

Thinking of trying a motorhome hire? - We're here to help...

Where to start?

Have you always wanted to go on your very own campervan or motorhome adventure and not had any idea of where to start? Hopefully this advice guide will give you lots of helpful information and some of the key things to think about.

Having a trip away in a campervan or motorhome is a very liberating and exciting experience; the open road, the freedom to travel everywhere and anywhere in your own time and at your own pace, whilst having your accommodation, kitchen and holiday wardrobe with you.

Choosing the right vehicle for you

With so many options available you first need to have a think about what sort of size of vehicle and space you may want for your holiday. So lets have a look at some options starting with the smaller vehicle....

The Campervan



A campervan can come in many shapes and sizes but is generally the smallest of the leisure vehicle family. Most people are familiar with the classic VW campervan and whilst the romance of the vintage vehicle is undoubtedly very cool, sometimes the reality of the drive and the facilities offered, quite don't match up! As well as VW's there are now many modern conversions available to hire based on Toyota's, Ford Transits, Renault or Hyundai conversions.

When driving a modern campervan you feel like you are really driving a large car, not to mention more reliable, fuel efficient engines, up to date interiors and many more mod cons. This type of vehicle has enough space for two people comfortably and normally comes with a rock and roll bed, where your back travelling seats convert into a double bed. If the vehicle has a pop top or high top roof option you can sleep a family of 4 (two adults and two children) or you can attach a drive away awning or take a tent for extra outside space including extra sleeping accommodation. In a vehicle this size, you need to pack light and the 'campervan shuffle' of tidying belongings away is unavoidable.

Panel Van Motorhomes

The next size up in vehicle is a Panel van motorhome, often called Compact Motorhomes. These are the mid-sized motorhomes that will give you many more features, facilities and home comforts. These vehicles are mostly built on a Fiat or Peugeot chassis and typically have a wheel base from 5.5 to 6.5m and a width of 2m. These vans are converted by companies like [Swift](#), [Auto-Sleepers](#) or [GlobeCar](#).

Generally the facilities offered in these vans include a toilet/shower-room, kitchen space, seating area, swivel front seats and up to 4 berths. Although giving you more space than a campervan, they are a compact but comfortable option for a motorhome. You can easily navigate smaller country/single track roads with their narrow van profile and they are still economical with fuel consumption.



Coach-built Motorhomes

The largest size of motorhome is the coach-built motorhome, these are generally identified by their large white bodywork and some have over-cab sleeping areas, making them especially popular with families or larger groups. These vans may have 2-7 berths and certainly boast space and comfort.



They will have an onboard shower and toilet, layouts typically include fixed beds with options to convert other seating areas into sleeping berths. Generally you will have a better fitted kitchen with a full size cooker and fridge/freezer. Modern in appearance and comfortable to drive, the one negative is negotiating smaller single track roads, this can be more tricky if you are not used to driving something so large with rear overhangs and a wider coach-built body.

What facilities to expect

Whatever style of vehicle you choose there are some basic facilities you would expect to find. Cooking facilities would generally be a two burner gas hob and sometimes a grill or oven. You should be provided with cooking equipment and utensils, crockery and cutlery. Some companies will go the extra mile and provide you with washing up liquid, hand soap, bin bags and cleaning materials.



There should be an onboard water tank for your fresh and waste water, a sink and tap for washing and cleaning. Again as basics you will hopefully be provided with tea towels and wash cloths although it is always best to check what is included just in case.

Toilet and washing facilities do differ depending on your vehicle. From Panel van size up to Coach built motorhome you will generally have a toilet/shower room but with the basics of a campervan you will generally only get a Porta Potti (Portable toilet) for convenience (Some companies do charge extra for this facility) but don't forget that you will have the option to use campsite facilities for showers and washing.

How much will all this cost me?

The cost for hiring a campervan or a motorhomes can vary with size and seasonality but to generalise it will cost anything between £350 - £1200. This is the base hire cost and you may find that there are a few extra costs to be considered, such as additional drivers, insurance excess or mileage limits. Most firms will send you on your journey with a full tank of fuel which will need to be returned full. A lot of hire companies offer a list of extra facilities you can add onto your booking for a small charge, these being bedding, towels, DVD player, outdoor dining equipment, Sat Nav's, bike racks and awnings.



Campsite fees – although you may want a few nights of informal camping, using campsite facilities can be a great addition to your holiday, these can range from £12-£25 depending on the type of site if you want electric hook up.

Comparing this style of holiday to staying in hotels, eating out, car hire or renting self catering accommodation it is still offers good value for money. It also gives you the freedom to go where you want, when you want and not be dictated to by check in's and breakfast times. You also get to choose the view that you wake up to!

In Summary

Some best advice for when choosing a motorhome to hire would be to firstly decide on the space and facilities you would like for your journey, research the van in depth and look at photos or videos online. Most hire companies will be happy to discuss your questions and concerns and be able to advise you on what will be the best van for you, depending on your requirements. Make sure that the hire company will provide you with a detailed handover to make sure that you leave for your journey happy in the knowledge of how everything works and check what on-call services they provide during your hire in case of any problems.

A camper or motorhome holiday is a great way to explore, be free and make some fantastic memories. If this hasn't answered all your questions or concerns for you to attempt a first time campervan getaway, please feel free to contact us at [Highland Campervans](http://www.HighlandCampervans.com) and we will be delighted to help you with your holiday motorhome requirements.