



There's a popular saying among experienced RVers: You should try to buy your third RV first. And it's usually accompanied by recommendations from someone who now owns their third RV.

That's because it can be a process of trial and error to determine the size and style of travel trailer you'll need for the type of travel you want to do.

But answer these 10 questions, and we'll help guide you to your one true love, because the worst decision is no decision at all. Don't wait to make memories choose your adventure now.





Classic

Pottery Barn® Special Edition



Globetrotter®

Trade Wind™





International

Flying Cloud®





Caravel®

Bambi®





Basecamp[®]

REI Special Edition



What type of travel do you want to do?

Do you want to roam for a long weekend, or will your RV be home sweet home for months or even years? Are you going to park once and stay put, or pack up and head out frequently to a new vacation destination? The answers to these questions will guide your decisions on features such as storage space, and tank and battery capacity.

The <u>Caravel</u> offers everything you need for an excursion in a modern, compact package that's lighter to tow, while the <u>Globetrotter</u> provides space to spread out and stay a while—many owners even call it home.

Q2 Where are you traveling?

Do you prefer a traditional campsite with full hookups? Or do you want to escape the grid and leave civilization behind? What are the road conditions like in the kinds of places you want to explore—pitted or paved?

Decisions about the conditions you're up for may lead you to a travel trailer suited for rugged off-road adventures, such as the **Basecamp**, which leaves a minimal footprint and offers great storage for gear, or the **Trade Wind**, built for extended boondocking but with more space and the iconic Airstream design.

Where are you spending the night?

Do you plan to stay in private campgrounds? Do you want to camp in national parks? Or is total seclusion your idea of heaven?

These considerations will direct your decisions on features such as solar panels and lithium batteries; the Trade Wind, for example, comes with a powerful 810Ah battery bank serviced by 600 watts of solar panels. A need for maneuverability or site access may guide your decision on length. Your dealer can also suggest options, such as customizing your Airstream's off-grid capability or ground clearance, for example. Identifying where you think you'll overnight most often helps you turn that dream in your head into reality.

04 What are you taking?

Do you travel with lots of dishes, pots, pans, and utensils—everything and the kitchen sink—for gourmet meals in the great outdoors? Or are you seeking space for sporting equipment and gear? Are you more of a pack rat, or does everything fit into your backpack?

Finding a good fit means knowing what needs to fit. Basecamp travel trailers are built with gear in mind, including an adjustable L-track built into the floor and a rear door for loading and unloading kayaks, bikes, hiking supplies, and other fun toys, while a model like the **Classic** has external bike rack accessory options plus ample internal storage for life's little necessities and a whole lot more.





Who's coming along?

How many people will be sleeping in your RV? And how tall are they? When it comes to beds in an RV, size matters. A bunk or dinette is a great sleeping spot for kids, but less restful for an adult or lanky 6-foot teen. Compare bed lengths as well—in some models a twin is longer than a queen.

If you're traveling with older children or adults, the new **Flying Cloud 30FB** is roomy, spacious, and comfortable; a queen bed up front is separated from a bunk area with two queen-sized beds tucked in back. And of course, the dinette converts into a bed for little ones, meaning there's sleeping space for as many as eight.

If the height of the people in your space is a consideration, be sure to compare ceiling heights in the various Airstream models. If privacy is a concern, make note of where partition curtains and doors are located to offer a bit of seclusion between bathing and sleeping areas.

And if you're bringing pets, children, or grandchildren, the Ultraleather seating available in Caravel, Flying Cloud, **International**, and Classic models makes cleanup easy—no crying over spilled milk!

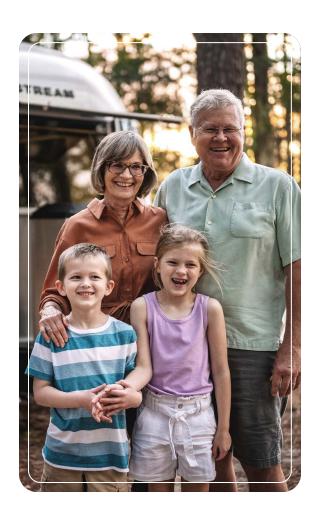


What are you driving?

One of the most critical things to consider when buying an RV is what you'll use to tow it with. In fact, if you can, work this backward and choose your RV first, because there's no room for compromise when it comes to weight.

And there's more to consider than just gross vehicle weight rating and hitch weight. Factors that again come into play include what you're loading in and who's coming along. The Complete Airstream Towing Guide is a great tool for deciding what to drive.





06 Who's visiting?

Do you intend to host guests in your RV? One of the biggest perks of Airstreaming is the strong community. In particular, those who travel to visit friends or who travel with friends (Hello, Caravaners!) often invite guests into their travel trailers. In this case, you may want to choose a model with the bed in the back versus a front-bed model for a proper living room feel.

Some owners find that a model with twin beds provides extra social space—it's easy to move around pillows so the beds can serve as seating for four. Dinette configuration may be a consideration as well: Some models have U-shaped seating, others have bench seating, and the **Globetrotter** 30-foot model offers the option of a beautiful long table.

What are you doing inside your Airstream?

Will you be a digital nomad working remotely? Or are you out the door in the morning, spending all day exploring? Do you want to cook with all the features of home, or do you get your fill of meal prep from the grill? Do you prefer a dinette for game night with the gang or sofas for a movie night for two? Is it a place to sleep or a place to live?

Various models are better equipped to accommodate various habits—the Flying Cloud 30FB Office is perfect for working while you roam, while the **Pottery Barn** model has everything a chef would need, including the expansive kitchen sink.

How important is a little luxury?

Are you good with a minimalist bathroom, or do you want a spa on wheels? Airstream bathrooms vary. They range from a wet bath, in which the shower, toilet, and sink are all one unit, to the roomy three-piece model in the **33-foot Classic** that spans the width of the unit's rear end.

The level of automation varies too. Are you at ease with manual adjustments, or do you want to push a button and be done? Awnings, stabilizers, AC, and heat—all can be easily controlled remotely from anywhere in models equipped with Smart Control Technology.



What are you waiting for?

One of the best things about choosing an Airstream is the broad love for the iconic brand. Thanks to their high quality and enduring appeal, Airstream travel trailers are always in demand, so you really can't make a bad decision. Better to seize the dream; if your first pick doesn't fit, trade it in and try again.

Like many Airstreamers, Eric and LaVerne McHenry chose their first Airstream because of the brand's durability and sleek, modern design.

They're now on their third, a 30-foot Classic, but they upgraded in large part because of another consideration—the friends they've made along the way, says Eric, president of Airstream Club International. And while they've traded trailers twice, they wouldn't trade a minute of their experiences.



More Questions? We Have Answers

