

# OVERLAND | JOURNAL



DARIÉN GAP | SOFT-SHELL ROOF TENTS | OKLAHOMA | COLORADO

Despite our adventurous spirit, most working Americans have fewer than three weeks of vacation time per year and are always looking for ways to get the most out of their time off. When planning a short trip to Oregon this summer, I knew that we would need to fly there but didn't want to be relegated to hotels and standard rental cars. For this common reason, and the over 4 million #vanlife posts on Instagram, it is no surprise that more and more campervan rental companies have been popping up across the map.

Choosing a rental company almost becomes an art form with a variety of considerations to contemplate. Start with narrowing down the location; since you are flying to the van, your adventure starts at their home base. After that, identify the activities you would like to participate in, and the amenities you need for your type of travel. Our emphasis was on

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comfortable space for two, cooking equipment that would encourage us to make meals at camp, standing height in the camper, and most importantly, four-wheel drive. Other things to look at would be airport pickup, pet policies, and mileage limitations. As with planning any trip, it is important to thoroughly research companies you choose to work with. This is especially critical when it comes to campervans because they end up being your hotel *and* your rental car.

Being that the Pacific Northwest was our destination, the decision to go with Roamerica was easy. They were highly reviewed online, use Sportsmobiles for their builds, and are based out of Portland, Oregon. Each van is stocked with an extensive list of camping gear, so we wouldn't have to pack it in our checked bags. As luck would have it, they even had a four-wheel-drive van open for the weekend we wanted.

From my first inquiry about van availability, owners Gretchen and Taylor were prompt and professional. They walked us through the reservation process and even called to talk about our trip goals and plans. Being outdoor enthusiasts, they have a breadth of knowledge about hiking and mountain bike trails, surf spots, and places to camp.

As soon as we landed at the airport and collected our bags, Taylor picked us up in the van we were renting and brought us back to their headquarters for the official check-in. Each van has a unique set of features, and a hands-on demonstration of all the systems is provided.

After a few signatures, we sat down with Gretchen and Taylor and marked up a paper map of the state with all of the best coffee shops, 4WD trails, and camping spots along our route.

From the reservation itself to being dropped off back at the airport, everything went flawlessly on our trip. Renting a van from Roamerica is like borrowing one from a close friend. [ROAMERICA.COM](http://ROAMERICA.COM)



## Maximum Adventure, Minimum PTO

The advantages of renting a campervan—Roamerica delivers.



A van named Delta was our home for the weekend and is one of the 4WD Sportsmobiles in Roamerica's fleet. **Bottom left:** Everything you need for camping is included in the rental—just bring your backpack.