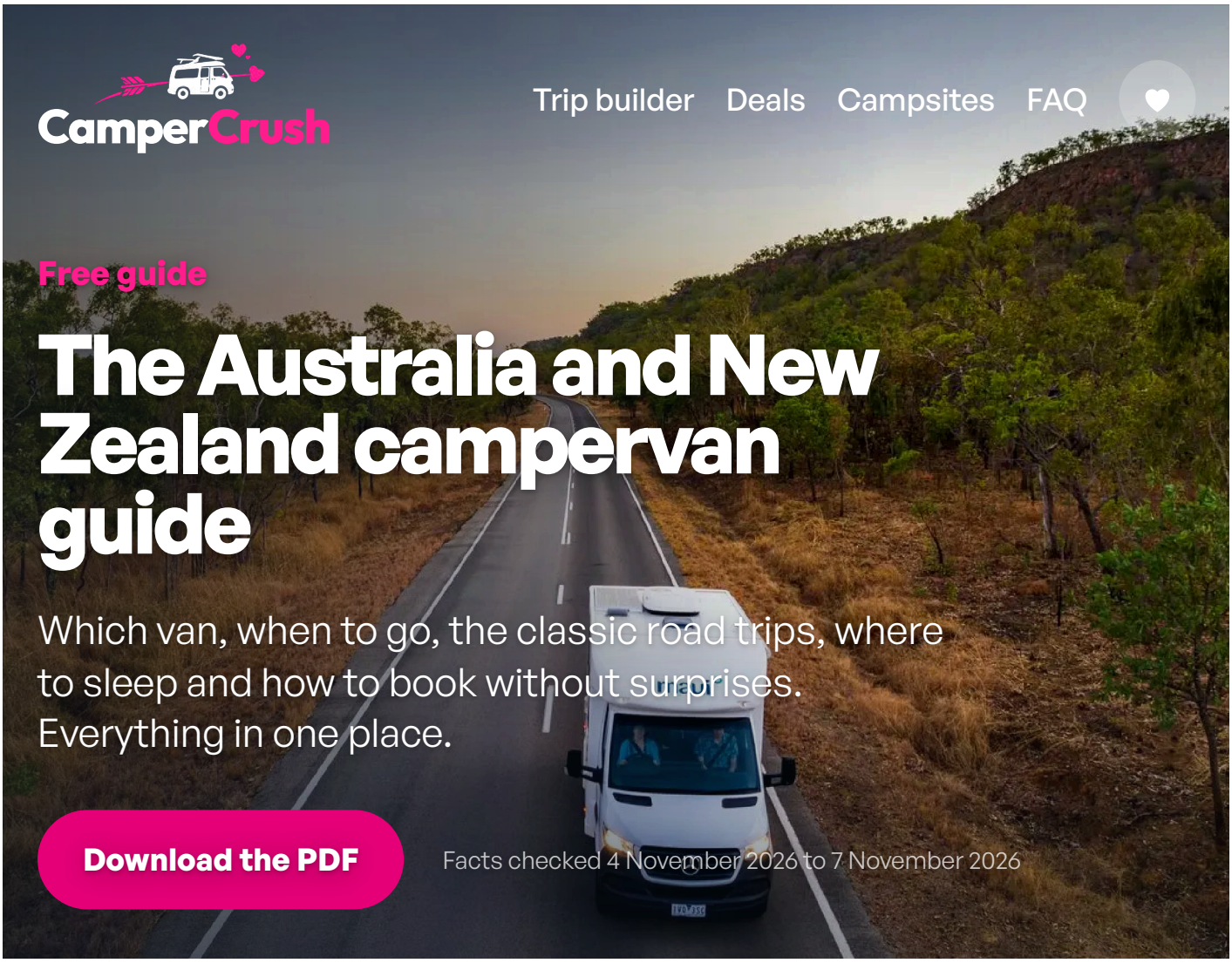


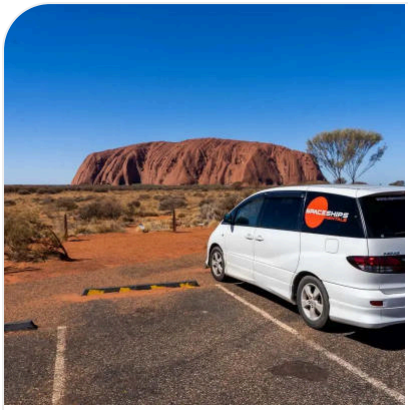
In this guide

- Choose your van
- When to go
- Eight classic road trips
- Licences and driving
- Where to sleep
- New Zealand notes
- Booking without surprises

