

welcome to
freedom



chapter 1

welcome to
freedom



welcome to the index

- chapter 2 — welcome to florida van life co.*
- chapter 3 — welcome to our shop*
- chapter 4 — welcome to our community*
- chapter 5 — welcome to your new reality*
- chapter 6 — welcome to aligned friendships*
- chapter 7 — welcome to your next chapter*
- chapter 8 — welcome to expectations*
- chapter 9 — welcome to responsibility*
- chapter 10 — welcome to sustainability*
- chapter 11 — welcome to the unexpected*
- chapter 12 — welcome to contentment*
- chapter 13 — welcome to travel*
- chapter 14 — welcome to honest reflection*
- chapter 15 — welcome to your new home*
- chapter 16 — welcome to your systems*
- chapter 17 — welcome to exploration*
- chapter 18 — welcome to presence*
- chapter 19 — welcome to generosity*
- chapter 20 — welcome to community stories*
- chapter 21 — welcome to official ownership*
- chapter 22 — welcome to clarity*
- chapter 23 — welcome to adventure*
- chapter 24 — welcome to preparation*
- chapter 25 — welcome to hacks from the road*
- chapter 26 — welcome to tips from the team*
- chapter 27 — welcome to safety*
- chapter 28 — welcome to trust*



if you only read 5 pages
read these...



chapter 8 - welcome to expectations
chapter 9 - monthly 10-minute maintenance check
chapter 11 - your first repair
chapter 22 - official ownership
chapter 24 - what to adventure



chapter 2

welcome to florida van life co



www.floridavanlife.co | 952-250-0000 | [@floridavanlife.co](https://www.instagram.com/floridavanlife.co)



about

florida van life co. was built from years of living on the road and learning what truly makes a camper van feel like home.

rooted in real-world travel and hands-on building, our team creates thoughtfully designed camper vans and tiny homes on wheels that balance beauty, function, and simplicity. each build is shaped by lessons learned across coastlines, back roads, and everyday life on the move.

to date, florida van life co. has produced 75+ handcrafted builds, serving clients worldwide from our home base in sunny saint petersburg, florida. we value craftsmanship, transparency, and realistic expectations of life on the road.

our interiors are inspired by travel, nature, and the belief that your space should support your lifestyle—not complicate it. every detail is chosen to make life on the road feel calmer, easier, and more intentional.

florida van life co. has been featured by business insider, the wall street journal, and cbs.

this is more than a vehicle.
it's your new free life.



Florida Van Life Co

florida van life co.

- founded on years of full-time travel and life on the road
- 75+ custom builds produced
- serving clients worldwide
- rooted in transparency and realistic expectations
- inspired by travel, nature, freedom, and intentional living
- featured in business insider
- interviewed by the wall street journal + cbs
- committed to giving back through profit sharing and impact-driven projects



chapter 3

welcome to our shop



Estelle Bain
Founder of Florida Van Life



chapter 4

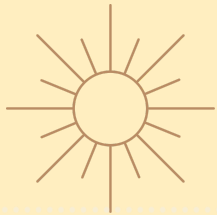
welcome to our community



chapter 5

welcome to your new reality





live free

**explore the world from
your one of a kind artisan
made tiny home on wheels.**

welcome to your serene traveling
sanctuary filled with natural light. our
nature inspired boho tiny home on
wheels are furnished with options
including solar, off grid battery, tv,
kitchen, memory foam bed, custom
skylight, hammocks throughout, and
vibes.

our campers are perfect for
exploring, growing, working, or
studying on the road.



chapter 6

welcome to aligned friendships



about

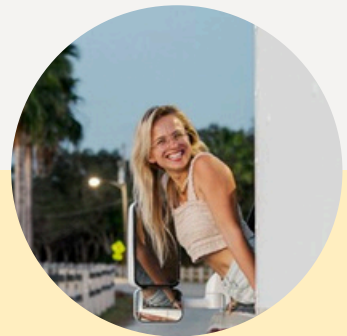
estelle spent five years in her early 20s traveling the world full time as a digital nomad running her design agency, then transitioning to consulting for silicon valley startup founders. in that time, she discovered van life in australia.

two years and 48 states living solo female #vanlife later, esty settled in sunny saint pete to pursue her passion of real estate investing, building camper vans, tiny homes on wheels, and unique airbnb stays.

in that time, she founded and grew florida van life co, having since gone viral online, discovered, and interviewed by **business insider**, **cbs**, and **wall street journal**.

estelle assembled a dream team to make her vision a reality. your tiny home on wheels is inspired by places and people from estelle's time spent living on the road, both near and far, and was built using her experience from producing 65+ beautiful camper vans and tiny homes on wheels.

you can find inspiration and memories from estelle's world travels throughout the interior design of your camper van.



Estelle Bain

- founder of florida van life
- real estate investor
- serial entrepreneur for god
- world traveler 40+ countries
- van life 3 years 48+ states
- adventurer
- artist
- **featured in business insider**
- **interviewed by wsj + cbs**
- donates 50% profits



estelle's travels



estelle's breakdowns

SHE DROVE A 1997 CHEVY ASTRO
WITH 300,000+ MILES

make *everything* an adventure

estelle's van life adventures weren't just sunsets and scenic pull-offs — they were real lessons earned on the side of the road.

ohio — the long wait

one afternoon in ohio, estelle found herself broken down on the shoulder of a busy highway. cars flew past as hours ticked by. aaa took five long hours to arrive. instead of spiraling, she chatted with the tow truck driver, shared where she was headed, and calmly made her case. by the time the truck rolled out, she had talked him into towing her 199 miles in the exact direction she was already going. (coincidentally aaa offered 200 miles of free towing per breakdown) what started as a breakdown turned into a major win — proof that mindset and communication matter just as much as mechanics.

the florida keys — courage after dark

another night, deep in the florida keys, her van died on the highway after dark. no cell service. no quick help. estelle grabbed her courage and walked across an abandoned, falling-apart bridge to reach a nearby rv park. sporting her sundress and flip flops, she hopped a fence, introduced herself to strangers on vacation, and asked for help until someone said yes. eventually, a sweet older gentleman helped her out. the problem? just an old battery. scary moment, simple fix — and a reminder that help often shows up when you keep moving forward.

estelle's breakdowns

SHE DROVE A 1997 CHEVY ASTRO
WITH 300,000+ MILES

where the road becomes the *lesson*

estelle's adventures weren't defined by perfect days, but by the path that unfolded when plans changed and the road had something to teach.

louisiana — patience and perspective

in louisiana, estelle noticed her engine temperature creeping dangerously high. a leak in her coolant reservoir meant she was close to overheating. instead of pushing her luck, she parked overnight in a police station parking lot. safe, calm, and steady. in the morning, a local mechanic opened his shop, fixed the issue quickly, and sent her on her way. sometimes the smartest move is knowing when to cool down, reset, and restart.

the desert — learning to slow down

miles from anywhere, her van suddenly lost power and rolled to a stop in the desert heat. no dramatic failure — just exhaustion, hers and the van's. she rested, rehydrated, checked fluids and connections, and realized a loose cable was the culprit. it was a small fix, but the lesson was big: not every problem requires panic. sometimes it just requires slowing down.

the takeaway

these moments shaped estelle's approach to van life — and to life in general. everything is figureoutable. very few things are the end of the world. challenges will happen, especially on the road, but it's never about the breakdown itself. it's about how you respond, who you talk to, and your willingness to stay calm, resourceful, and open to help. van life isn't about avoiding problems — it's about learning you can handle them.



chapter 7

welcome to your next chapter



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travel van

STAY WILD LIVE FREE

tiny adventure home on wheels

a travel van isn't just a vehicle — it's your home, your base, and your way to explore.

instead of booking flights, hotels, and plans, you bring everything with you. you can wake up somewhere new, stay longer when it feels right, and leave when it doesn't.

it's a simpler way to travel. less packing, fewer reservations, and more flexibility to follow your own pace.

it's not always perfect — things break, plans change, and comfort looks different — but that's part of it. it teaches you to adapt, slow down, and experience places more fully.

this isn't about escaping life. it's about living it differently — with more freedom, less structure, and a little more adventure built into your everyday.



airbnb/vrbo

PROFIT FROM YOUR INVESTMENT

additional dwelling unit and rental unit on your property

instead of sitting unused, platforms like airbnb and vrbo make it easy to list and start generating income.

