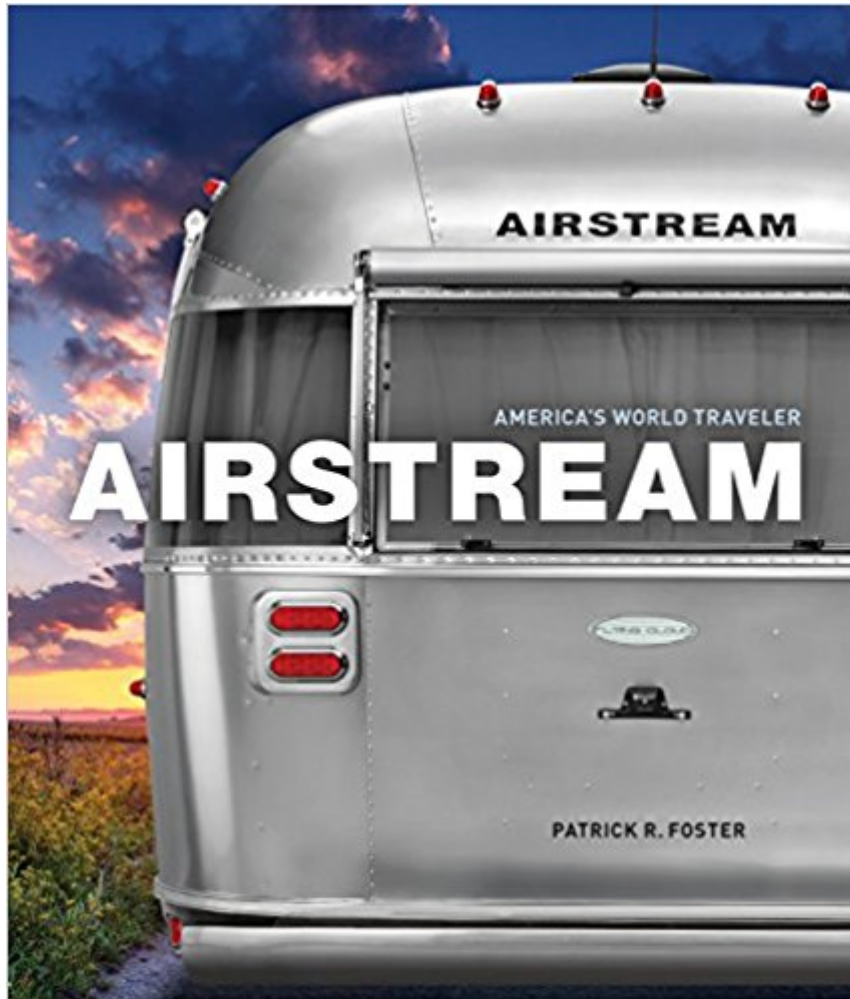




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Airstream: America's World Traveler



Synopsis

Iconic, aluminum-bodied Airstream trailers have been around for 85 years--get the full story in this photo-rich book. Airstream is America's best and oldest manufacturer of travel trailers, and those retro silver coaches are iconic on America's highways. Representative of the age-old desire to explore, these trailers are unmistakable in design with distinctive aerodynamic rounded lines and an aluminum outer skin. Airstream: America's World Traveler celebrates the eight decades since the first Airstream graced America's highways. Airstream chronicles the fascinating history of Airstream trailers through a detailed history, stories, and beautiful photography. Although its roots stretch back to 1926, the first Airstream-brand trailers were introduced in 1936, just as America was emerging from the dark days of the Great Depression. Of the 400 travel-trailer manufacturers of that era, only Airstream survived. Dubbed the "Airstream Clipper" after the first trans-Atlantic seaplane, the 1936 Airstream featured a unique lightweight aluminum body that cut down on wind resistance, improved fuel efficiency, and made for easier towing. It slept four, carried its own water supply, was fitted with electric lights, and cost \$1,200. The Airstream provided travelers with a way to see the world at their leisure and in solid comfort. It was the perfect vehicle for a country emerging from a long struggle. In the eight decades since that first Airstream, the company has produced some of the finest trailers in the world and gained a worldwide reputation as the Rolls-Royce of travel trailers. The Airstream story is one of travel, adventure, and memories that last a lifetime.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"... a worthy addition to any coffee table - Airows.com" Just over the horizon awaits the world, and with an intrepid spirit and a trailer hitch, we can have it. When venturing through Airstream: America's World Traveler, that feeling is, just like the Airstream legacy, impossible to ignore - Automoblog.net"... it is a beautiful, large format, photo-rich tribute to the Rolls Royce of travel trailers. For those who have admired Airstreams or owned one, this book will reaffirm why the products has lasted for over eight decades. This book is a great gift for Airstream owners and history lovers alike - Escapees"

Airstream: America's World Traveler, a handsome new coffee table book by Patrick Foster, celebrates the adventurous spirit of founder Wally Byam as much as his no retro-chic aluminum wagon - San Francisco Chronicle"

