

# AIRSTREAM

The Airstream logo says it all “Americana’s home away from home for over 70 years”. Airstream was set up by Wally Byam who aimed to build a travel trailer that would move like a stream of air, be light enough to be towed by a standard automobile and would provide first-class living accommodation anywhere in the world. Changes are only made where they lead to clear functional improvements rather than follow marketing and fashion trends.

By incorporating aircraft construction methods to lessen wind resistance and improving the trailer’s strength-to-weight ratio, his designs began taking on a more aerodynamic look using a riveted aluminium body. In 1936, the Airstream Trailer Co. introduced the ‘Clipper’. Of more than 300 trailer builders in 1936, only Airstream emerged from the Depression years.

The company prospered in the post war years and in 1952 moved to larger premises in California and started production in Ohio. The founder of the company passed away in 1966, but under a new owner, the company continued to expand. In 1970 they introduced the first motorhome (under the Argosy name). The first Airstream branded motorhomes appeared in 1979. During the 1980’s triple axle trailers and new motorhome designs were introduced.

NASA selected an Airstream trailer to house the first Astronauts back from the moon. John F. Kennedy chose an Airstream as his mobile presidential office. Today, Airstreams can be found in the lobby of MTV and on movie sets. They even have their own 10,000 member-strong Caravan Club. Over 60% of all Airstreams ever built including some built from the original five-dollar plans are still rolling down the highways. Airstreams have survived millions of miles across some of the roughest roads in the world. Airstream has become an American legend.

[www.airstream.com](http://www.airstream.com)