it doesn't need to be complex — a clean, well-designed space with basic amenities and a unique feel is often enough to attract guests.

this can help offset your costs or even pay for the camper over time. you also have flexibility to rent it when you want and block it when you don't.

it's not fully passive, but it's a simple way to make your investment work for you.



affordable housing

FOR STUDENTS OR FIXED INCOME

combat rising cost of rent

rent keeps rising, and many people feel stuck paying just to stay in one place. a camper changes that.

instead of paying rent every month, you own your space. your costs can drop — fewer bills, more flexibility, and less pressure to keep up.

it's not perfect. there's less space and more responsibility. but for students, young professionals, or anyone on a fixed income, it can create real financial breathing room.

you're not tied to a lease or one location. you have the freedom to move, adjust, and make decisions based on what you want — not just what you can afford.



chapter 8

welcome to expectations



chapter 8

expectations

INSTAGRAM VS. REALITY

instagram vs. reality

- sunrise coffee with perfect views
- spotless, styled interiors
- carefree road trips
- remote campsites to yourself
- always organized storage
- golden hour lighting every night
- “work from anywhere” vibes
- spontaneous freedom moments
- smiling photos, no stress
- van always running great
- dishes in a small sink
- dust, sand, and clutter happen
- breakdowns & maintenance days
- crowded campsites sometimes
- constant reorganizing
- weather doesn’t always cooperate
- finding signal takes planning
- freedom + responsibility together
- problem-solving is the lifestyle
- all vans need attention



chapter 8

expectations

FOR VINTAGE VAN OWNERSHIP

this guide is provided for educational and informational purposes only.

it is not a warranty, service agreement, or legal advice.

vehicle ownership, maintenance decisions, and travel choices are the ***sole responsibility of the owner.***

this guide is based on general experience and common scenarios with vintage vehicles. every situation is unique, and outcomes may vary. owners are encouraged to seek professional support when needed and make decisions based on safety, preparedness, and personal responsibility.



chapter 8

participation

FOR VINTAGE VAN OWNERSHIP

**we work with mostly vintage vans.
owning one is an active endeavor--it
asks for attention, curiosity, and care.**

we don't promise perfection. we invite you to join in participation.

older vehicles thrive when they're engaged with. regular check-ins, listening to new sounds, staying ahead of maintenance — this is part of the relationship. the van gives you freedom and adventure, and in return, it asks you to stay involved.

we send you off with no major mechanical issues. each camper is thoroughly inspected by two trusted mechanic shops, along with our in-house mechanic. safety matters deeply to us, and every vehicle is road-worthy when it leaves our shop.

inspections reduce risk — they don't eliminate future wear or unexpected issues.

we prepare and trust you to step into ownership with confidence.



chapter 8

expectations

FOR YOUR JOURNEY

welcome to the ride. this lifestyle isn't about flawless travel. it's about being present, adaptable, and engaged.

that said, we won't sugarcoat it — all vehicles eventually need attention. if you put enough miles on any van, things will come up.

this isn't failure, it's normal. maintenance isn't a disruption — it is part of the journey.

estelle broke down 5x during her vanlife adventures! some of her favorite moments from her travels are when things went “wrong”

vintage van ownership rewards those who show up, stay curious, and treat it as a **living system** rather than a finished product.

we recommend keeping up with regular maintenance and enrolling in a roadside assistance program, just in case.



chapter 8

expectations

WEATHER

the outside temperature will impact the temperature inside the van.

no matter how we combat the elements with insulation and technology, mother nature always wins! think of traveling in a van as somewhere in between camping and living in a small apartment.

the benefit of the small space is it'll heat up or cool down quickly using a fan or space heater.

living in a van is never as comfortable as living in a house. but it's always more fun!!!

all our campers have an option to add an ac/heater upgrade for 3-8k depending on system size of solar/invertor/battery.



chapter 8

expectations

COMFORT

vans are not houses

vans follow outside temperature

insulation reduces — not eliminates — heat/cold

small space changes temperature fast

extreme climates require planning

comfort = active management



expectations

MINDSET

this lifestyle is often called *unrealistic* by people who don't have the skill set it requires.

adaptability, problem-solving, patience, and self-trust aren't common — but they are learnable.

if you're drawn to this life, it's usually because you already have more of these qualities than you realize.



your first 30 days

WITH YOUR VAN

take 3 short local trips before long travel

test every system one at a time.

learn:

- battery system
- inverter limits
- water system
- fuse locations

practice:

- plugging into shore power
- charging while driving
- checking fluids

find a local mechanic now — not later

- enroll in roadside assistance
- save FVL docs + system diagrams to your phone

prevents “first trip disaster” syndrome.



chapter 9

welcome to responsibility



maintenance

BUDGET REALITY

typical annual maintenance

light use: \$1–2k

travel use: \$2–4k

heavy use: varies

this is normal

this is not failure

this is participation

preparing with a budget removes stress

maintenance

COMMON UPKEEP IN VINTAGE VANS

systems commonly affected in conversion vans (across most makes and models)

electrical systems

- many conversion vans include aftermarket electronics such as tvs, interior lighting, auxiliary batteries, or inverters
- over time, connections may loosen or individual components may need attention
- routine inspection of wiring, grounds, and fuses helps prevent larger issues

suspension & steering

- keep an eye on suspension and steering components, especially if traveling with more than two passengers
- shocks, bushings, ball joints, and tie rods naturally wear faster than in non-converted vehicles
- noises, vibrations, or uneven tire wear are common signs that service may be needed

maintenance

COMMON UPKEEP IN VINTAGE VANS

systems commonly affected in vintage vans

chevy conversion vans

- power window motor wear or intermittent operation
- steering shaft “clunk” sensation
- fuel pump and fuel filter concerns as mileage increases

ford conversion vans

- increased wear on ball joints and tie rods due to vehicle weight
- door latch and door hardware wear
- ignition coil and spark plug issues
- ignition switch concerns
- brake rotor warping, especially with frequent city driving or heavy loads

dodge ram conversion vans

- tie rod and steering component wear
- oil leaks commonly related to aging oil pan gaskets
- blower motor resistor failure, often affecting fan speed control

maintenance

COMMON UPKEEP IN VINTAGE VANS

preventative maintenance tips for long-term ownership

- use heavy-duty or upgraded components when replacing suspension or brake parts
- rotate tires regularly to reduce uneven wear
- monitor and top off fluids consistently
- replace engine and cabin air filters on schedule
- address small concerns early to help prevent larger repairs later

what this means for owners

these considerations are a normal part of owning a vintage or converted vehicle. staying proactive, patient, and engaged with maintenance greatly improves reliability, confidence, and overall enjoyment of the journey.

ownership is not about perfection — it's about participation.

maintenance

COMMON UPKEEP IN VINTAGE VANS

quarterly - every 3-4 months



engine oil & filter check – top up or change if dirty; many owners prefer changing every 3,000–5,000 miles for older engines.



transmission fluid check – inspect color and level (red = good, brown/burnt smell = bad).



brake fluid level – check and top up as needed.



coolant/antifreeze level – inspect the reservoir for proper level and leaks.



tire pressure & tread – adjust psi to manufacturer spec and check for uneven wear (important for conversion van builds).



battery terminals – clean and check for corrosion or loose connections.



wiper blades & washer fluid – replace or top off as needed.



lights & signals – walk-around check to make sure headlights, tail lights, turn signals, and brake lights work.



undercarriage rust check – especially important in humid or coastal regions.



power steering fluid – check and top up as needed.



maintenance

COMMON UPKEEP IN VINTAGE VANS

monthly – 10 minute check in



tire pressure – look at number on side of tire and ensure proper pressure. Adjust when tires are cold. Uneven pressure = uneven wear + poor handling.



fluid glance – quickly check for leaks under van and confirm levels of all fluids, if anything looks low or dirty — schedule service.



battery terminals – check for corrosion, looseness, or white/blue buildup. Make sure cables are tight. Clean with baking soda + brush if needed.



