concept.

**Regardless of what features or additions are made,
an RV is, first and foremost,
a mobile living space for whoever owns it.**

While comfort can become a secondary issue when it comes to a number of units, the RV units in the world today still fulfill the original design intent.

Some of the standard implements include beds for at least two people, a fully functional bathroom with sink, and for the larger ones, a partially functional kitchen area.

With features like that, worrying about where to get your next meal or where to stay the night is no longer a concern.



[A Motorhome RV Can Be Used As A Far Cheaper Alternative To An Actual House](#)



In addition, while it may not sound very savory to the socialite in all of us, a motorhome RV can be used as a far cheaper alternative to an actual house. The way things are, in global economics, owning one's own house is one of the most expensive things in the world.

In contrast, the costs of a motorhome are much cheaper, despite giving up several other conveniences. The main problem would be the fact that there are certain luxuries that are harder to access in a mobile home.

Fortunately, modern RV units are capable of emulating a large number of modern conveniences and luxuries present in modern motorhome RV units, so there isn't that much of a difference.

Additionally, motorhome RV manufacturers are constantly upgrading and updating their technologies, so modern units can now access cable TV and WiFi, as well as a host of other modern, technological conveniences.

Besides, the bank can't repossess your home if you can drive it away.

Chapter 16: Alternative Transportation During Your RV Pit Stop

Spread Your Wings And Take To The Open Road! ...Uh, Honey? Where's The Gas Money?

As more people spread their wings and take to the open road, one thing that is common is that these trips are much shorter than they used to be. Gas prices are soaring and that has put a major crimp in the budgets of these adventurers.

However, there seems to be a new phenomena taking place. Gone are the extra vehicles tagging along behind these RVs. Did they give up their pit stop transportation?

I don't think so.

The Next Wave In Alternative Transportation

Anyone who has an RV will tell you about the next wave in alternative transportation. It's portable, convenient and cheap; and it gets them where they want to go... in a hurry.

What Is All Of The Talk About? Just Two Words – Electric Scooters

Over the past couple of years, electric scooters have become very popular with the RV generation. Electric scooters today are cheaper to operate, cheaper to purchase, more compact, a lot faster than its siblings, and are proving to be extremely convenient.



[If You Want To Save Money, Then Getting An Electric Scooter Is The Way To Go](#)

Electric scooters are cheap to operate without the need to fill up with gas or check the oil and it only costs a few pennies to charge. For more bang for your buck, electric scooters are cheaper to operate than your monster auto.

If you were to calculate how much it cost to fill your gas tank up and how long that will last during your trip, you would see that after a few short trips on your scooter, that it will virtually pay for itself. Check out how cheap an electric scooter is and compare how much you will be spending in gas, service, and maintenance on your tag-along vehicle.

Take that money and do something else with it.

[Easy To Store](#)

Electric scooters are so compact that they can fold down and fit in a closet, under a bed or in that hideaway cubby on the RV.

Most electric scooters will fold down from the base of the handlebars which makes them literally ½ the size.

With this smaller footprint, you have more options available as to where you may want to store it when not in use or traveling.

[If Speed Is A Concern, Don't Worry](#)

Manufacturers have heard the cries and have stepped up to the plate with some real fast electric scooters. Some electric scooters will even outrun some of the gas scooters. Today's electric scooters are capable of hitting twenty to thirty miles per hour. Speed should no longer be a concern.



A World Of “Simple”!

In a world that is centered around convenience, the electric scooter is right in the thick of things. Electric scooters are simple to unfold, require little to no maintenance, and there is no need to stop for gas or change the oil.

Electric scooters will get you from point A. to Point B in no time flat, and can go more places than a regular automobile can.

Toss In That Electric Scooter!

So, on your next RV trip, instead of lugging around an extra vehicle behind you, toss an electric scooter inside, save some gas and money, and have some fun while you're at it!

Knowing that you don't have that extra expense for gas will give you the freedom to add a few extra stops on your trip as well.



Chapter 17: Baby Boomers And RVs

Central Florida has to be the RV capital of the world. If not, then it has to be right up there near the top.

