

BUY A CAMPER

PURCHASE PROCESS IN AUSTRALIA

SEARCH

GUMTREE.COM.AU

- 4WD vs. 2WD – your choice
- Category "campervan" / "van"
- Price < 10'000 AUD

More Details > Page 2



EVALUATION

TEST-DRIVE & CHECK THE OFFER

- Check Price Range online
- Test-Drive and check 3-6 vans
- Check Service Book
- Negotiate the price

More Details > Page 3



PURCHASE & REGO

BEFORE TAKING OFF

- Set up a contract
- Organize money transfer
- Change registration

More Details > Page 3



BUY A CAMPER

PURCHASE PROCESS IN DETAILS

PRO BUY

- Generally much lower costs
- Redecoration and equipping according to your need/taste
- No worries of little scratches, self-repairing

Recommended for longer trips through Australia (from 2-3 months)

PRO RENT

- No time needed to evaluate, equip and sell a camper
- Generally newer camper van
- No worries and costs for repairs (insurances needed)

Recommended for shorter trips through Australia (up to 2-3 months)

SEARCH

The best way to search for a campervan in Australia is online. And by far the best website to do so is gumtree.com.au/cars. This website offered the biggest range of suitable campervans to us. Don't only search in the campervan category, as some sellers simply miscategorized their van.

Depending on the route you plan to travel you can either search for a 4WD or a 2WD camper. While there are more 2WD available and they are generally cheaper and offer more space, a 4WD allows you to travel to places like Fraser Island without having to book a tour.

Suitable 2WD campers are:

Mitsubishi Express, Mitsubishi Starwagon, Mazda 1800i, VW Transporter, Toyota Hiace, Kia Pregio, ...

Suitable 4WD campers are:

Mitsubishi Delica, Mitsubishi Pajero, Nissan Pathfinder, ...

The majority of your potential buyers at the end of your trip will be backpackers on their work and travel visa. And as they generally don't have a lot of money, we recommend you to prefer a lower priced vehicle (less than 10k AUD) as they take less time to sell.

As soon as you have identified a couple of campers you like (approx. 3-6) you should contact them and arrange a meeting to test drive and further evaluate the camper. We even did that before we arrived in Cairns where we bought our "Tony".

BUY A CAMPER

PURCHASE PROCESS IN DETAILS

EVALUATE

Before you meet the seller

Enter the camper details into the “vehicle valuation tool” on gumtree.com.au to get an idea of its value. This will help you a lot during the price negotiation but don’t forget that this tool does only value the van without the remodeling to a camper van. Further on the value the tool gives you is only an indication the actual price depends on the market.

Before you take off

- Check if the lights are working
- Hand break: If it holds
- Exhaust: For smoke
- Rust, glass break, damages
- Tires: Enough profile
- Engine: For leaks

While test driving the van

- Breaks: Do some hard stops and observe how the van reacts
- Steering and engine: Check for the sound of the engine and how the van behaves in turns
- Warning lights, fuel gauge, temperature gauge: Check for functionality

After the drive

- Check for Oil/Liquid leaks on the ground where the camper was parked
- Service book: Last service or roadworthy certificate (RWC).
- RWC is compulsory to transfer a car in all states except South Australia and Western Australia

PURCHASE & REGO

The contract with the seller should include:

- Your name, address and signature
- Seller’s name, address and signature
- Registration number, vehicle identification number (VIN), engine number, make and model
- Details of the sale including the date and price paid

In case the vehicle is already registered in the state you are staying, then you can simply transfer the number plates at a government service station (both signatures needed). As this is free of charge you can also think about driving to the state the van is registered. In case the seller is willing to leave the selling date open you have time until the RWC expires (or as long as you like in SA and WA). If not, you have 14 days in all states except Tasmania or Western Australia where you have only 7 days.

In case you can’t or don’t want to drive to the state where the van is registered the seller has to return his number plates and you can get new ones at the government service station. The extension of the registration which also includes your 3rd party insurance can easily be done online.