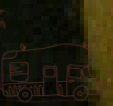
lights – test all exterior lights: headlights, brake lights, turn signals, hazards, reverse lights, interior house lights



sniff test – notice new smells: fuel smell → possible leak, sweet smell → possible coolant issue, burning smell → electrical or belt issue, musty smell → moisture intrusion



underbody peek — look underneath for: fresh drips, hanging wires, loose exhaust parts, rust flakes falling off



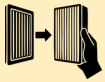
maintenance

COMMON UPKEEP IN VINTAGE VANS

annually - every 12 months



cabin air filters – cleans interior of cab from scents



air filter replacement – old vans need clean airflow for performance and mileage.



brake system inspection – pads, rotors, calipers, brake lines, and fluid condition.



tire rotation & balance – extend tire life and reduce vibration.



alignment check – keep the steering straight and reduce uneven tire wear.



transmission service – drain and fill (or full flush if needed), replace filter/gasket if applicable.



fuel filter replacement – old fuel systems can clog easily, especially if the van sits often.



spark plugs & wires check – replace if fouled or corroded.



belt & hose inspection – replace any cracked, worn, or soft hoses and belts.



differential fluid check – especially for rear-wheel drive vans, if leaking, gasket is bad.



maintenance

COMMON UPKEEP IN VINTAGE VANS

every 2-4 years



coolant flush & refill

prevent overheating and corrosion in the radiator.



brake fluid flush

brake fluid absorbs moisture over time, which can corrode lines.



power steering fluid flush

keeps steering smooth and protects components.



replace belts (serpentine/timing)

timing chains last longer, but the serpentine belt should be replaced every ~60k miles.



shocks & struts replacement

new struts adds to smoother ride



inspect & service wheel bearings

repack or replace as needed.



inspect exhaust system

repair leaks and replace gaskets, inspect for possible rust.



inspect fuel system lines & tank

inspect rust or cracking.



full tune-up

spark plugs, wires, cap and rotor (if applicable), pcv valve, ignition timing check.



maintenance

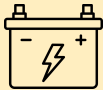
COMMON PROBLEMS IN VINTAGE VANS

camper-specific care



inspect roof vents, windows & skylights annually

water intrusion can happen with time in elements



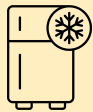
check house battery & solar components (if installed)

clean terminals, test charge (done free at local car parts store)



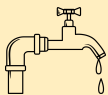
lubricate door hinges & sliding door tracks

prevent sticking and ensures smooth operations



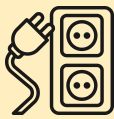
inspect rv appliances (fridge, inverter, etc.)

test functionality and shore power connections.



check water system & plumbing connections

inspect lines, fittings, and pump for leaks — sanitize fresh water tank periodically



test shore power inlet & extension cords

look for heat damage, corrosion, or loose connections before plugging in



inspect sealant around exterior penetrations

vents, fans, solar wire entries, and rack mounts — reseal if cracking or lifting appears



maintenance

COMMON PROBLEMS IN VINTAGE VANS

water intrusion prevention + quick response

water and vehicles don't love each other — and over time, small leaks can happen around vents, skylights, windows, and roof-mounted accessories. this is normal wear — not failure — when addressed early.

the goal is simple:

notice early — dry quickly — seal thoughtfully.
what to check a few times per year

especially after heavy rain:

- roof vents and fans
- skylight edges
- window seals
- solar / roof rack mounts
- antennas or roof devices
- door weather seals

watch for: damp spots, stains, soft wood, musty smell, cracked sealant. early detection keeps fixes small.

you're capable of handling this. 🚐

maintenance

COMMON PROBLEMS IN VINTAGE VANS

water intrusion prevention + quick response

if you find moisture stay calm — most leaks are manageable.

1. dry the area fully
2. locate the likely entry point
3. apply temporary seal if needed
4. reseal properly when conditions allow
5. recheck after the next rain

same-day drying prevents bigger issues.

simple hardware store supplies to keep on hand:

- microfiber towels
- small fan

resealing

- waterproof repair tape (flex seal / gorilla patch)
- butyl tape
- exterior rv or marine sealant
- outdoor silicone or polyurethane sealant

prevention habits

- inspect + reseal aging sealant
- dry damp areas immediately
- check seals after roof modifications
- avoid standing roof water
- treat resealing as normal upkeep

this is a home on wheels — exposure happens. calm, early action keeps things simple.



prepared, not worried

SIMPLE TOOLS EVERY OWNER SHOULD CARRY

**all vehicles require upkeep,
especially vintage vans.**

we recommend keeping a small essentials kit on board:

- basic tool kit
- flashlight or headlamp
- jumper cables or jump pack
- spare fluids
- tire pressure gauge

these tools support independence and reduce stress when small things arise.

being prepared gives you choices when the unexpected happens. a few simple tools can turn small issues into manageable moments and help you stay calm, capable, and confident on the road.

small things can become big stress without the right tools.



chapter 10

welcome to sustainability



sustainability

WHY VINTAGE VEHICLES MATTER

“the greenest vehicle is the one already manufactured”

choosing a vintage van is reuse — one of the most effective sustainability practices.

manufacturing new vehicles requires large amounts of materials, energy, and transport. keeping an existing vehicle on the road reduces new production demand and extends the life of what already exists.

repair culture is sustainability in action.

van life can also lower overall resource use:

- smaller living space
- reduced power and water consumption
- fewer possessions and materials
- solar and off-grid systems
- multi-use vehicle + home

good maintenance is environmental responsibility.

the most sustainable vehicle is the one that keeps going--small repairs go a long way.

chapter 11

welcome to the unexpected



unexpected

WHEN SOMETHING UNEXPECTED HAPPENS

this is part of the journey



pause – take a breath. most issues are manageable. very few are emergencies.



protect – pull over safely if needed. turn hazards on. get yourself and the van stable.



assess – ask one simple question: is this about comfort – or drivability? check in with your senses.



decide – if drivable: continue slowly or to a safer place. if not drivable: use roadside assistance.



get support – contact a local mechanic. get a diagnosis before making decisions.



move forward – you do not need to solve everything instantly. thoughtful steps protect both you and the van.



remember – most van issues are solvable with time, patience, and the right support



check engine lights

DON'T PANIC

check engine lights can come on and off

aging sensors, emissions components, electrical connections, temperature changes, or minor issues can trigger them.

a light does not always mean something serious is wrong. if the light is solid and the van feels normal, start by getting the code scanned.

if the light is flashing, or the van is overheating, shaking badly, losing power, or has strong fuel/burning smells, stop driving safely and contact a mechanic.

free code scans

many auto-parts stores, including AutoZone and similar chains, offer free OBD-II scans for most vehicles made in 1996 or newer.

write down or photograph the exact code, such as P0300 or P0171.

remember

the code is a clue, not always the diagnosis.
use it to understand what system needs attention and
communicate more clearly with your mechanic.

notice it. scan it. stay calm.



your first repair

THIS IS NOT THE END OF THE WORLD

with enough miles, a breakdown will probably happen — and that's okay

a first breakdown is rarely dramatic.

most are simple issues — a tired battery, a loose connection, a blown fuse, or a sensor doing its job and getting your attention. these are common, fixable, and part of owning any vehicle, especially an older one.

it's easy to assume the worst — but catastrophic failures are far less common than they feel in the moment.

many breakdowns are resolved in a few hours, sometimes faster. occasionally it's an overnight pause, not the end of the road.

this doesn't mean you made a bad decision. it means you're driving a real vehicle and learning how to respond with patience and clarity. you can handle what comes next.



how to talk to a mechanic

CALMLY EXPLAIN THE PROBLEM - IT'LL BE OKAY

when you talk to a mechanic, your goal is clarity

Before you go:

- Write down what you notice — sounds, smells, vibrations, warning lights
- Note when it happens — cold start, highway speed, braking, hills, after rain, etc.
- Record when the issue started
- Take photos or short videos if possible

What to say:

- Describe symptoms, not diagnoses
- Say “I notice...” instead of “I think it is...”
- Be specific about when and how often it happens

Questions to ask:

- What did you find?
- What is urgent vs. can wait?
- What are my repair options?
- What happens if I delay this repair?
- Can you show me the failed part?

