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Picking the perfect RV for you

OKEMOS, Mich.—There are almost as many options of recreation vehicles as there are places to take them. Each style offers different benefits and determining how, when and why you want to use an RV are important factors in deciding what type is right for you and your family.

Folding camping trailer—a lightweight unit with sides that collapse for towing and storage. The compact size allows for quick setup and easy storage between uses. Most folding trailers are available from \$6,000-\$22,000. When fully set up, they provide a kitchen and dining area, sleeping accommodations and, in some models, bathroom facilities.

Travel trailer—a unit designed to be towed by your car, van or pickup by means of a frame hitch or bumper. They can range anywhere from \$8,000 to \$160,000 depending on model and size, and can accommodate up to eight or 10 people comfortably. They provide sleeping accommodations, kitchen areas and electric and water systems. A fifth-wheel is a type of travel trailer, designed to be towed by pickups with a special hitch.

Sports Utility RV hauler—available motorized or towable as travel trailers or fifth-wheels. These units have built-in “garages” for hauling cycles, snowmobiles, ATVs and other sports equipment. Some haulers can sleep up to eight people, with bunk beds and bedrooms, and often feature bathrooms, kitchens and dining areas. Toy haulers can range from \$10,300 to \$170,000.

Motorhome—there are three types of motorhomes—Class A, B and C. The Class C motorhome has the convenience of a larger motorhome, but in a miniature version. The Class C motorhomes are built on an automotive van frame and are often recognized by the over-the-cab area. Class B motorhomes are commonly called van campers and drive like a family van. Class A motorhomes are the largest and most luxurious of the “home-away-from-home” on wheels. They range from \$43,000 to \$500,000 or more. All three models include sleeping accommodations for up to eight, bathroom facilities and a kitchen, as well as electricity, heating, air-conditioning and water.

If you still can't decide, renting an RV may be your best option. Many dealers offer the option to rent, with packages ranging from three to 10 days. Take it for a weekend getaway or short road trip.

The Michigan Association of Recreation Vehicles and Campgrounds (MARVAC) is a statewide, nonprofit organization dedicated to encouraging growth in the recreation vehicle and private campground industries while contributing to the quality of Michigan tourism. For more information, visit MARVAC's website, michiganrvandcampgrounds.org. MARVAC, 2222 Association Drive, Okemos, Mich. 48864-5978; 517.349.8881.

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