If you want a concise history of Airstream through 2015, this is your book. A good book is like good scotch. You don't turn down another bottle - Tin Can Tourists"

Its iconic aluminum-clad trailers are synonymous with American exploration. The company behind them is far more interesting than you may have known. Airstream: America's World Traveler takes a look at the Ohio-based institution, from its beginnings in the 1920s and '30s to its modern homes on wheels. As the only travel-trailer maker from the pre-WWII era to survive to current day, it has a rich history that unfolds through a series of stories, facts, and photographs that make you wish you could still get an Airstream Clipper for \$1,200 - Uncrate.com"

Fun and informative and filled with the spirit of the open road, Airstream: America's World Traveler by Patrick Foster traces the history and the story of the distinctive Airstream trailer in this gorgeous coffee table book with over 250 photos in color and black & white - Wine Road Sonoma Co."

Airstream: America's World Traveler is a wonderful pictorial tribute to the brand and creator Wally Byam. Even if you don't own an Airstream, you can enjoy a vicarious cross country journey through the pages of this book." - TravelChannel.com"

For anyone with a passion for RVs and travel trailers, Foster's 192-page book, illustrated throughout with 158 color and 114 black and white photos (including rare material from the company's archives), will prove a fascinating read." - Hemmings Daily"

There is no shortage of books about Airstream trailers, but Patrick Foster's "Airstream: America's World Traveler" may be the definitive tome about its founder and the history of his wanderings. Published by Motorbooks (Quarto Publishing), the hefty hardback of 192 pages has 158 color photos and 114 black-and-white images." - San Diego Union Tribune"

With more than 250 photos, this coffee-table book show why Airstream has defined a unique form of first-class travel for decades." - Detroit Free Press"

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Patrick R. Foster is a well-known and respected automotive writer and historian. Foster is an authority on AMC and its various sub-brands and has written a number of books on that automaker, as well as many others, including Jeep and Studebaker. His most recent books for Motorbooks are Jeep: A History of America's Greatest Vehicle and American Motors Corporation: The Rise and Fall of America's Last Independent Automaker.

Giving as gift but I love it too, even though I don't have an Airstream. Great history and photos. Beautiful coffee table book.

Beautiful book. Anyone who is interested in AirStreams should buy this book.

A must have for any air stream lover!

Interesting read but it's a little overly-corporate in its delivery in my opinion. I would have liked to have seen more detail given to the design features of some of the trailer models (inspirations, creative process, etc) and the camping experience of an Airstream trailer. There's a lot more pages devoted towards corporate earnings, sales figures and CEOs than I cared for and very little on the actual camping experience. The early history on the founder and how the company started was interesting and there are a lot of great photos (mostly marketing materials) but I probably wouldn't recommend this book.

Really cool book but I wish it had more pictures. 

Airstream is as much a part of Americana as Apple Pie, GM, Chevrolet, The Corvette and Camaro and Firebird and Peterbilt, Kenworth and Mack and John Deere and Cat. To me it's what motoring and life is all about the call of the Open road and exploring the unknown. Nevermind the unnecessary beatnik-ism and Kerouac Cliché this little jam-packed book right here is a perfect

addition for the fan of the open road who likes to live his life free from the ever-present intrusions and distractions of our daily lives. The Beautiful Airstream is Iconic and the Author who done such stellar Histories on AMC, Jeep among others which I am lucky to own has done a great service doing a book on Airstream that is long overdue. Whether you own one or aspire to, the book is a Must.

It seems like so many successful manufacturers follow the same storyline: Energetic, innovative person creates an amazing product. That person dies, the company is eventually swallowed up by a large corporation. Airstream is no different. Patrick Foster has obviously done a lot of research on the company and its founder Wally Byam. Byam seems to have been a fascinating person. The book exhaustively covers the Byam era and his famous caravans during the nascent camper trailer period, then moves along throughout the corporate history and some of the famous models. Since I'm a neophyte when it comes to campers and RVs, I wish there had been more about the model timelines, as I couldn't tell one Airstream from another. As is the case with many of these types of books, the pictures don't correspond with the text - models are mentioned and either not pictured or found elsewhere. If you're an Airstream fan, or are interested in how the company came to be and what it is now, this is the book for you.

As a guide to the history of the Airstream company and its visionary founder, this is a superb compendium of words and pictures tracing how Airstream came to be not just the premiere travel trailer, but an aspirational lifestyle brand. Anyone who has owned an RV or grew up in a family with one always knew, deep down, that Airstreams were a breed apart. More than just a highly functional appliance for travel, Airstream represents classic design and a timeless statement of uncompromising quality and high adventure. This book tells how a simple camper came to embody those values, and how its founder's spirit of innovation and exploration still forms the brand's DNA. Read this, and ponder your fleeting memory of that cute girl you noticed just down the campground lane when you were 12, whose family campfire reflected exotically off the aluminum skin of their rounded silver trailer as the canyons around your temporary village disappeared every evening.

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