Money clarity:

- Ask for an estimate before work begins
- Approve repairs in writing/text when possible
- Ask if used or aftermarket parts are an option

Remember: You are the customer. Ask questions. Take notes. A good mechanic will explain — not pressure.



what you'll google a lot

(AND THAT'S TOTALLY NORMAL)

owning a camper van will make you an all around handyperson – or you'll hire someone to solve these issues for you

learning how to search, scan for patterns, and calmly assess what's happening builds confidence over time. it reduces shame, panic, and dependence on others for every small decision.

common searches might include:

- “van won't start”
- “battery draining overnight”
- “fridge not cooling”
- “check engine light but driving fine”
- “house battery not charging”

most issues fall somewhere between inconvenient and fixable. most are not an emergency. not knowing something is okay.

learning to search, assess, and decide is part of ownership.. this is how independence is built — *one calm decision at a time*



normal vs. rare

KNOWING THE DIFFERENCE BRINGS PEACE OF MIND

mechanical hiccups are expected with vehicles of any kind

normal & expected

- sensors acting up
- loose cabinets
- battery replacements
- minor leaks
- electrical quirks

less common but possible

- transmission issues
- engine failures
- major suspension work

rare but serious

- accidents
- total mechanical failure



engine lights

THIS IS NORMAL ON OLDER VEHICLES

don't panic **most are not emergencies**

normal & expected

- loose gas cap
- old sensors (o2, maf, etc.)
- minor emissions issues
- worn spark plugs
- small vacuum leaks

less common but possible

- fuel system issues
- overheating warnings
- battery / alternator inconsistencies

rare but serious

- flashing check engine light (active misfire)
- major engine damage
- complete loss of power while driving

what to do first

- go to an auto parts store
- they scan codes for free
- ask for the exact code (write it down)
- google the code + your vehicle
- decide: safe to drive or fix now



inconvenience vs. unsafe

KNOWING THE DIFFERENCE BRINGS PEACE OF MIND

not every issue means danger

often inconvenient

- ✓ rattles or squeaks
- ✓ interior lights flickering
- ✓ fridge or fan needing adjustment
- ✓ cabinet latches loosening
- ✓ sensor lights with no drivability change

common in older vehicles & custom builds

potentially unsafe

- ✓ overheating
- ✓ brake issues
- ✓ loss of steering control
- ✓ major fluid leaks
- ✓ sudden loss of power while driving

they deserve immediate attention

**when in doubt, slow down and ask a professional –
but remember, discomfort does not automatically
mean danger.**



how to hire a mechanic

ARRIVING PREPARED DELIVERS BEST PRICE + WORK

how you show up matters

a word from the wise:

i've been quoted a higher price walking into a shop as a 5'2 blonde woman than when a blue-collar-looking mechanic from my team asks the exact same questions.

that's not a complaint — **it's information.**

how you present, how you speak, and how prepared you appear absolutely affect the numbers you're given. knowledge closes that gap fast.

you don't need to look a certain way to be treated fairly — you just need to sound informed, calm, and unafraid to pause before saying yes.

for the women, stepping away and having a fake phone call with a "boyfriend" "husband" or "dad" and returning to the mechanic with resistance or more questions will often lower the price too.

we don't make the rules, but we can **know and play the game.**



this is not instagram

PICTURES AND VIDEOS ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS

real life, real growth

pictures and videos capture the highlights — golden light, open roads, quiet mornings. they rarely show the waiting, the learning curves, the uncomfortable moments, or the days where nothing goes as planned.

real van life includes uncertainty. plans change. things break. weather turns. you'll feel tired, stretched, and sometimes unsure. there will be moments when the romance fades and responsibility shows up instead.

and still — it will be deeply rewarding.

you'll learn patience. self-trust. problem-solving. presence. you'll gain confidence not because it's easy, but because you figure things out anyway.

if you're willing to meet reality where it is, this can be one of the most **meaningful chapters of your life.**



chapter 12

welcome to contentment



gentle mindset shift

YOU ARE NOW THE OWNER

**once your van leaves our shop,
ownership fully transfers to you.**

this includes:

- choosing mechanics
- deciding when and where repairs happen
- managing timelines and travel decisions
- learning your vehicle over time

this isn't abandonment — it's autonomy.

ownership means freedom, choice, and responsibility.

you are capable of this.

big transitions

THE EMOTIONAL SIDE

confidence grows through experience, not certainty.

after a big purchase or life shift, some people experience:

- second-guessing
- anxiety
- “what did i just do?” thoughts

this doesn't mean you made a bad decision.

give yourself time to settle into your new rhythm.

most peace comes after familiarity — not before.

investment reality

PLANNING BRINGS FREEDOM

all vehicles require upkeep, especially vintage vans.

we recommend setting aside a monthly maintenance buffer of a few hundred dollars, even if nothing goes wrong.

this may cover:

- fluids
- small repairs
- diagnostics
- tune-ups
- wear items

unused maintenance money is still a win.

preparation creates calm and confidence on the road.

as estelle's grandpa always said-

“failure to prepare is preparing to fail”

chapter 13

welcome to travel



self trust

YOU CAN DO THIS

learning to rely on yourself is a useful skill of all arenas of life

self-trust is a skill that grows with experience.

every challenge you encounter is an opportunity to slow down, assess, and respond thoughtfully. most issues are solvable with patience, information, and a willingness to ask the right questions.

you don't need to know everything in advance. you learn by doing — by listening to your vehicle, your surroundings, and your intuition.

when something goes wrong, it doesn't mean you've failed. it means you've been given information.

take a breath. gather what you know. decide your next step.

you are capable of figuring this out — one situation at a time.

self-trust is built on the road.



clear expectations

WHAT FLORIDA VAN LIFE CO. IS — AND ISN'T — AFTER PURCHASE

all vehicles require upkeep, especially vintage vans.

we care deeply about your experience and also believe in empowered ownership.

after purchase, florida van life co.:

- is not a warranty provider
- is not a roadside dispatch service
- is not an on-call mechanic
- is not a therapist
- is not responsible for how or where the van is driven

we've designed this guide, your walk-through, and your resources to support confident ownership — **and then we trust you to take it from there.**

this guide supplements, but does not replace the vehicle purchase agreement.



who to call

WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

all vehicles require upkeep, especially vintage vans.

immediate safety issue → roadside assistance /
emergency services

drivability concerns → local mechanic

check engine light → local auto parts store

lifestyle questions → google / youtube / forums

emotional support → trusted friend

florida van life co. → only if contractually relevant



welcome to honest reflection



a moment of self-check

BEFORE REACTING

**all vehicles require upkeep,
especially vintage vans.**

if you feel overwhelmed, pause and ask yourself:

- am i tired or hungry?
- is this urgent or just unfamiliar?
- have i taken a breath before responding?

most situations improve with clarity and calm.

very few situations require an immediate decision.
most just need patience and a clear head.

panic is optional.

HALT

hungry

angry

lonely

tired



this lifestyle is for you

IF

you desire growth

you are willing to learn as you go.
you don't need everything to be perfect before you begin.

you understand that discomfort is not failure —
it's information.

you're open to adapting. to asking for help.
to figuring things out one step at a time.

small spaces teach awareness.
unexpected moments teach trust.

you value presence over convenience.
progress over perfection.

you take responsibility for your choices —
and find freedom in that.

this lifestyle asks more of you,
and gives more back.

van life doesn't create problems — it reveals patterns.

patience becomes clearer. frustration becomes louder. joy becomes deeper. **this is part of the journey.**



this lifestyle is not for you

IF

a moment of honest reflection

van life is deeply rewarding — and it's not for everyone. taking a moment to reflect now helps ensure alignment, confidence, and enjoyment later.

this lifestyle may not be a fit if:

- you need predictability, consistency, or guaranteed outcomes to feel safe
- you expect a vintage vehicle to behave like a new car
- you feel distressed by uncertainty or unexpected changes
- you need immediate resolution when something feels unfamiliar
- you expect someone else to manage decisions after purchase
- you struggle with minor inconveniences or imperfect conditions
- you feel overwhelmed when plans shift
- you expect reassurance before trusting your own judgment
- you're uncomfortable learning as you go
- you want the idea of van life more than the reality of it

this isn't a judgment — it's clarity.

van life asks for presence, patience, adaptability, and self-trust.

it rewards those who are willing to participate actively rather than seek perfection.



chapter 15

welcome to your new home



all homes require investment

AVERAGE COST PER YEAR

a moment of honest reflection

Average Single-Family Home Ownership Costs

1. Purchase Costs

- Home price (national median): \$350,000–\$450,000
- Down payment (20%): \$70,000–\$90,000
- Closing costs (one-time): 2–5% of purchase price
- → \$7,000–\$22,500

Ongoing Annual Costs

2. Mortgage Payments

- Principal & interest (30-year fixed @ ~6–7% APR):
- \$18,000–\$30,000/year (~\$1,500–\$2,500/mo)

Depends on home price, interest rate, and down payment.

