

YOUR GUIDE TO BUYING A MOTORHOME OR CAMPERVAN AT A SHOW

Expert advice and essential tips for choosing your first (or next!) leisure vehicle — and why a motorhome exhibition is the best place to buy.



DISCOVER THE Right 'Van for You Whether you're new to motorhomes or ready to upgrade, buying the right vehicle is key to unlocking years of travel and freedom. With so many makes, models and layouts, where do you start? Simple — right where you are, at a motorhome show. Organised by the experienced Out & About Live team, with over 55 years of industry knowledge behind them, these shows bring together a huge range of options, all in one place, making it easier than ever to compare, learn, and make the right decision.

WHY BUY AT A SHOW?

See it, touch it, compare it. You're already in the best place to start your motorhome journey. Nothing compares to stepping inside a vehicle to see if it feels right. While you're here at the show:

- ✓ Walk through hundreds of vehicles
- ✓ Compare layouts side-by-side
- ✓ Test bed access, check storage, and get a real feel for the space

Talk to the experts, take advantage of having manufacturers, dealers and magazine editors all in one place. From base vehicles to bed layouts, these experts are here to answer your questions in person.

Take advantage of show deals, many exhibitors are offering exclusive show-only discounts, finance incentives or bonus extras this weekend. If you're ready to buy, you could make a serious saving.

Learn before you buy as part of your visit, don't miss the free sessions in the Out & About Live Advice Centre — it's all included with your ticket! Experts like Peter Vaughan (MMM magazine) and Motorhome Matt are giving honest guidance on everything from layout choices to insurance and payloads.

Attend the Out & About Live Advice Centre talks with 18 sessions scheduled across the weekend, the advice centre is your one-stop shop for learning.

Sit in on as many talks as you like — each one is free to attend and packed with practical insight.

Highlights include:

- ✓ Motorhome & campervan buying advice
- ✓ Touring Europe in a motorhome
- ✓ Motorhome accessories, what you really need
- ✓ Top tips for first-time buyers

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

How will you use it? Consider where you'll go, who you'll travel with, and how long you'll stay. Will you:

- ✓ Wild camp off-grid?
 - ✓ Take extended tours across Europe?
 - ✓ Need space for children or pets?
- Your answers shape what type of motorhome you need — a compact campervan, a family-sized coachbuilt, or a luxury A-class.

Key Considerations:

- ✓ Berths & seatbelts: enough sleeping space and safe travel seats?
- ✓ Layout: fixed bed or lounge conversion? Rear washroom or garage?
- ✓ Base vehicle: try different options for driving comfort and reliability
- ✓ Storage: will it fit everything you want to bring?
- ✓ Kitchen & washroom: are they practical for your style of travel?

NEW OR USED?

New

- ✓ Latest tech and comforts
- ✓ Custom specs
- ✓ Full warranty

Used

- ✓ Better value upfront
- ✓ Proven reliability (with a good service history)
- ✓ Wider choice of older layouts

At a show, you'll find both options under one roof, giving you a clearer

picture of what your budget can really get.

TALK, TEST AND TAKE NOTES

A motorhome is a big investment — possibly second only to your home. So, take your time:

- ✓ Take photos and use them to confirm your shortlist while you're here at the show
- ✓ Sit in the driver's seat — how does it feel?
- ✓ Lie on the bed, test the shower, check the storage
- ✓ Attend a talk, ask questions, chat to owners on the campsite

BUILD YOUR CONFIDENCE WITH A MANOEUVRING COURSE

If you're nervous about driving a larger vehicle, we've got you covered. As part of your visit to The East Midlands Motorhome and Campervan Show you can take part in a free manoeuvring taster session.

These sessions are designed for beginners and experienced drivers alike, offering practical tips and the chance to get behind the wheel in a safe, supportive environment. Qualified instructors will guide you through:

- ✓ Turning and reversing techniques
- ✓ Confidence-boosting manoeuvres
- ✓ Parking and spatial awareness in larger vehicles

Taking part in one of these sessions is a fantastic way to break down any barriers to buying — and could be the moment you realise a bigger van is well within your reach.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Buying a motorhome is exciting, but it can also be overwhelming. The best way to make a confident decision is to experience everything a show has to offer — in one weekend, at one venue. Take your time, do your research, and use our checklist to help guide your journey.

BUYING CHECKLIST 20 THINGS TO ASK OR CHECK AT THE SHOW

1. Is the layout right for your lifestyle?
2. Can you comfortably drive it?
3. Are the beds long enough and easy to access?
4. Is there enough storage for your needs?
5. How many belted seats does it have?
6. What payload does it offer?
7. Can you use it off-grid?
8. Does the kitchen meet your cooking habits?
9. Is there a separate shower and toilet?
10. How easy is it to make up the bed?
11. Can you stand and move around easily?
12. Are there any special show offers?
13. What warranty is included?
14. What servicing and dealer support is available?
15. What fuel economy can you expect?
16. What are the insurance implications?
17. Is it within your driving licence limit?
18. Is the water/waste system practical?
19. Can you add accessories later (solar, awning etc)?
20. Have you compared similar models?

TALK TO US!

Visit the Out & About Live Advice Centre during the show to ask the experts your buying questions in person. For more tips, reviews and show info, head to outandaboutlive.co.uk — your home of motorhomes.