The great exodus from the north happens in late fall, much like the migration of birds. Thus the term “snowbirds” was coined.

Since The Baby Boomers Have Hit Retirement Age, Things Have Really Exploded

**Had I been looking ahead,
I would have jumped into the RV business
YEARS AGO!**

The classified ads are full of RVs for sale, RV lots for sale, used RVs for sale, and RV parks for sale.

**Wait a minute; did I say RV parks for sale?
Maybe I should check this one out!**



The Baby Boomers – You May As Well Enjoy It!

The Baby Boomers spend more on themselves than their parents ever did. Their parents were survivors of the Great Depression and World War Two. Their goal was saving money not spending it. There was always the possibility of another depression in the back of their minds.

This Baby Boomer generation, including myself, goes on the idea that you only live once and you may as well enjoy it.



[The Get-It-Now Generation Certainly Has Kept The Economy Strong By Their Spending Habits](#)

Baby boomers have the luxury of their parents' hard work and sacrifice that has made their life easier. The get-it-now generation certainly has kept the economy strong by their spending habits. Let's face it, we are spoiled. So, by the good fortune of our parents' wisdom, and a strong steady economy, we Baby Boomers can retire early, afford that big RV, and hit the road without a care in the world. Never before has a generation had it so easy.

[RVs Are Getting Bigger And More Luxurious With Every New Model](#)

Gone are the days of pop up campers or truck campers. Trailer campers are nowhere near as popular as they once were. This generation wants the big motorhome.

[Home Away From Home Is What We Want](#)

Television, microwave ovens, laundry facilities, and air conditioning are all necessities. This is great isn't it?

So, Baby Boomers keep buying those big RVs... your children need the work!



Chapter 18: Top 2 Reasons Why Motorhomes Are The Wave Of The Future

Did you know that motorhomes have been gaining rapidly in popularity over the last few years? It's true. If you've driven on the freeways recently, you might have noticed that there are an awful lot of people taking to the roads of America in their new homes on wheels (motorhomes).



Incredible Automotive Works Of Art

This country is huge and so are the numbers of attractions that you could see in a motorhome.

Motorhomes have always been popular among the most mobile of our population, but recent models have shown that manufacturers have been producing:

Incredible
Automotive
Works of Art

Here are the 2 reasons why motorhomes are the wave of the future.

1) **Retirement**

There is a huge amount of the US population that is considering retiring in the next few years.



Baby Boomers have worked all their lives and have been spending their money like there is no tomorrow on all sorts of travel accessories. Motorhomes are no exception.

One of the biggest things that all retirees want to do after they finish work is travel.

Motorhomes provide future domestic travelers with lots of transportation options. Seeing the country (or even the world) in style is possible with a motorhome.

2) Cheap Mobility

Let's be honest here, gas prices are expensive. They've been expensive and probably will remain so, for a long time.

However, 2 or more people traveling in a motorhome can see a lot of things for relatively little money.

Imagine how much money it would cost you in airplane tickets to fly to each destination individually? A lot more than the gas it costs to navigate from city to city.

A tank of gas, financially, doesn't go as far as it used to, but it certainly isn't that bad considering all the places it can take you.

There is a lot more to motorhomes than just what's been covered here. In fact, there is a ton more of material available out there about motorhomes.

ONE MORE TIME... Get informed before deciding to invest in a motorhome.

Go RVing!
Have the Time of Your Life!



Imagination... And The Gift Of Time



For everything there is a season,
And a time for every matter
under heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die;

A time to plant, and a time to
pluck up what is planted;

A time to kill, and a time to heal;

A time to break down,
and a time to build up;

A time to weep, and a time to laugh;

A time to mourn, and a time to dance;

A time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing;

A time to seek, and a time to lose;

A time to keep, and a time to throw away;

A time to tear, and a time to sew;

A time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

A time to love, and a time to hate,

A time for war, and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8



Appendix A: Video – Bavaria Motorhome By Frankia



Bavaria Motorhome By Frankia

You can [view this video directly at Wikipedia](#).