3. Property Taxes

- Typical rate: 1–1.5% of home value
- Annual cost: \$3,500–\$6,750

4. Home Insurance

- Average annual premium: \$1,200–\$2,000+

5. Utilities

- Total Utilities \$3,000–\$5,800



all homes require investment

AVERAGE COST PER YEAR

a moment of honest reflection

Average Single-Family Home Ownership Costs

6. Maintenance & Repairs

- Experts often recommend 1–3% of home value per year:
- For a \$400,000 home → \$4,000–\$12,000/year

7. Homeowners Association (HOA) Fees

- If applicable: \$300–\$2,400/year

Or you can buy a signature camper van and live free forever!

“Live free, work faithfully, and you shall prosper”



all cars require investment

AVERAGE COST PER YEAR

a moment of honest reflection

Average Car Ownership Costs (Annual & One-Time)

1. Purchase Costs

- Used car (5–10 years old): \$8,000–\$18,000
- New car: \$25,000–\$40,000+
- Sales tax & registration (one-time at purchase): 6–10% of price

Ongoing Annual Costs

2. Loan Payments

- Average monthly payment: \$400–\$650
- Annual: \$4,800–\$7,800

Depends on loan term, interest rate, and down payment.

3. Insurance

- Average annual cost (varies by state, age, driving record):
- \$1,200–\$2,500+

4. Fuel

- Average miles driven yearly: ~12,000–15,000
- Average mpg: 25–30
- Gas price assumption: \$3.00–\$4.00/gal
- Annual fuel cost: \$1,500–\$2,000

5. Maintenance & Repairs

Total estimated maintenance/repairs \$1,500–\$3,000+

Yearly Budget for Surprises

- Always set aside \$500–\$1,000/year for unexpected repairs



chapter 16

welcome to saving money



your savings

VAN OWNERSHIP

van life vs. hotel/airbnb

when you compare van ownership to airbnb or hotel living, the numbers tell a clear story.

the average airbnb or hotel stay ranges from \$120–\$300+ per night depending on location and season. even a modest 15 nights per month at \$150 per night equals \$2,250 monthly — or \$27,000 per year — just for a place to sleep.

that doesn't include cleaning fees, service fees, or peak travel pricing. with van life, your home moves with you. instead of paying nightly rates over and over again, you're investing in something you own.

the shift isn't about spending nothing — it's about spending differently. less toward temporary lodging. more toward ownership, flexibility, and long-term choice.

more than a toy

VAN OWNERSHIP

people spend serious money on fun

jet skis, boats, motorcycles, side-by-sides, and golf carts can cost thousands — and most serve one main purpose.

a camper van gives you more:

transportation

drive it anywhere

lodging

skip the hotel

a kitchen

cook on the road

storage

bring your gear

a tiny home

your own private space

an adventure vehicle

weekends, camping, festivals + road trips

many recreational toys also require a trailer, tow vehicle, storage, or hotels.

a camper van combines several of those costs into one usable asset.

**more than a toy. more ways to use it.
more value every time you hit the road.**



your savings

VAN OWNERSHIP

what full-time van life can save you

most people already understand that homes and cars require ongoing investment. rent, mortgages, insurance, utilities, maintenance — it all adds up quietly, year after year.

living full-time in a camper van *doesn't eliminate costs* — but it restructures them in a meaningful way.

below is a realistic comparison of typical annual expenses for a traditional setup versus full-time van living.

typical annual costs: traditional living

housing

- rent or mortgage: \$18,000–\$30,000+ per year
- (based on \$1,500–\$2,500/month)

utilities

- electricity, water, internet, trash: \$3,000–\$5,800/year

car

- car payment: \$4,800–\$7,800/year
- insurance: \$1,200–\$2,500+/year
- fuel: \$1,500–\$2,000/year
- maintenance & repairs: \$1,500–\$3,000+/year

estimated total:

\$30,000–\$50,000+ per year



your savings

VAN OWNERSHIP

typical annual costs: full-time camper van living

housing

- no rent or mortgage

vehicle

- no separate car payment
- one vehicle instead of two

insurance

- vintage van insurance is often significantly lower
- (many owners pay \$600–\$1,200/year depending on coverage)

utilities

- solar-supported electricity
- no monthly utility bills
- occasional campground fees or shore power as needed

fuel

- varies by travel style
- (generally comparable to or slightly higher than a single car)

maintenance

- ongoing upkeep is expected with any vehicle
- budgeting \$1,500–\$3,000/year is realistic

your savings

VAN OWNERSHIP

**potential annual savings:
\$18-000 - \$38,000+ per year**

these savings come primarily from:

- no rent or mortgage
- no separate car payment
- fewer monthly utility bills
- lower insurance costs on a vintage vehicle

a realistic note: *van life is not “free.”*
requires responsibility, maintenance, and thoughtful budgeting.

for many people, van life offers:

- fewer fixed monthly obligations
- more control over expenses
- the ability to redirect money toward experiences, savings, or time

this lifestyle trades predictability for flexibility — and for the right person, that trade is intentional.

the bottom line:

every lifestyle costs something.
van life simply asks you to pay differently.

less toward rent and interest.
more toward ownership, presence, and choice.

chapter 17

welcome to your camper van



products

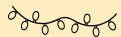
IN YOUR NEW HOME

classic line - *starting at 20k*



plenty of juice to charge

all of your electronics including laptop, cameras, phone, etc.



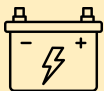
remote controlled lighting

this is a vibe at night



lots of accessible ports

for charging phones and other devices



simple and easy to use power station

it's all totally dialed in for you and is very user friendly.



basic cooler/ice box

to keep your food fresh



simple sink

battery operated faucet



products

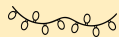
IN YOUR NEW HOME

signature line - starting at 30k



plenty of juice to charge

all of your electronics including laptop, cameras, phone, etc.



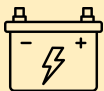
remote controlled lighting

this is a vibe at night



lots of accessible ports

for charging phones and other devices



off grid simple and easy to use power station

it's all totally dialed in for you and is very user friendly.



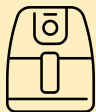
retro style fridge/freezer

to keep your food fresh



simple sink

battery operated faucet



air fryer and microwave

(shore power or campsite powered only)



