

Gear guide

Photo courtesy Andy Marshall



THE DIMINUTIVE PYRAMID: Aliners are popular choices for eco-friendly RVers.

Travelling ultra-light

These cozy campers always prove to be a real conversation starter

by **ANDY MARSHALL** | "What a cute camper. May we look inside?" If I had a dollar for every time someone in a campground spotted our Northwest Columbia Aliner and made that comment, I would be a wealthier man.


The pyramid-shaped trailers pop up easily on site, then conveniently pack down for hauling. They often prompt curious stares. But they belong squarely in the mass of other ultra-lightweight trailers that have hit the RV market recently, as a more conservation-aware and economy-minded population heads for the open road.

"The Aliner has continued to be a top seller, even when sales of the bigger trailers and fifth wheels were down," said Chris Swift, a salesman at Woody's RV in Calgary.

The perfect fit

In our 60s and looking forward to retirement, we studied all kinds of lightweight trailers until we discovered the A-frame at an RV show in Calgary.

At six-foot-four, I can stand up straight in the trailer while getting dressed or cooking at the stove. Up to three people have slept in the unit—the table and the benches convert to another double bed—and four of us have comfortably sat at the table.

So far, our cuddly camper has covered about 40,000 kilometres, close to once around the earth. It remains our beloved ticket to adventure. We'll check the bearings every two years, watch the tires, keep it clean—and maybe it'll stand up for another turn around the world. 



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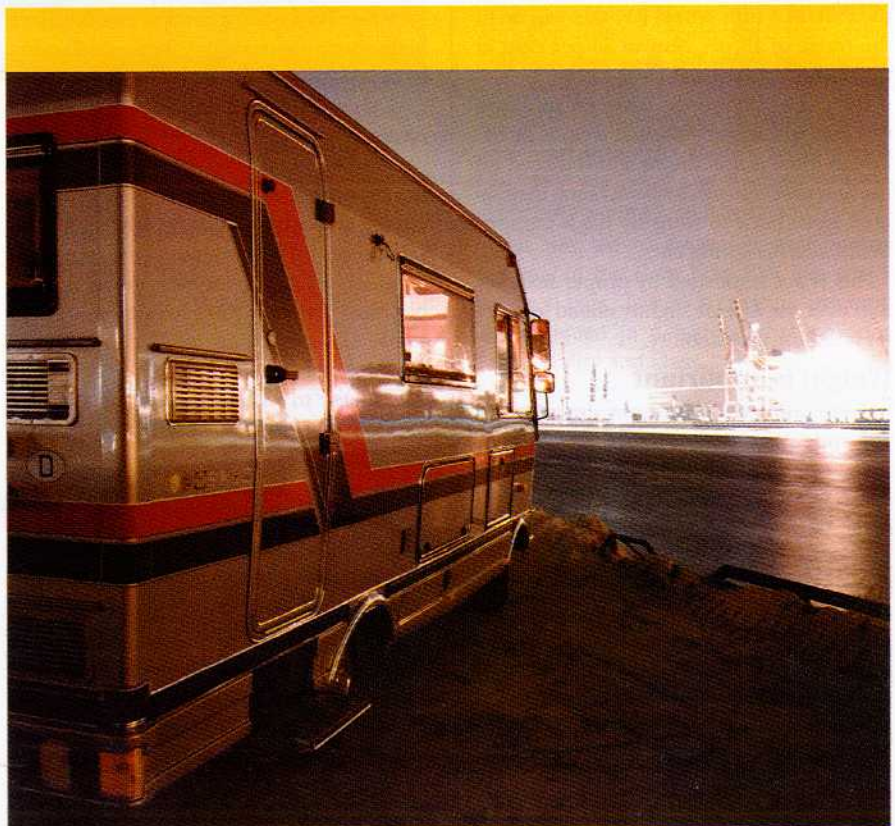
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