

WIN THE GREAT AUSSIE ESCAPE



CAMPER TRAILER

AUSTRALIA

TRAILERS - TRAYBACKS - TRAVEL

Issue 31 \$7.50 inc GST, NZ \$8.50

THE BUYERS GUIDE

6 CAMPER REVIEWS

VALUE 148 PAGES

+ EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT TRAILER

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THE RIGHT
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DRIVING LIGHT MARKETPLACE



Northern EXPOSURE

There aren't many camper trailers in the USA, but this retro unit has a unique style as well as practicality.

Despite their booming popularity in Australia, camper trailers are still a niche product in the USA, with few people appreciating the convenience and comfort that they can provide. Nonetheless, a handful of manufacturers are working to provide for those who have seen the light. One of the most active is Arizona's Adventure Trailers, which produces a unique traytop and four trailer models to meet a variety of tastes.

Its most recent is the 1950s classically styled Off-Road Teardrop. This offers limited, caravan-style accommodation in a true camper trailer configuration with external kitchen, offroad capabilities and well thought-out layout.

The trailer is built on a powder coated, relatively light weight (by Australian camper standards) 50mmx76mmx3mm chassis, with a 272cm tongue to spindle length. Suspension is an independent air bag setup with 10in electric drum brakes.





Clockwise from main: Adventure's Teardrop has an alloy body; the compact kitchen crams in a 45L Engel fridge, two-burner stove and plenty of storage – everything but the kitchen sink; the Teardrop bed is just a little bit narrower than a standard double; two jerry cans, a water tank and storage ride on the A-frame.

Wheels and tyres are provided to match the tow vehicle.

HOW IT ROLLS

Adventure is well aware of Australian designs and ideas on campers – and in fact offers a hard floor flip-over model under the name Oasis, which could be the product of any one of a number of Australian manufacturers. However, the Adventure Trailers believes that US users aren't interested in trailers that typically weight 800-1200kg. Its heaviest is the Oasis or the Teardrop, both of which, when fully equipped, come in at 680kg. Adventure Trailers feels that Australian designers are contending with different conditions, most

notably corrugations, though we would have thought that these were universal.

With the Teardrop, the aluminium skinned body has a rear hatch which lifts to give access to what Adventure refers to as a full kitchen, with room for a two-burner stove, 45L Engel fridge and storage for cooking gear, crockery and cutlery, though there is no sink and weather protection is limited to the flip-up hatch.

The trailer body uses internal ribs for strength, a construction method used by boat builders, and the interior is finished in Baltic Birch, which gives it a real retro feel very different from any trailer, or even caravan, today.

The cabin is accessed from front-hinged



OFFICIAL GRILL OF TAILGATING

Proud of your camper trailer's kitchen? Well, in the land of everything that's bigger – the USA – they do things seriously. Nothing wimpy there.

The Freedom Grill, as spotted at the most recent Specialty Equipment Manufacturers Association (SEMA) show, is a range of tow along kitchens to beat all.

These all-stainless steel units

feature 5600 sq cm cooking areas with six burners putting out 99,000 BTUs of heat. They can have their own insulated meat or beverage storage areas, plus storage for tables, chairs, food, etc, a sink with waste water container, quality wheels and up to 180kg payload capacity.

Marketed as the "official grill of tailgating" the Freedom Grill could only be manufactured in the good ol' USA.

side doors, and sleeps two, though the overall 10cm thick mattress width of 134cm is 3cm narrower than a standard double bed. The bulkhead behind the sleepers is equipped with shelves, drawers, and drink holders.

The cabin is lit by LED lights that can switch between white light (bright and dimmed to avoid waking a sleeping partner) and a red light to preserve night vision if needing to exit the camper after dark. There's also a stereo system and two 12V plugs, plus a fan, to complete the picture.

All the Adventure trailers have a US version of a Treg-type of hitch, though all in steel, with no poly block. Hitch noise is reportedly less than with a conventional ball coupling.

The drawbar of the Teardrop provides space for two fuel cans, water tank, and a storage box. The nose box can be used for additional storage or for mounting of deep cycle batteries, solar controllers, power

inverters, battery chargers and marine grade 12V outlets.

An option that is very necessary in the USA if you want year-round use of your trailer is a high efficiency propane heater for the cabin.

Other options include a 49L water tank, a roof rack and a Fiamma awning to extend some comfort out to the side. A 50mm receiver tube in the rear bumper will support light weight accessories.

With 61cm of ground clearance, the trailer has great offroad capability, and with its light weight is a go pretty well anywhere item.

The price is also very good, at US\$18,905 – AU\$21,029 – for the unit which we have photographed here.

If you're interested in finding out more about the Adventure range of campers check them out on the web at www.adventuretrailers.com where you can watch on-line movies and survey the full range of features and options. ■



Top: The powder-coated chassis is light by Aussie standards, note the air bag suspension.
Above: The battery goes in the front.