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AIRSTREAM



Rounded aluminum aircraft-style construction



Badges that identify the brand, model, and/or interior package



Airstream (1936–present)

Airstream, Inc. • Los Angeles, California / Jackson Center, Ohio

You wouldn't guess in 1929 that the first incarnation of the Airstream trailer, a tent mounted on a Model-T chassis, would eventually define the best in modern American engineering. Its canvas flaps, through many iterations, grew into a smooth aluminum shell by the mid-1930s.

Airstream's founder, Wally Byam, designed them to be light enough to be towed by a car, while providing first-class accommodations anywhere in the world. With built-to-last riveted aluminum construction and names like Clipper, Whirlwind, and Flying Cloud, there's no doubt that early Airstream trailers were marketed as a way to fly down the road in style.

Its classic fuselage shape has only been modified a few times in its nearly 90-years-young existence. Many vintage Airstreams are still on the road with original, restored, or completely redone interiors. So many, in fact, that to join the Vintage Airstream Club owners have to have a trailer that's at least 25 years old.

Vintage Airstreams can often be seen put to use as working trailers. They've been turned into food carts, mobile offices, and one-of-a-kind backyard rentals.



1936 Silver Cloud

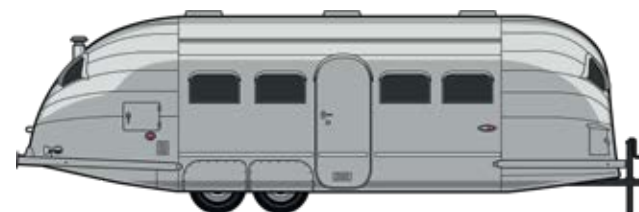
Bearing little resemblance to the famed aluminum models, the earliest Airstreams were offered either as plans for do-it-yourselfers or preassembled. Silver Clouds were constructed of wood and Masonite and sold by Airstream dealers as finished units.



20'

1936 Airstream Clipper

Airstream founder Wally Byam had been selling plans, kits, and assembled Masonite trailers when the struggling Bowlus Company went out of business. Byam redesigned the riveted aluminum Bowlus Road Chief and renamed it the Clipper, establishing the template for all Airstreams to come.



1937
Clipper 24'

24'



1948
Liner

22'



1960 Siesta MIKE AND DEBI BROCKETT



1949 Spartan Spartanette CRAIG AND PATTI HOLROYD



1949 Spartan Manor STAN JAMESON

Liberty

Liberty (1941–mid-1950s)

Liberty Coach Company, Inc. • Bremen, Indiana

Liberty Coach Company was an offshoot of the Elcar Coach Company (see page 104). Their bread loaf–style coaches were marketed to World War II defense workers and later to families. They had an exclusive “three decker heated floor” and a ventilation system that moved warm air evenly throughout the trailer.



1944
Tandem 26



1950
Air Queen
33'



Lighthouse (1937–mid-1950s)

Lighthouse Trailer Company • Chicago, Illinois

T. D. Thomas built his first trailer in his backyard in 1937; by the end of World War II the Lighthouse Trailer Company had delivered around 6,240 units to the US Army and US Navy. Over the next decade, the company made trailer homes in aircraft, bread loaf, and unique styles.



28'

● 1953 Lighthouse DuPlex

The Lighthouse DuPlex was technically a trailer home, but it was built like a travel trailer “to go when and where you want.” The double-decker design, at 11½ feet high, accommodated two upstairs bedrooms. Each bedroom had a double bed, a reading light, and a window.