1. Choose your van

Five kinds of van cover almost every trip. The price is the cheapest of each kind on the rental company's own website, 7 nights Sydney to Brisbane, 1 to 8

December 2026.



Spaceships Beta

SLEEPS 2

Budget wagon

A bed in the back, a kitchen out the boot and parking anywhere. The cheapest way to see the coast.

Stand up inside	Toilet
No	**No**
Shower	A week from
No	**$521**

Like the Awesome Compact, Spaceships Alpha, JUCY Cloudbreak.



Travellers Autobarn Hi-Top

SLEEPS 2

Hi-top camper

Stand up to cook, sit at a real table when it rains. The van most couples end up loving.

Stand up inside	Toilet
Yes	**Some vans**
Shower	A week from
Some vans	**$857**

Like the Spaceships Beta 2S, JUCY Coaster, MightyLITE HiLITE, Mighty Highball, Apollo Hitop.



Britz Voyager

SLEEPS 4

Four-berth camper

Two beds for four friends or a young family, and the cost split four ways.

Stand up inside
Some vans

Toilet
Some vans

Shower
Some vans

A week from
$795

Like the JUCY Crib Plus, JUCY Condo, MightyLITE DeLITE, Britz Voyager.



Chill'd Big Kahuna

SLEEPS 2 TO 6

Motorhome

Toilet, shower and a proper bed. Free camping and long drives get a lot easier.

Stand up inside
Yes

Toilet
Yes

Shower
Yes

A week from
$1,464

Like the Mighty Duo and Deuce, Apollo Euro Mini, Maui Ultima Plus.



Britz Maverick 4WD

SLEEPS 2 TO 4

4WD camper

For the Red Centre, Cape York and the sand. High clearance, big tanks, and a rooftop tent or a bed inside.

Stand up inside	Toilet
No	**No**
Shower	A week from
No	**$1,446**

Like the Mighty 4WD, Apollo 4WD Adventure, Britz Warrior and Maverick.

Who are campervans suited to?

Anyone who wants to move every day or two without packing and unpacking: couples, friends, families and solo travellers. Budget campervans suit people happy to cook outside and use campground bathrooms. Hi-tops add standing room and sometimes a toilet. Motorhomes suit families and anyone who wants a shower on board. If you'd rather stay put in one place, a car and a hotel is usually simpler.

I'm travelling solo. Is a campervan for me?

Yes, and it's one of the cheapest ways to travel solo, because a van costs the same whether one or two people sleep in it. A budget 2-berth is easy to drive and park alone. Spaceships charges the same price at every age, from 18. Holiday parks are easy places to meet other travellers, and every hire includes 24/7 roadside help.

How many people can sleep in a campervan?

Two in most budget vans and hi-tops, four in a 4-berth such as the JUCY Condo (two double beds), and up to six in the larger motorhomes. Seats and beds aren't always the same: the JUCY Cloudbreak seats 4 but sleeps 2.

2. When to go

How much does campervan hire cost in Australia?

From about $85 a night for a budget 2-berth campervan outside the summer holidays. On the rental companies' own websites, the cheapest van for 7 nights Sydney to Brisbane was $594 from 1 December 2026 and $1,159 from 29 December (Christmas week). 14 nights Sydney to Cairns was $1,035 in July 2027 and $2,145 over Christmas. Hi-tops and motorhomes cost two to four times more.

When is the cheapest time to hire a campervan in Australia?

Winter (June to August) and early December. Sydney to Brisbane for a week was $594 from 1 December and $600 from 6 July, but $1,159 from 29 December. The Christmas and New Year fortnight is the dearest time of the year on every route we check.