The video was also supplied with your purchase. It is found in the folder:

◆ _bonus video

Please use the shortcuts given to download the freeware, VLC Media Player, if you don't have a software to view .OGG videos. (Besides, this is an EXCELLENT media viewer to have, anyway! And free is free, and free is good!)

Appendix B: A Bit Of History For “Recreational Vehicle”

A Bit Of History For “Recreational Vehicle”

Most modern dictionaries give one of the meanings for the word *caravan* as "a camper equipped with living quarters". They in turn give one of the meanings for *camper* as "a recreational vehicle equipped for camping out while travelling".

The earliest caravans were used for practical purposes rather than recreation, such as providing shelter and accommodation for people travelling in search of an audience for their art, or to offer their services to distant employers, or to reach a new place of abode.

In Europe, [wagons](#) built to live in, rather than just to carry persons or goods, were developed in France about 1810. They were used in England by showmen and circus performers from the 1820s, but [Gypsies](#) only began living in caravans ([vardos](#)) from about 1850.

The [covered wagon](#) that played a significant part in opening up the interior of the North American continent to white settlement from about 1745 was a type of caravan. A well set up wagon provided its occupants with living quarters as well as a means of transportation for themselves plus their supplies and equipment.



In Canada, the earliest motorhomes were built on car or truck bodies from about 1910. By the 1920s the RV was well established in the US, with RV camping clubs established across the country, despite the unpaved roads and limited camping facilities.

In Australia, the earliest known motorhome was built in 1929. It is now in the [Goolwa](#) Museum, where it has been partially restored, It is recognized by both the [National Museum of Australia](#) and the (Australian) National Motor Museum as being the first motorized caravan in Australia.

Between the late 1920s and the early 1960s some South Australian railway maintenance gangs working in country areas, where they were required to live on site, were accommodated in caravans built by the department instead of the tents they had previously used. These caravans were built like short railway carriages; about 6.1 meters (20 feet) long, but had wooden wheels with solid rubber tires and ball bearings.



Appendix C: Van Conversions & Volkswagen Campervan Models

North America: Van Conversions



Ford Econoline Van Conversion

In North America there are many manufacturers of campervans. The number # 1 selling campervan is produced by **Roadtrek** of [Kitchener, Ontario](#)

Since the 1970s, the Japanese full-size vans like the [Toyota Hiace](#) and the [Datsun Urvan](#) (acquired by [Nissan](#)), as well as the [Ford Transit](#), [Fiat Ducato](#) and the [Bedford vans](#) became popular as "base vehicles" for campervans.

[Volkswagen Campervan Models](#)

Volkswagen began subcontracting to the Westfalia-werke in Rheda-Wiedenbrück, or more typically

Westfalia, to build the official **Volkswagen Camper** cars sold in the early 1950s through 2003.

Many models and interesting options were available for these vehicles.

Early Volkswagen Split Screen windshield Kombi models between 1950 and 1967 are highly sought after collector vehicles.

Beginning in the 1968 model year, Volkswagen introduced the bay window replacing the split screen style.

Production of Volkswagen camping cars continued well into 2003 and was based on the popular [Volkswagen Kombi](#) or "bus" as it is often referred to.

Many other coachbuilders such as **Dormobile**, [ASI/Riviera](#), **Danbury Motorcaravans**, and **VW Sun-Dial** also built camping cars based on the Volkswagen bus.

Main article: [Volkswagen Westfalia Campers](#)



[Historic Volkswagen Camper](#)

There are several types of campervan all manufactured by [Volkswagen](#) but depending on their age they are colloquially referred to as either a [splitty](#) (split windscreen) a [bay](#) (bay framed windscreen) or a [bricky](#) ("brick" shaped van).

Every year VW vans of all age and type gather at [Vanfest](#) held in the **Three Counties Showground** in [Malvern, Worcestershire](#). This event takes place on the second weekend of September every year.



VW camper - Photo taken by author at Texas VW Classic April 2006.
Paul Palmer is the photographer