



Check Your Globe: THERE'S A TRAILER FOR RENT

By Tom Bentley

Ahh, the Airstream and the open road:

The two are the wing and the wind, the bread and the butter, the promise given and the promise fulfilled. There's no denying that hitching up and pointing the GPS to "somewhere out there" is a liberating feeling. But some Airstream enthusiasts will never know the beauties of hooking up a sewage line, and they're the happier for it. They get their Airstream kicks by staying in someone else's.

There's a confluence of things that have put Airstreams deep in the mix of today's rentable properties. Airbnb has turned into a global phenomenon, and its eclectic mix of houses, rooms, boats, and tents has many shiny trailers among the offerings. Airstreams themselves are in a general resurgence, with modern designs appealing to ever-broader audiences.

And then there's the iconic status that Airstreams have had from early on: For years they've projected a retro-futuristic expression that seems on the surface to be a contradiction, but from wacky vintage restorations to gleaming 2018 releases, that combination has helped Airstreams hold on to their hipness.

And that's also why there's so many available for rent — they have curb appeal. You'll now find Airstream-only hotels, Airstreams mixed among other RV and building rentals, vintage specialists with Airstreams in the mix, and single-Airstream outliers, all for your leisure-time pleasure.

While Airstreams are an American icon, they also seem to have tingled nerves for people across the pond — several ponds, for that matter. Let's start with a few properties around the world that are making the silver bullets available for rent. (Find links to all the properties listed here at www.airstreamlife.com/airstream-hotels.)

You'll find Airstream hotels all over the world these days! **TOP:** Happy Days Retro Vacations in Suffolk, UK. **OPPOSITE PAGE, top to bottom:** Airstream Vintage Vacations, France; Happy Days Retro Vacation, UK; Camp Silver, The Netherlands; AutoCamp, Russian River, CA.

Airstream Vintage Vacations – Perigord Noir, France

A sweet '61 Airstream, with a companion '48 Spartan nearby, on five acres in the Dordogne region of France, with "countless castles dotting the landscape, such as Beynac, Feyrac, Milandes, Marqueyssac, Castelnaud, Lacoste ..." You might feel regal swimming in the big pool on the property, or you can canoe on your choice of nearby rivers or visit nearby landmarks.

Vintage Vacations – Isle of Wight, UK

These guys started in in 2004 with one Airstream, and now they have 13 vintage American trailers — mostly Airstreams and some Spartans — plus a couple of vintage British trailers. Many have period furnishings; all are set on a circle of green on the handsome property.

Grand Daddy Hotel – Cape Town, South Africa

Seven Airstreams atop an urban hotel, outfitted with South African themes like a beach house, gold rush, and safari vehicles. Bonus: The Pink Flamingo Rooftop Cinema is set among the trailers, showing films as vintage as the coaches.

Hotel Daniel – Vienna, Austria

This one is a close call: The hotel added a single vintage trailer to their regular room rentals, but it's an aluminum cousin, not an actual Airstream. As they put it, "For those of you, who really always want to keep the travelling feeling close, we have a trailer in the garden. As an island part to the hotel." This particular island is a '52 Silver Creek Clipper with a nice bathtub.

Notel – Melbourne, Australia

Six gleaming, restored Airstreams from the '70s on a rooftop car park (and a pretty tight roof it is). All feature full-size showers and a complimentary mini-bar. One, the Airstream "with benefits," includes a spa and private deck. Don't miss their "Tight-arse Tuesdays" special pricing.

Happy Days Retro Vacations – Suffolk, UK

Eight vintage trailers include six Airstreams, mostly from the '60s and '70s, all named things like Elsie and Dee Dee. Fairly large, tree-lined campsite (other RV/tent campers are welcome, but only if they are vintage). The site is five miles from the Suffolk coast and one mile to shops.

Camping De Lakens Retro Trailer – Overveen, The Netherlands

De Lakens is a resort just off the beach, offering a sauna, spa, playground, yoga, bike rentals, glamping tents, and "shacks." They also offer five older, fully refurbished Airstreams. In each, "A beautifully finished kitchen sports all facilities to allow culinary holiday entertainment." You'll need Dutch for the FAQ page.

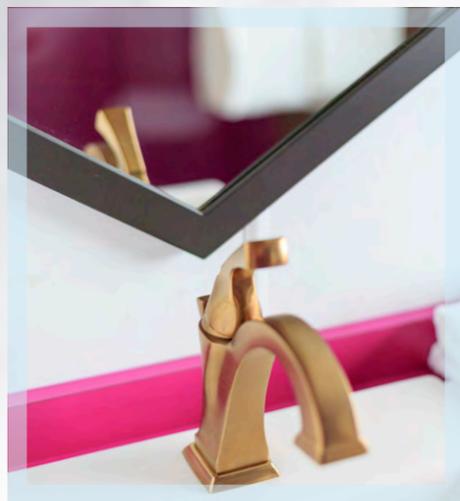
Camp Silver – Texel Island, The Netherlands

More Dutch fun on an island of 13,000, twenty minutes from the mainland. Eight Christopher Dean Airstreams are "located on a field of seashells behind a shelterbelt of trees, and have a panoramic view of the duck decoy and the old dyke." One of the trailers has a private sauna. For the truly adventurous, they also recommend an ice-cold shower on this "remote, yet nearby island."