The best months for each trip

ROAD TRIP	BEST MONTHS
The East Coast	May to October
Sydney to Melbourne, the coast way	October to April
The Great Ocean Road	November to April
The Red Centre	April to September
Tasmania loop	November to April
North Island highlights	November to April
The South Island	November to April
Both islands	November to April

The tropical north is best in the dry season, May to October. The south and New Zealand are best from November to April.

3. Eight classic road trips

Every trip starts and ends at a rental depot city, so each one can be booked one-way. The trip builder lays out every stop, where to sleep and the tours worth booking.



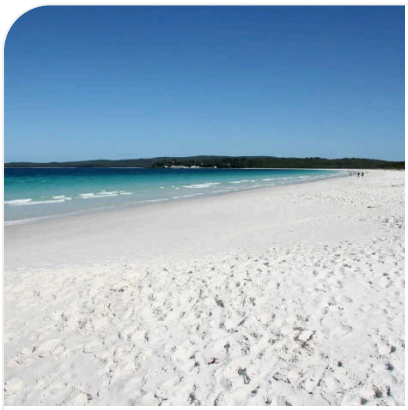
AUSTRALIA

The East Coast

Beach towns, rainforest, K'gari, the Whitsundays and the reef: Australia's favourite road trip.

- Sydney to Cairns, 3,075 km
- 14 to 35 nights, 21 is ideal
- Best May to October
- Highlights: Byron Bay, Noosa, Rainbow Beach, Airlie Beach

See every stop ‰



AUSTRALIA

Sydney to Melbourne, the coast way

White sand at Jervis Bay, whales at Eden and wombats at Wilsons Prom: the quiet coast.

- Sydney to Melbourne, 1,290 km
- 7 to 16 nights, 10 is ideal
- Best October to April
- Highlights: Jervis Bay, Wilsons Promontory

See every stop ‰



AUSTRALIA

The Great Ocean Road

Surf beaches, rainforest and the Twelve Apostles, out and back from Melbourne.

Melbourne loop, 740 km
6 to 12 nights, 7 is ideal
Best November to April
Highlights: Port Campbell, Grampians

See every stop →



AUSTRALIA

The Red Centre

Uluru at sunrise, Kata Tjuta and Kings Canyon, in a loop from Alice Springs.

Alice Springs loop, 1,220 km
5 to 12 nights, 7 is ideal
Best April to September
Highlights: Kings Canyon, Uluru

See every stop →



AUSTRALIA

Tasmania loop

Wineglass Bay, Cradle Mountain and empty roads, in a loop from Hobart.

Hobart loop, 1,050 km
7 to 18 nights, 10 is ideal
Best November to April
Highlights: Freycinet, Cradle Mountain

See every stop →



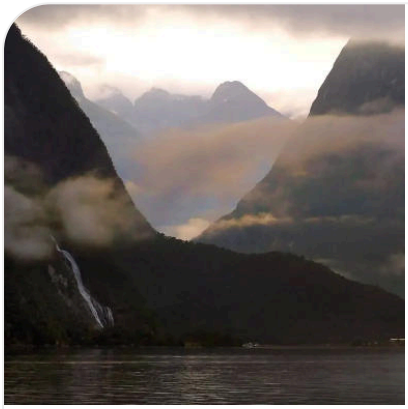
NEW ZEALAND

North Island highlights

Hot water beaches, Hobbiton, Rotorua's geysers and Tongariro, down to Wellington.

Auckland to Wellington, 885 km
7 to 16 nights, 10 is ideal
Best November to April
Highlights: Coromandel, Rotorua, Tongariro

See every stop →



NEW ZEALAND

The South Island

Whales at Kaikōura, Abel Tasman, the glaciers, Milford Sound and Queenstown: New Zealand at its most dramatic.

Christchurch to Queenstown, 1,710 km
9 to 21 nights, 14 is ideal
Best November to April
Highlights: Abel Tasman, Franz Josef, Wānaka, Te Anau

See every stop →



NEW ZEALAND

Both islands

The whole of New Zealand top to bottom, with the Cook Strait ferry in the middle.

