

Camper Vans



ROADTREK 210 POPULAR

By Brent Peterson

Multipurpose, easy-to-drive mini-RVs are worth considering

IN AN OVERSCHEDULED WORLD WHERE FAMILY BONDING TIME IS ELUSIVE and multitasking the norm, camper vans (or Class B motorhomes as they're referred to in the RV industry) have never made more sense. Just think, a vehicle big enough to shuttle the kids to sports practice and yet nimble enough to hit the backwoods for Dad's annual fishing trip. Taking up about as much driveway space as your SUV, a camper van, loaded with a galley, bathroom, and room to sleep from two to four people (depending on the model and one's willingness to cuddle), is as comfortable zipping around town as it is when camped in the forest. Can your, ahem, minivan do all that? We thought not. Here are some of our favorites in the Class B category.

ROADTREK 210 POPULAR

The Roadtrek brand built by Home & Park has been a big seller for decades, and, after seeing its latest batch of innovations with the Roadtrek 210 Popular, one quickly realizes why. It all begins with the Chevrolet Express 3500 wide-body chassis. The manufacturer then stretches the body slightly (don't worry, the side and rear doors remain) to establish a total length of 21 feet, 11 inches. Considering that camper vans are a game of inches, you'll appreciate the longer and wider dimensions.

Fortunately, the 210 Popular puts the extra length to good use. The 4-cubic-foot refrigerator is among the largest in Class B motorhomes, a good thing considering the old adage about how armies — uh, I mean, families — travel on their stomachs. The galley is another recipient of the extra space, with the window and countertops stretched for maximum effect. There are five large kitchen drawers to fill. And there's a sizable cupboard, too.

The 210's floorplan provides a choice of two separate rear twin beds or a single, large



ROADTREK 210 POPULAR SLEEPING CONFIGURATION

king-sized sleeping area in the back. A chair up front, which fully reclines come nighttime, bumps the possible sleeping capacity to three; and the swiveling and reclining captain's chairs (with power lumbar support) spin around to become focal points of the main living space. The shower in the Roadtrek 210 Popular is a stand-up-in-the-aisle design, with privacy doors and a wraparound shower curtain (drain is in the floor), and a marine toilet is in the "water closet." A 110/12-volt inverter, 68 cubic feet of storage, slide-out exterior drawers, and macerator sewage pump designed to minimize waste are also incorporated into the 2004 model.

Contact: Home & Park, 888-ROADTREK; roadtrek.com.