

***This is the opening part of chapter two and it neatly illustrates the approach taken to choosing a motorhome.***

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## **A Matter of Choice**

Choosing a motorhome can be fun but choosing the right motorhome for your needs takes some application. The application of what? Simple parameters based on knowledge of the types of motorhomes that are available and what each type offers. Making the decision about the kind of vehicle you'd like is extremely important. A motorhome represents a substantial investment for anyone. To some, it's the product of a golden handshake, to others, it's the hatchling of their nest egg. To younger buyers, it can be the outcome of the arrangement of the kind of funding associated with any major purchase. But for all, it can turn out to be a financial embarrassment of the worst kind. Be aware that this isn't scaremongering. Individuals, couples and families can make the wrong decision; all too often they do, to their cost. Avoiding this is easy enough, provided you have the knowledge you need.

So, what can go wrong? The simple answer is quite a lot, which is a shame since errors in the choosing can be so easily circumvented. This chapter is here to describe in detail the various types of motorhome. It'll highlight the pros and cons of each and give you a valuable insight, both into motorhomes and into what they offer.

Before examining the available options, it's worth looking at the mistakes buyers – especially first-timers – tend to make. Such pitfalls exist and being tripped by them is understandable. Happily, steering clear of them takes no more than a little forethought.

Often, first-time buyers crave an American motorhome. After all, what could be better than a huge, luxurious wheeled mansion? You can live in it on a full-time basis if you like. It'll be just like home, won't it? Of course it will but this won't be any consolation if you can't master driving it. Being accustomed to a car and attempting to pilot a large, left-hand drive US A-Class motorhome on narrow country roads may not end in tears but it often ends in damage, to the motorhome and sometimes to the vehicles of others and to property that stands not so much on the way as in the way. This is not to denigrate your driving skills, nor is it to put you off. It's just a clarification, arguably supported by many American motorhome dealers' offering driving tuition to their buyers.

Choosing a less ambitiously-sized vehicle makes sense but care is still needed. In the coachbuilt sector, the range of available models is huge. Which do you want? A full-height coachbuilt? A tag-axled model? A low profile? Which one you choose is ultimately up to you but basic factors need to be taken into account. Petrol or diesel power is an easy choice, the popularity of the latter often helping you make your decision. The number of berths needed also tends to be a more-or-less foregone conclusion.

Similarly, the choice between, say, a garage model and a rear lounge conversion is easy to make. The trap into which first-timers fall with a resounding clatter concerns which layout to choose. Coachbuilts come in a variety of lengths and offer a huge variety of internal layouts. Look at any dealer's forecourt and you're sure to see a number of nearly new motorhomes with minimal mileage. They're often there as trade-ins because someone chose a layout they couldn't live with. That someone is almost certain to have lost anything up to £10,000 – a costly mistake by anybody's reckoning.

The first time buyer needs to take the time to make a decision and this must be an informed decision unless providing the secondhand market with a bargain is high on the agenda. You may have an idea of the type of conversion you desire or you may be starting from scratch. Regardless of your particular position, use the following information to help you make an informed decision. Having done so, you'll find the search for your ideal vehicle is made simpler and quicker, you'll be in a stronger bargaining position and able to close the deal painlessly.