smart tv



everything inside the camper is powered off

100w solar panel(s) securely mounted on the van roof

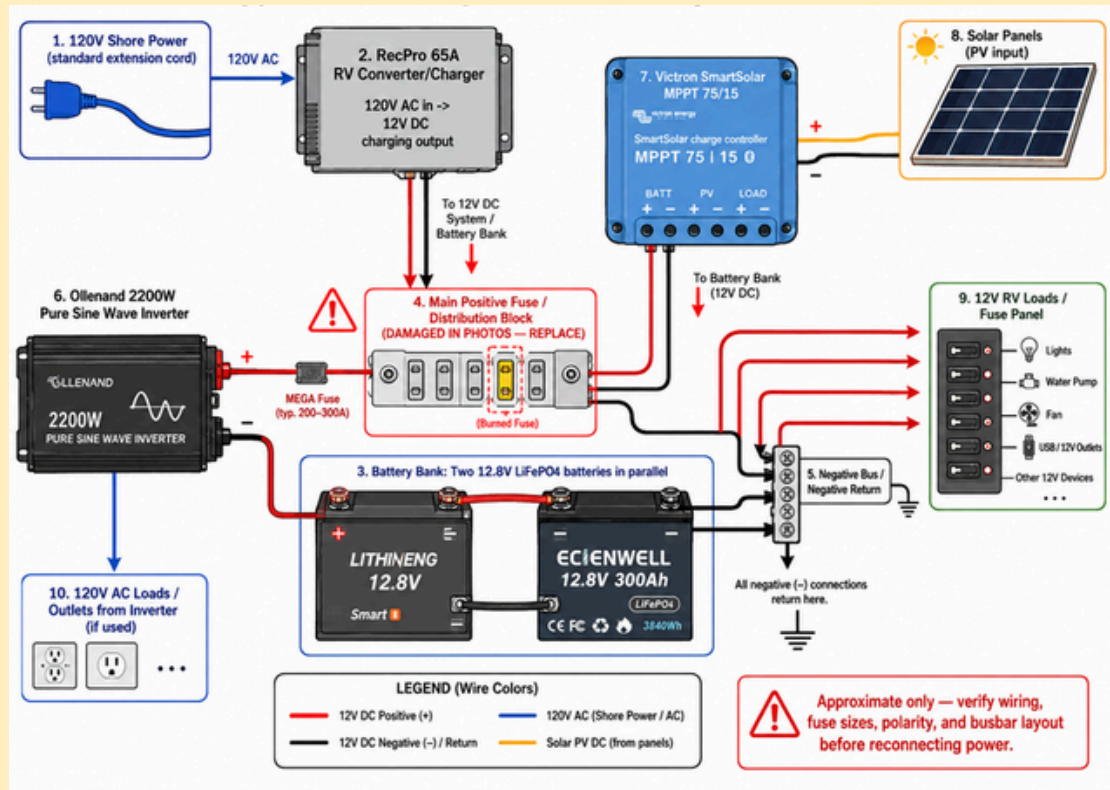


starlink

securely mounted on the van roof

battery system

HOW YOUR OFF GRID SYSTEM WORKS



*sizing may vary, this diagram is created for general understanding, not exact

battery system

BASICS

how your off-grid battery system works

your power system supports comfort — not unlimited consumption.

common mistakes:

- leaving the inverter on
- draining batteries overnight unintentionally
- assuming cold doesn't affect battery performance

best habits:

- turn things off when not in use
- check battery levels daily
- learn what's normal for your setup

understanding your system reduces anxiety more than upgrades ever will.

download the victron app to monitor your battery's life (signature line only)



battery system

CLASSIC LINE

how your off-grid battery system works

the classic line uses a compact, portable lithium power station (similar to a mini jackery-style or comparable solar generator).

battery size and capacity may vary depending on the specific van, layout, and intended use. this system is designed to support basic, everyday power needs — such as lights, fans, device charging, and small electronics — rather than high-draw appliances.

power is replenished through roof-mounted solar when conditions allow, or by plugging into an extension cord when shore power is available. because this is a mobile, portable system, power usage requires awareness and moderation.

this setup offers flexibility, simplicity, and ease of replacement — without the complexity of a permanently installed electrical system.



battery system

SIGNATURE LINE

how your off-grid battery system works

your camper is powered by a lithium house battery system that stores energy so you can live comfortably without being plugged in.

where power comes from:

solar power

roof-mounted 100w solar panels collect energy from the sun. that power flows through a solar charge controller and safely charges the battery bank while helping run daily systems.

plug-in power (shore power)

your camper can also be charged using the mounted extension cord on the side of the van. when plugged into a standard outlet or campground power, the rv converter supplies 12v power and recharges the batteries.



battery system

SIGNATURE LINE

how your off-grid battery system works

how power is used:

- 12v systems are the most efficient and are always available

for signature builds, a victron smart battery monitor tracks how much power is being used and how full the batteries are, giving you a clear picture of your energy at all times.

helpful reminders

- solar output depends on sunlight and weather
- conserving power extends off-grid time
- lithium batteries perform best with regular use

this system is designed for simplicity, freedom, and flexibility. with light awareness, it quietly supports everyday life on and off the grid.



power use reality

WHAT DRAINS BATTERIES FAST

**most electrical problems are not failures
— they are overload or depletion.**

High draw:

- space heaters
- hair dryers
- AC units
- microwaves
- induction cooktops
- coffee makers

Medium:

- fridge
- fans
- laptops

Low:

- lights
- phone charging
- vent fans



chapter 18

welcome to exploration



chapter 18

welcome to chasing sunsets



van life blogs

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LIFESTYLE

how to live in a camper van



bearfoot theory



gnomad home



two wandering soles



the wayward home



outside van life



where to park

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LIFESTYLE

best apps to find camping spots



Hip Camp

offers places to park overnight at farms, ranches, private properties, etc. (often for free or minimal cost)



iOverlander

community-driven database of campsites, boondocking spots, parking spots, and amenities,



Park4Night

shows camping, rest areas, and legal overnight parking (user submitted)



Vanly

lets you find and book safe overnight parking from private hosts.



Harvest Hosts

offers places to park overnight at farms, wineries, and private properties (often for free or minimal cost)



The Dyrt

Extensive directory of campgrounds (public & private) with reviews, photos, and filters,



the “knock”

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LIFESTYLE

for the risky rascally types:

if a place feels off — leave. no explanation needed.

simple safety habits:

- keep keys in the same place every night
- know your exits
- trust your instincts

if someone knocks:

- stay calm
- *decide if you're going to acknowledge your presence. (if curtains are drawn, there's no proof you're living or are in the vehicle. they're guessing)*
- communicate briefly and respectfully
- relocate if needed

you don't owe anyone your presence.



boondocking

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LIFESTYLE

for the risky rascally types:

- boondocking often means parking for free at places that already expect vehicles overnight. many 24-hour establishments allow this for a limited time — usually one night, sometimes a few.
- always check local laws and ordinances. rules vary by city, county, and even block. when in doubt, ask — and always be respectful to local law enforcement.
- big-name spots like Walmart, Cracker Barrel, and 24-hour gyms are often van-life friendly, but policies change. some locations allow overnight parking, others don't.
- arrive late and leave early. blending in is the goal — not setting up camp.
- if you're stealthy and comfortable with a little risk, quiet neighborhoods can work for a night or two. the average neighborhood won't notice one extra vehicle if you're respectful and discreet.
- don't make noise. no loud music, no generators, no slamming doors. invisibility is kindness.
- avoid staying multiple nights in the same spot. rotate locations to stay under the radar.
- keep lights dim or off at night. interior lights can draw attention fast.
- park legally. don't block driveways, fire hydrants, sidewalks, or mailboxes.
- trust your instincts. if a spot feels wrong, move. the beauty of van life is having that option.
- leave no trace. treat every spot like it's someone's front yard — because sometimes it is.



welcome to
staying wild



chapter 18

welcome to living free



refilling water

THE BASICS ARE EASIER THAN YOU THINK

where do refill water

campgrounds + rv parks

many campgrounds have potable water fill stations. some will let you fill up for a small fee even if you aren't staying overnight.

rv dump + service stations

many rv service areas have fresh-water spigots near their dump stations. always make sure the water is clearly marked potable before putting it into your fresh-water tank.

gas stations + truck stops

some larger travel centers have potable water available. ask an employee before using a spigot.

state + national parks

visitor centers, campgrounds, and recreation areas often have drinking-water stations or outdoor faucets.

grocery stores + water refill stations

many grocery stores and water kiosks sell filtered water by the gallon. this is especially helpful if your camper uses removable water containers instead of a permanent tank.

friends + family

when visiting someone, topping off your water tank from their hose is one of the easiest ways to reset before your next stretch of travel. apps can help

important:

only put water marked potable/drinking water into your fresh-water system.



showers

THE BASICS ARE EASIER THAN YOU THINK

where do refill water

gym memberships

one of the easiest options for frequent travelers. nationwide gym chains give you access to showers, bathrooms, air conditioning, and sometimes a convenient place to park while you reset.

campgrounds + rv parks

many have hot showers included with your stay. some campgrounds also sell shower access to non-guests.

truck stops

major truck stops often have private shower rooms. they usually cost more than a gym shower, but they're clean, private, and convenient on long highway trips.

beaches + recreation areas

many beaches, swimming areas, and parks have outdoor rinse-off showers. perfect for quick resets after swimming or hot days.

community centers + public pools

some recreation centers and pools offer inexpensive day passes that include locker rooms and showers.

portable shower setup

some van lifers keep a simple solar shower, rinse kit, or portable shower for remote camping. always use biodegradable soap and follow local rules about outdoor bathing and grey water.

the van life trick

you don't need to solve water and showers for the entire trip.

after a few weeks on the road, finding essentials becomes second nature. don't wait until it becomes an emergency.



chapter 19

welcome to presence



chapter 19

media



Insider ✓

Mar 11 • 🌐

"It doesn't feel like work to us," Florida Van Life Co told Insider on creating boho camper vans with Founder Estelle Bain.



INSIDER • 9 MIN READ

Two outdoorsy entrepreneurs in Florida met after one nearly ran the other over. Together, t...



