

GEAR & GADGETS

The Ultimate Road-Trip Accommodation: A Tiny RV

Smaller than gigantic RVs but packed with amenities, compact campers from Airstream, Winnebago and others are making it easy to bring your home away from home



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Opus Off-Road Camper

Although pop-up campers—which blend the rigid structure of a trailer with the fabric enclosure of a tent—have been around for decades, the Opus Off-Road is much more convenient to set up. This rugged trailer offers a \$2,500 upgrade called Air-Pole that raises the tent automatically in 90 seconds. Just park the trailer, open the lid and turn on the built-in air pump. You'll have to tuck in the ends of the tent and fasten a few external support rods, but there's no need to wrestle with unwieldy tent poles. Despite its relative lack of structure, it still offers a sink, four-burner stove

and refrigerator, which slide out from the side of the trailer to form an outdoor kitchen. The interior living space isn't too shabby either: It includes double beds at each end, a dining table and banquette that converts into a bed for two.

From \$21,999, opuscamper.us

DID YOUR LAST stay in a cookie-cutter hotel room or subpar Airbnb apartment leave you longing for cozier lodging? As many road-tripping vacationers are discovering, the most satisfying form of shelter might be the type you can hitch to the back of the car.

These trailers are making a big dent on the overall RV market, where sales are breaking records. Last year, shipments for recreational vehicles of all types totaled 430,691 - a 15% increase over the preceding year, according to the Recreational Vehicle Industry Association. And shipments hit 256,430 in the first half of this year, with trailers (not motor homes) making up the vast majority, over 87%.