Vintage Hotel – Brussels, Belgium

A single restored 1958 vintage trailer — which they dub the "First Caravan Room in the Heart of Europe" — augments their regular hotel rooms. Everything is retro-modern, with crazy wall patterns and Atomic Age furnishings. There's also a boutique wine bar.





BelRepayre Retro Trailer Park – southern France near Toulouse

Now this is an eclectic assemblage, here at “the Live-in Museum”: Spartans, a Curtiss Wright, the Airstream Apollo lounge bar, a 1946 Clipper, Lucy’s Diner, and more. Nine Airstreams and an old French farm house for rent. They want you to know: “We have a conscience, the park is maintained with organic fertilizers and lots of elbow grease!”

Camping Ca’Savio – outside Venice, Italy

Just off the beach, on the Cavallino coast. Pitch your tent (or rent one), stay in a bungalow or — you guessed it — stay in the part of the park “dedicated to Airstream trailers.” They appear to have five or six modern trailers, which include a “bell tent” where you can sequester the kids if you want to run off to Venice.

Glamping Airstream Andalucía – outside Alosaina, Spain

A single 2007 Christopher Deem International trailer with beautiful views, a patio deck, and an outdoor plunge pool, set outside a small town in the Sierra de las Nieves in southern Spain.

Hotel Zed – Victoria BC

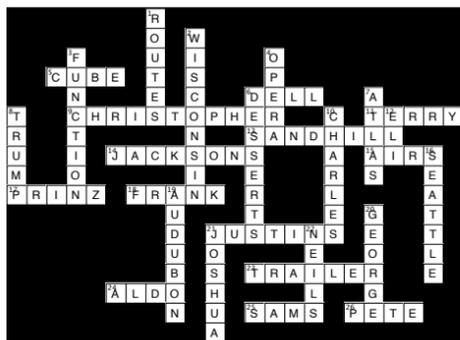
The single vintage Airstream at this hotel has a retrofitted psychedelic interior. One of the listed amenities is a comic book. The hotel has VW shuttle vans, a ping-pong lounge, free use of bikes, a vinyl station, and a typewriter station. In case you don’t catch on, they are “rebels against the ordinary.”

MEANWHILE, STATESIDE

While Airbnb may have cornered the market in U.S. Airstream rentals, especially one-off trailers in locations ranging from beach communities to working farms, GlampingHub.com is also there to hook you up with the Airstream (tree house, tipi, cabin...) of your short-term dreams. And there are plenty of independent offerings, like these.

Caravan Outpost – Ojai, CA

Eleven contemporary Airstreams outside of downtown Ojai. Packages include wine-tasting tours, massage, yoga, and hot springs jaunts, plus its “garden-in-the-city setting.” Ojai is hip to the nines, but in a good way.



Looking for answers, but have no clues? See page 29.

Hickville Trailer Palace – Joshua Tree, CA

Couple of vintage Airstreams, including the “Integratrailor,” along with a number of other vintage trailers (one looks like a covered wagon and is named Pee Wee). Besides the archery and BB gun range, there’s an off-the-grid bar trailer too.

Enchanted Trails RV Park and Trading Post – Albuquerque, NM (off Route 66)

A number of vintage trailers of all makes, including a ’69 Airstream. The trailers are named things like Flossie and Dot (the Airstream is Josephine), which you may have noticed seems to be a trend among vintage parks. They have a clubhouse filled with vintage curiosities as well as a trading post.

AutoCamp – Russian River, north of San Francisco, CA; also close to downtown Santa Barbara, CA

There are 23 new Airstreams in the woody Russian River area and five in Santa Barbara. You’ll find flat-screens, fancy bathrooms, and amenities like “luxe robes and boutique bath products.” There are also luxury tents and fancy huts for rent, and the Santa Barbara location includes beach cruiser bikes with your rentals.

Shooting Star RV Resort – Escalante, UT

The Star is an RV park, but has eight mostly newish Airstreams, decorated to resemble the dressing trailers of Hollywood stars. Three nights a week you can reserve 1960s classic cars from which to watch classic movies at the park’s drive-in. The resort borders the Grand Staircase-Escalante Monument, and for hikers and sightseers, it’s grand indeed.

The Shady Dell – Bisbee, AZ

All kinds of vintage trailers, including a ’55 Airstream — and a 1947 tiki-themed bus! — all refurbished in retro fittings. Here’s the pitch: “Western themed vintage touches throughout the 21-foot polished Airstream. Cozy sofa and vintage record player make for a quaint stay.” This park has been in the artsy community of Bisbee since 1927.