Vacation on wheels: Florida company offers new affordable approach to road trips

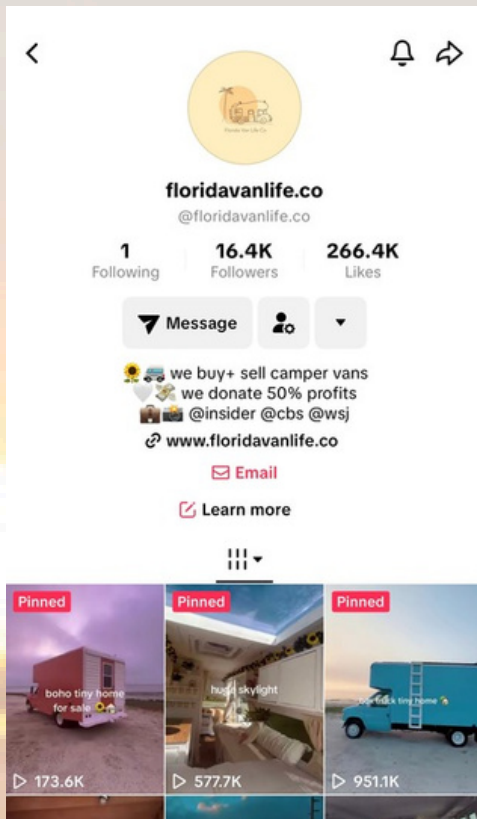
Business owners offer revitalized vans for fraction of cost of RVs



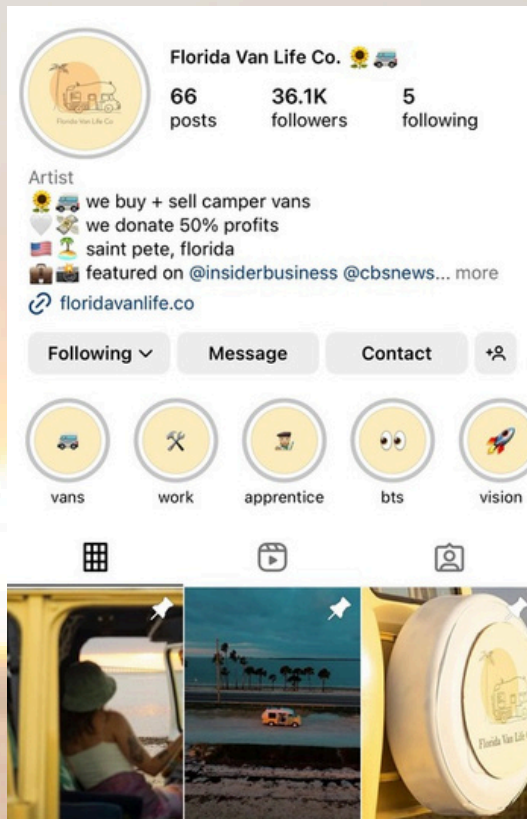
chapter 19

socials

tik tok



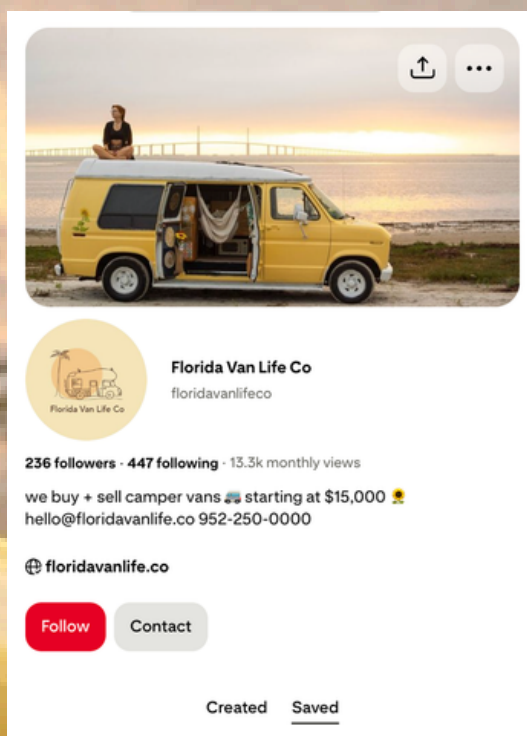
instagram



facebook



pinterest



chapter 20

welcome to generosity



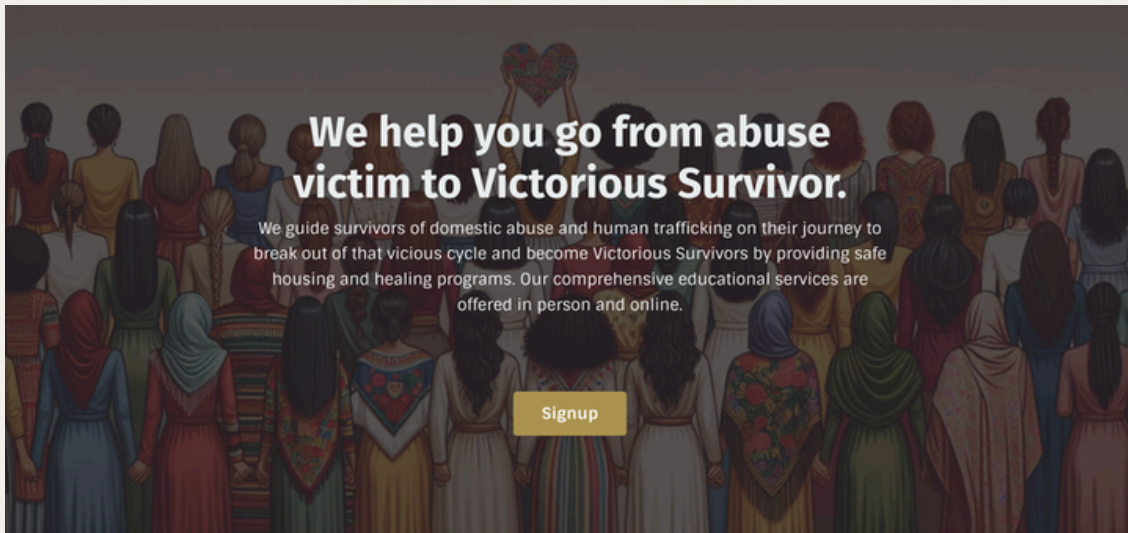


IN MEMORY OF
ROBERT CLARK BAIN JR.

we donate
50% profits



giving back



thanks to your support, we're honored to financially provide for domestic abuse and human trafficking survivors across the globe through Victorious Survivors Foundation. 💕



**VICTORIOUS
SURVIVORS**
FOUNDATION



giving back



thanks to your support, we're honored to build out and financially provide for mobile transitional housing solutions here in Tampa Bay through Mi Casa-MTRV. ❤️

