

the **now** **HOW TO**

...choose an RV

Consumer GUIDE

If record-breaking fuel prices have been keeping you away from RVing, it's time to re-evaluate that thinking. According to PKF Consulting, an international consulting firm with expertise in travel and tourism, typical RV family vacations are still on average 27 to 61 per cent less expensive than other types of vacations studied.

5 things to know



1. When choosing an RV, take time to consider the various types of RVs and their advantages and disadvantages. For example, motor homes are great because all the comforts of home are within arms reach while traveling, but many owners of large motor homes choose to tow a separate vehicle behind. Others RV options include Fifth Wheel RVs and travel trailers.
2. It's also important to think about how you will use the RV and about who will be with you on your trips. Make sure you look for a model that has enough room to accommodate regular travelers. If you are planning long vacations, you should also think about the kitchen and living area space and make sure it accommodates your needs.
3. If you already own a vehicle, be sure to check its towing capacity before choosing an RV. Make sure the towing capacity of your vehicle can accommodate the RV model you are interested in. Otherwise you might be making an additional vehicle purchase.
4. Everyone has specific budget requirements, so make sure you plan accordingly based on the real cost of an RV. Don't just look for the cheapest RV. Instead, look for one through a reputable dealer with a warranty. That way you won't be sinking money you didn't plan for into repairs.
5. Look for an RV dealership that offers exceptional customer service. When you make such a large purchase, you want to buy it from a reputable dealer that will be there long term to answer questions, take care of warranty work and more.

Despite today's crazy fuel prices, typical RV trips remain the least expensive type of vacation.

Brian Barbour with O'Connor RV isn't surprised that traveling by RV remains the most economical way to vacation and maintains that is a far more comfortable way to travel as well.

Just how do these savings add up? According to the study, traveling by RV remains the most affordable way for a family to travel based on the tremendous savings on air, hotel and restaurant costs, offsetting the cost of fuel.

According to the study by PKF Consulting, fuel prices would have to more than double for typical motor home vacations to become more expensive than other forms of travel, providing that

airlines and other forms of transportation don't increase their prices to compensate for the cost of fuel.

Although PKF Consulting researched the financial benefits of traveling by RV, they didn't compare the quality of each vacation. Barbour believes the RV vacations trump other means of vacationing as well.

One obvious advantage is the flexibility and freedom that RV owners have to go when they want, where they want. They don't have to worry about inflexible schedules, airport line-ups, luggage restrictions and advance reservations. Plus, they never have to worry about an airline losing precious luggage.

Traveling with an RV is like bringing part of your home with you wherever you

go. Instead of looking for restaurants for each meal, RV travelers can prepare their favourite meals and enjoy healthier fare from the comfort of their RV. Individuals with food allergies or intolerances can eat safely without worrying about what a restaurant is putting in the food.

Many people also worry about germs found in hotel rooms. With your own RV, this is never a concern. You know who slept in your bed and when the sheets were last cleaned. You feel at home, relaxed and comfortable.

Traveling in your own RV is one of the best ways to vacation. To find out which RV is best suited for your needs, visit O'Connor RV.



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