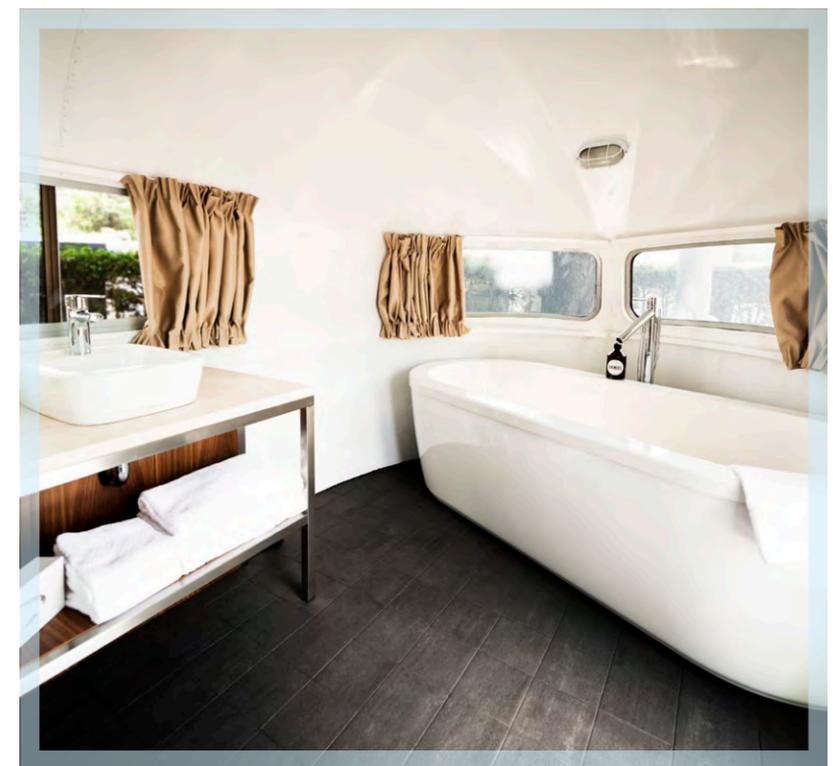
Kate’s Lazy Desert – not far from Palm Springs/Joshua Tree, CA

Six vintage Airstreams restored (and in some cases, wildly) by artists; the trailers have names like Tinkerbell and Hairstream. All trailers were moved from the sister property after being flooded in New York’s Catskills in 2004. For your pleasure: “Groovy suites are decorated with orange tiki heads, troll statues, cowgirls, and plastic butterflies, along with atomic-age furniture.”

Lakedale Resort at Three Lakes – Friday Harbor, one of San Juan Islands, Washington

Pretty lakeside setting for a single 1978 Excella with a small deck. There’s a lodge, glamping tents, a log-cabin lake house, and a general store. And “Airstream guests are invited to join us for a complimentary continental breakfast in the Mess Tent.”

Hotel Daniel, in Vienna, Austria, sports a ’52 Silver Streak Clipper but the elegance of this room is certainly worthy of an Airstream.





An Airstream with a turquoise tongue highlights the mood at Asheville Glamping, where yurts and tipis will be your neighbors.

El Cosmico – outside Marfa, TX

“In keeping with the belief that life should be a balance of adventure and do-nothingness we offer shelter, occasional entertainment, opportunity for learning/doing/making, and access to the majesty of the high plains desert.” Among those offerings are a vintage Airstream, other vintage trailers, yurts, tents, and teepees, all not far from the ever-popular Texas town. There’s a hammock grove, wood-fired hot tubs, and bike rentals.

Asheville Glamping – Asheville, North Carolina

Domes, tents, tipis, yurts — at Asheville Glamping, they are ready to house you in all manner of glowing accommodations, some of which include hot tubs. Among the offerings on the 15-acre property just outside of hip and fun Asheville are a couple of restored vintage Airstreams. Among the described amenities for one are “cuteness,” “magic,” and “dog-friendly.” The other trailer, while not accommodating dogs, does let you view the neighbor’s cows in their pasture.

Vintage Maine Vacations – Wiscasset, Maine

A nicely restored (and gleaming) ’67 Caravel is yours for the glamping at this mid-coast Maine campground. Besides reveling in the glories of your aluminum retreat while others chill in their tents, you can consider renting a canoe or kayak, playing some tennis, or swimming in the 47-site campground’s saltwater pools. Many beaches, restaurants, and points of interest are nearby.

Considering the durability and popularity of Airstreams, and the refinement and expansion of what a hotel or rental property is all about, it’s a good bet that you’ll be seeing more and more silver trailers as rental possibilities. You don’t even have to bring a pillow, though you might want to pack s’mores. 🗨️



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