Auckland to Christchurch, 2,580 km
14 to 30 nights, 21 is ideal
Best November to April
Highlights: Rotorua, Abel Tasman, Franz Josef, Queenstown

See every stop →

4. Licences and driving

Do I need a special licence to drive a campervan in Australia or New Zealand?

No. A normal full car licence is enough for every campervan and motorhome we compare; you don't need a truck licence. If your licence isn't in English, most companies also want an International Driving Permit or an accredited translation (see below). Spaceships asks for a full or probationary licence held for at least 6 months.

Can I hire a campervan in Australia if I'm under 21?

Yes, from 18 with JUCY, Spaceships, Mighty, MightyLITE and Travellers Autobarn. Awesome Campers, Apollo, Britz and Maui start at 21. Spaceships charges the same price at every age.

Do I need an International Driving Permit to hire a campervan?

Only if your licence isn't in English. JUCY and the Britz, Maui, Mighty and Apollo group then need an International Driving Permit or an accredited translation. Awesome Campers says no permit is needed but recommends one for non-English licences. Spaceships asks for a full or probationary licence held for at least 6 months.

Are rental campervans automatic or manual?

Most are. Every van in our Real vans list (JUCY Cloudbreak, Malibu, Condo and Coaster, Spaceships Alpha, Mighty Duo) is automatic. Some older models are manual, such as Travellers Autobarn's hi-top. Choose Automatic under More options in the search and we drop vans the rental company lists as manual.

Are campervans easy to drive in Australia and New Zealand?

Yes. A budget campervan drives like a people mover, and most vans are automatic with power steering. Hi-tops and motorhomes are taller and longer, so watch low car parks, drive-throughs and tight turns, and allow more braking distance. Both countries drive on the left. New Zealand's roads are narrower and winding, so plan shorter driving days there.

Can I drive a rental campervan on dirt roads or the beach?

No. Every company we compare limits 2WD campervans to sealed roads. The Britz group allows access roads under 12 km, Travellers Autobarn under 500 m, and Awesome Campers states a $7,000 liability if you break the rule. Beaches, including K'gari, are off limits; take a 4WD tour there instead.

Can I pick up a campervan in Sydney and drop it off in Cairns?

Yes. Spaceships, Awesome Campers, JUCY and the Britz, Maui, Mighty and Apollo group all have depots in both cities. Sydney to Cairns is about 2,700 km; most people take 14 nights or more. Note the Britz group's Cairns depot is closed on Sundays from October to March.

5. Where to sleep

Can I camp wherever I want in Australia?

No. Sleep in holiday parks, national park campgrounds or free camping areas where signs allow it. Many towns, beaches and car parks ban overnight stays and fine people who do. Apps such as WikiCamps show legal spots, and national park sites in summer and school holidays need booking ahead.

Where are the best campgrounds in Australia?

Some favourites on the classic drives: Booderee National Park at Jervis Bay, Tidal River at Wilsons Promontory, Ayers Rock Campground at Uluru, Kings Canyon Resort, and the Freycinet and Cradle Mountain campgrounds in Tasmania. Tidal River and Booderee fill up in summer, so book early. Our road trips list where to sleep at every stop.

Can I freedom camp in a rental campervan in New Zealand?

Only in a certified self-contained van. JUCY's Chaser, Condo and Sunseeker, every Star RV, Maui's campers, Spaceships' Beta 2S and the Mighty Highball are certified; the JUCY Crib and Cloudbreak and the Spaceships Beta are not. NZ's banned roads for rentals include Ninety Mile Beach and Skippers Road.

6. New Zealand notes

Is the Cook Strait ferry included in a New Zealand campervan hire?

No. If you drive between the North and South Islands, you book the Interislander or Bluebridge ferry yourself; the Britz, Maui, Mighty and Apollo group says so in its terms. Spaceships and Travellers Autobarn only have depots in Auckland and Christchurch, so a one-way hire between them crosses the strait.

Do rental campervans have unlimited kilometres?

