



Build a Campervan

The Definitive Guide

Calum Creasey

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- The ultimate 'Build Your Own Camper' tutorial, with tips, tricks, and personal stories from experienced experts
- By the author of the bestseller *Vanlife – Culture, Vehicles, People, Places* and owner of a company specialising in campervan conversions

Campervans come in different forms. Some are full to the brim with furniture, equipment, tools and everything else you may need for a life on the road. Others are blindingly simple, with next to nothing inside. Some look homemade, like a cosy burrow or hobbit hole. Others stand on the cutting edge, utilising composite materials and insulation developed by NASA. Whatever campervan you dream of owning, this book will give you the practical knowledge and inspiration to make it a reality. It also tells the stories of people who have gone through the whole process and makes you aware of the do's and don'ts along the way. You'll find, as author Calum Creasey, owner of conversion company Onwards Adventure Vehicles, puts it: 'There are few things that, when built by your own hands, hold the power to alter your life as much as a campervan.'

Calum Creasey is the author of the bestseller *Vanlife* and has been running Onwards Adventure Vehicles, a company that builds and converts campers, for the past five years.



HOW YOU SPEND YOUR TIME

Now we will look at your campervan through a different lens. How you will spend your time in and around it.

Sleep

The importance of sleep cannot be overstated. It is the basis of healthy and happy life. Of all the hours you will spend in your campervan, the most important will be the hours you sleep in it. At the top of this list. Your campervan should be a quiet and calm space that you can sleep in comfortably. You should be able to sleep in a bed that is at least a decent width and beds that are ample in size and comfort. We have found that the best beds are those that are built to have some further consideration.

The structure of your bed, whether it is fixed or part of other furniture, is also important. You should have a good support system for your bed, whether it is a sprung or a sprung and memory foam system. This is especially important when two adults are sleeping together.

Traditionally, mattresses in campervans are made from foam, available in soft, medium and firm. The choice should be made based on personal preference. There are also a range of mattresses that are made from upholstery that doubles as seating should there be more than two people. By getting them the right size can also decide to

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SEBFULL CASE STUDY 01

Some inspiration

Name: Sam & Meg

Number of campervans converted: 4

Campervan make & model: Renault Master (M25)

Converted by: Myself

Used for: Travelling from a couple of nights to a month

Reason for conversion: We wanted to travel more.

Advice: It's really important when thinking everything has to be perfect, especially with the amount of time and effort that goes into a campervan conversion. My advice would be to test out as best as you can before starting the conversion. If you are not sure about something, then it's better to ask for advice or to do some research. It's also important to have a good support system for your bed, whether it is a sprung or a sprung and memory foam system. This is especially important when two adults are sleeping together.

I'd converted a campervan before but was not looking for something that was as spacious as this. I wanted to have the feeling of being able to take a little home wherever I go. It's great, I feel it's a good investment and the price is well worth the cost.

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