Types of leisure vehicles

- A-Class Motorhome
- Campervan
- Trailer Tent
- Coachbuilt Motorhome
- 4-6 Berth Touring Caravan
- Safari Tent
- Low Profile Motorhome
- 2 Berth Touring Caravan
- Caravan Holiday Home/Lodge

Other useful information

Our full guide to buying a leisure vehicle can be downloaded at freedomtogo.co.uk/signup

New to leisure vehicles?

We can help you get started

A Leisure Vehicle is whatever you want it to be; a spontaneous weekend away, a relaxing break in the country, a chance to get close to nature, an adventure with family and friends.

“We’ve rented a motorhome in New Zealand before and thought it was about time we discovered our own back yard. A motorhome seems like the natural choice to explore Britain”.

Peter and Barbara Ross
Tips for buying a leisure vehicle

Here are a few questions to think about before you start:

What type of vehicle is right for you?

Buying a motorhome, campervan or caravan is a big investment and it’s important to find the right type to suit your needs. Here are a few things to consider to help you decide which will fit your holiday style.

**Caravan**
- If you intend to head to your destination/camp site and stay there for several days and/or if you have children, then a caravan may be best for you. With a caravan you still have your car to get out to places of interest without having to pack up camp.
- Will you have more than 3 passengers? Although there are motorhomes with 5 legal, safe, travel seats, your choice could be limited by that requirement. A caravan may be better for you as all of your passengers can travel in your car as usual.
- Caravanning is a cheaper way to get started, as most people already own their own car. Most family cars will tow a small to medium sized caravan, but you do need to check what you can tow. See section opposite: “What are the rules for towing a caravan?”

**Motorhome**
- If you want to stop at lots of different places for short stays, tour around, or set off more frequently on the spur of the moment, then a motorhome may be more suitable.
- If you want to have everything ready while you are on the move, then a motorhome is ideal. You can stop anytime and step into the back to use the kitchen and bathroom, for lunch breaks and rest stops.
- A motorhome means that you don’t have to tow. Once you’ve reached your destination and are settled, you may prefer not to move your motorhome every day. Many people prefer walking or cycling to visit local places of interest and some even choose to tow a small car, for the added flexibility once on-site.

How far would you like to go in your leisure vehicle?

Are you imagining shorter distance touring in the UK or long distance travelling abroad? If you’d like your leisure vehicle to also be an everyday vehicle to get you from A to B then you might like a hi-top campervan conversion, for added space and comfort.

For longer trips, the extra living space in a coachbuilt motorhome would probably suit your needs better. If you’re planning to stay on campsites and holiday parks that have facilities including restaurants, shower blocks and electrical hook ups, then you won’t need all the bells and whistles in your leisure vehicle. But if you’ll be venturing off the beaten track, it’s better to be well equipped and well prepared.

How many berths do you need?

Even if there are only two of you, you may decide the additional space in a four or five berth caravan, or a medium-sized motorhome would suit you better. You can also supplement a caravan and motorhome with an awning or tent to give yourselves extra living space.

Finally, if you think a motorhome is the leisure vehicle for you, make sure the model you choose has enough passenger seats with seatbelts, to safely and legally accommodate your group.

What are the rules for towing a caravan?

If you passed your driving test before 1st January 1997 you can tow a caravan on your standard licence. However, if you passed after that date, there are restrictions on what you can tow. For further information on what your vehicle is able to tow, visit towcheck.co.uk

Securely storing your new leisure vehicle

The Caravan Storage Site Owner’s Association (CASSOA) is a recognised membership body providing security accreditations to over 500 secure caravan and motorhome storage sites. Many insurance companies offer policy discounts for vehicles stored on secure CASSOA sites due to its commitment to reducing theft.

Where should I buy?

The recommended place to buy is from a local dealer - preferably from an NCC Approved Dealership. They’ll answer all your questions and ensure that you make the right choice with confidence. They can also advise you on handling, servicing, finance and warranties.