Yes, on every 2WD campervan we compare in Australia and New Zealand. In New Zealand, diesel vans also pay a Road User Charge per kilometre, either prepaid or when you return the van.

What fuel do campervans use, and do I fill it up?

Petrol or diesel, depending on the van; your rental agreement says which. Most companies hand the van over with a full tank and ask for it back full, or charge to refill it. Fuel isn't in the hire price. In New Zealand, diesel vans also pay a Road User Charge per kilometre.

7. Booking without surprises

What's included in a rental campervan?

Usually bedding and kitchen gear. Spaceships, Awesome Campers, JUCY and the Britz, Maui, Mighty and Apollo group include them; Spaceships adds 2 gas canisters. Travellers Autobarn charges $45 to $75 for a bedding and kitchen kit on some vans. Every company we compare includes unlimited kilometres on 2WD vans.

Can I hire a campervan with a toilet and shower?

Yes. Small vans such as the JUCY Coaster and JUCY Malibu have a toilet, and motorhomes such as the Mighty Duo have a toilet and shower. Choose "Toilet" or "Toilet + shower" under More options in the search and we only show vans whose rental company says they have one.

Is there a one-way fee for campervan hire?

Often, but not always. In our Sydney to Cairns check: Spaceships $0, Awesome Campers $180 (plus a $90 admin fee on every hire), Britz, Maui, Mighty and Apollo $200, JUCY $295. In New Zealand, Spaceships charges nothing between Auckland and Christchurch; JUCY was NZ$189 and the Britz group NZ$205. The prices we show already include it.

What are the insurance options for campervan hire?

Every price we show includes the rental company's basic cover and its 24/7 roadside help. Each company also sells its own extra cover that lowers what you'd pay if the van is damaged; you can add it at pick-up. Spaceships sells optional recovery cover for remote areas. Travel insurance is separate and worth having for the rest of your trip.

Can I cancel a campervan booking?

Yes, on each company's own terms. Spaceships Australia is free 22 or more days out; Awesome Campers free up to 14 business days out (not 14 December to 10 January); the Britz, Maui, Mighty and Apollo group charges $250 from 60 days out. The terms for your van are shown before you pay.

Can I change my dates? How much does it cost?

Usually, if the rental company has the van for your new dates. Email us as soon as you know and we'll ask them. The rental company's change rules for your van apply, and you pay or get back the difference in price for the new dates. The rules are shown before you pay and in your confirmation.

What if I want to extend my campervan hire?

Message us before your drop-off day and we'll ask the rental company to add nights. It depends on the van being free, and extra nights cost the rental company's price for those dates. Don't keep the van past your drop-off time without an OK: companies charge for late returns.

Is it cheaper to book a campervan direct with the rental company?

Not with us. Every van CamperCrush sells is checked against the rental company's own website for the same van, dates and driver, and priced under it. If you find the same van cheaper elsewhere, send it to us before you book and we'll do our best to beat it.

How do I book a campervan with CamperCrush?

Search your pick-up city, drop-off city and dates, compare the vans side by side and choose one. You pay on the next page; your card is held, not charged, while we book the van with the rental company. Once it confirms, usually within 24 hours, we charge the card and email your confirmation. You collect the van from the rental company's depot.

Before you book: the checklist

- Book Christmas and New Year early: it's the dearest fortnight of the year on every route we check.
- Compare the whole price: one-way fees and compulsory fees change the order more than the daily rate does.
- Check the drop-off depot's hours. Some close on Sundays in summer, and late returns cost extra.
- If your licence isn't in English, sort an International Driving Permit or an accredited translation before you fly.
- Plan on sealed roads. 2WD vans can't go on the beach or dirt tracks; take a 4WD tour for K'gari and the like.
- Want a toilet or shower on board? Filter for it: most budget vans don't have one.
- In New Zealand, freedom camping needs a certified self-contained van, and the Cook Strait ferry is booked separately.

Ready to compare?

Live prices from every company we compare, each under its own website.

Search vans

Questions? WhatsApp +61 466 690 393 or hello@campercrush.com.au. campercrush.com.au