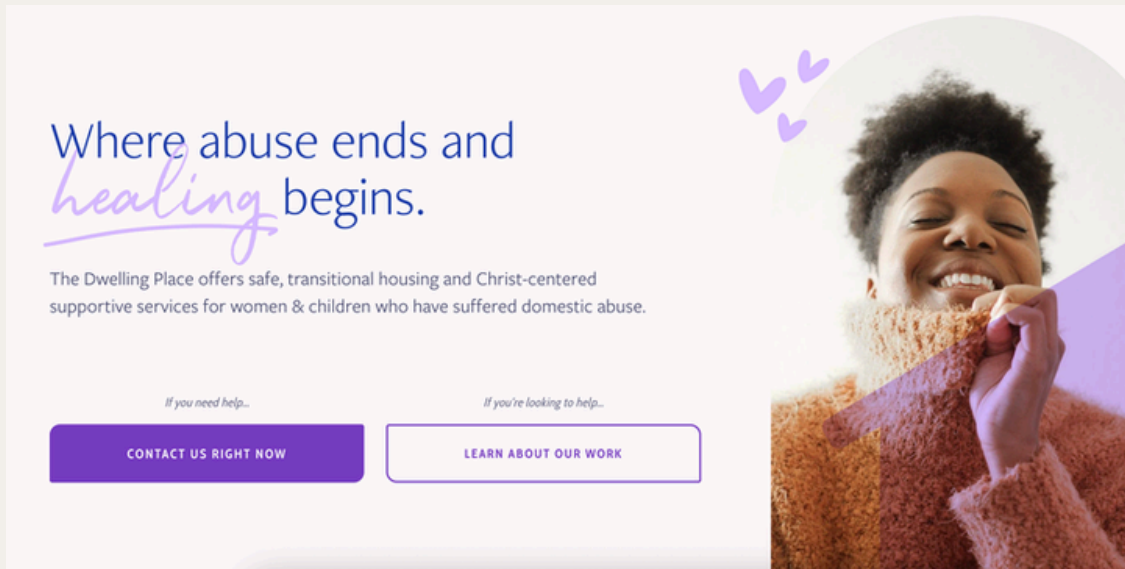
MI CASA-MTRV

MY HOUSE - MY TINY RECREATIONAL VEHICLE

A Mobile Transitional Housing Solution



giving back

A screenshot of The Dwelling Place website. On the left, the text reads "Where abuse ends and *healing* begins." with "healing" in a purple script font. Below this, it says "The Dwelling Place offers safe, transitional housing and Christ-centered supportive services for women & children who have suffered domestic abuse." At the bottom left, there are two buttons: a purple one labeled "CONTACT US RIGHT NOW" and a white one with a purple border labeled "LEARN ABOUT OUR WORK". On the right, there is a circular image of a smiling Black woman with curly hair, wearing a thick orange and brown striped sweater, holding a small object. Three small purple hearts float above her head.

Where abuse ends and *healing* begins.

The Dwelling Place offers safe, transitional housing and Christ-centered supportive services for women & children who have suffered domestic abuse.

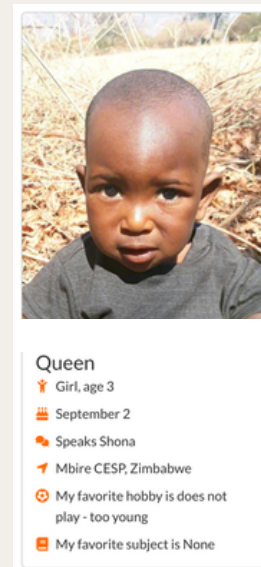
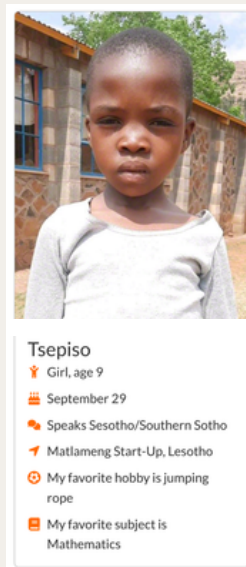
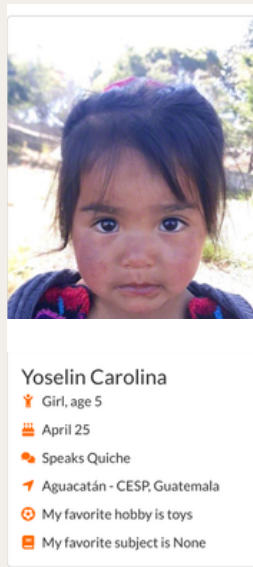
If you need help...
CONTACT US RIGHT NOW

If you're looking to help...
LEARN ABOUT OUR WORK

thanks to your support, we're honored to financially provide
for women & children who have suffered domestic abuse
through The Dwelling Place. 💕



giving back



thanks to your support, we're honored to financially provide for multiple young girls' education, food, water, and basic necessities for their families across the globe through World Vision. 💕



chapter 21

welcome to community stories



spread the love



we take pride in ensuring each of our buyers have a growth filled and empowering experience working with us. we aim to set you up for success as you embark on your journey.

as you experience and share your adventure, please tag us on all socials [@floridavanlife.co](https://www.floridavanlife.co)



reviews



“Knowledgeable + Professional ”

Estelle and her team are super knowledgeable and professional. I feel lucky to have found their team, who put such detail and hard work into each one of their vans. Will definitely be recommending them to friends and family!

Gabby

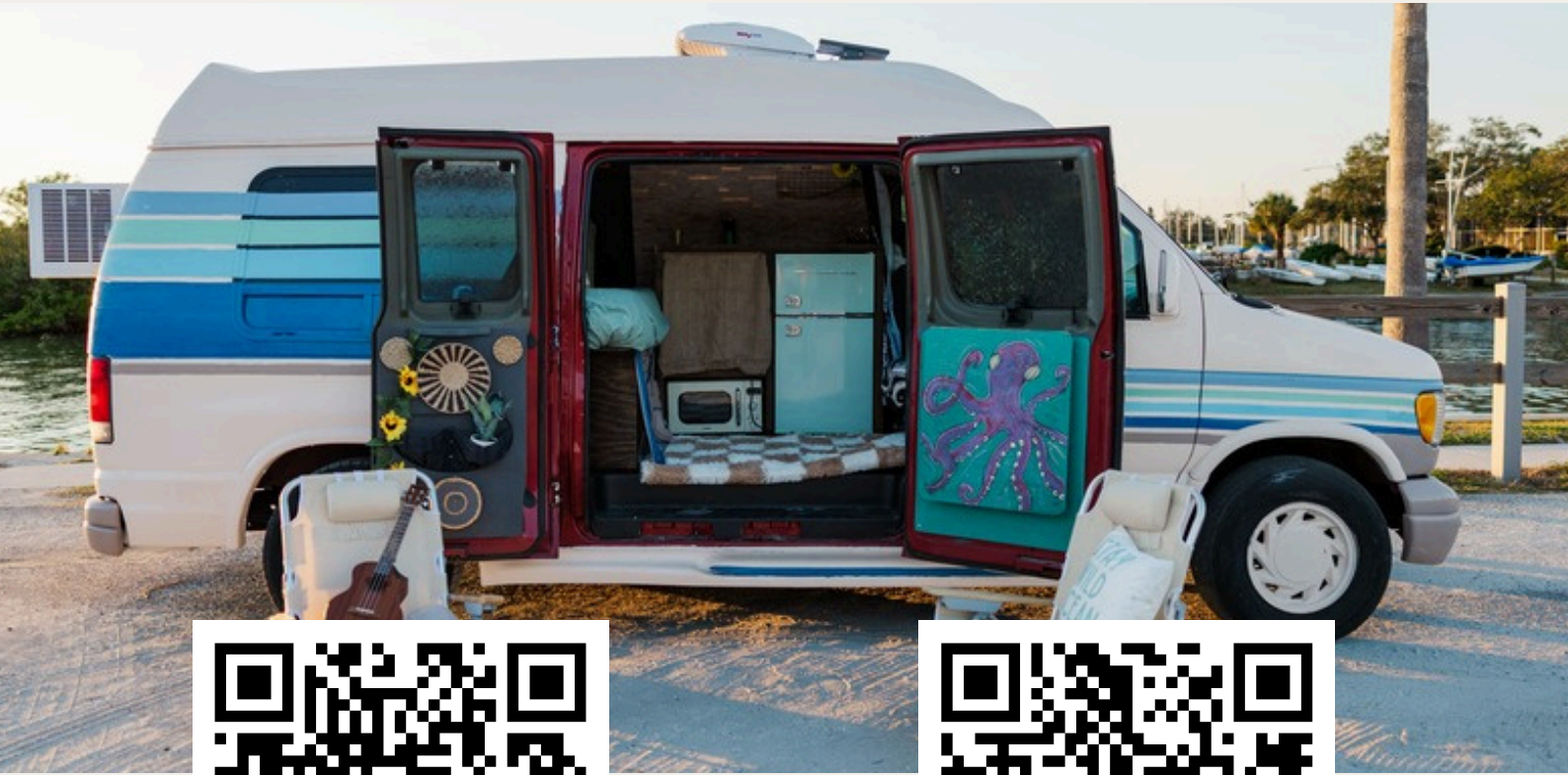
”Adventure of a lifetime”

Florida Van Life Co is more than just a van company - it's a shared creative space for artists, mechanics, photographers, carpenters, and visionaries. Each van is refurbished with love and care, and the owner of the company, Estelle, truly has created something special for the team and those who choose to purchase a van for their lifestyle needs.

Mariah



video testimonials



“One of One Work of Art”

“It truly is a one of one work of art. It’ll be a launching point to be spontaneous, get outside more, and make some memories together.”

Andrew + Brandi



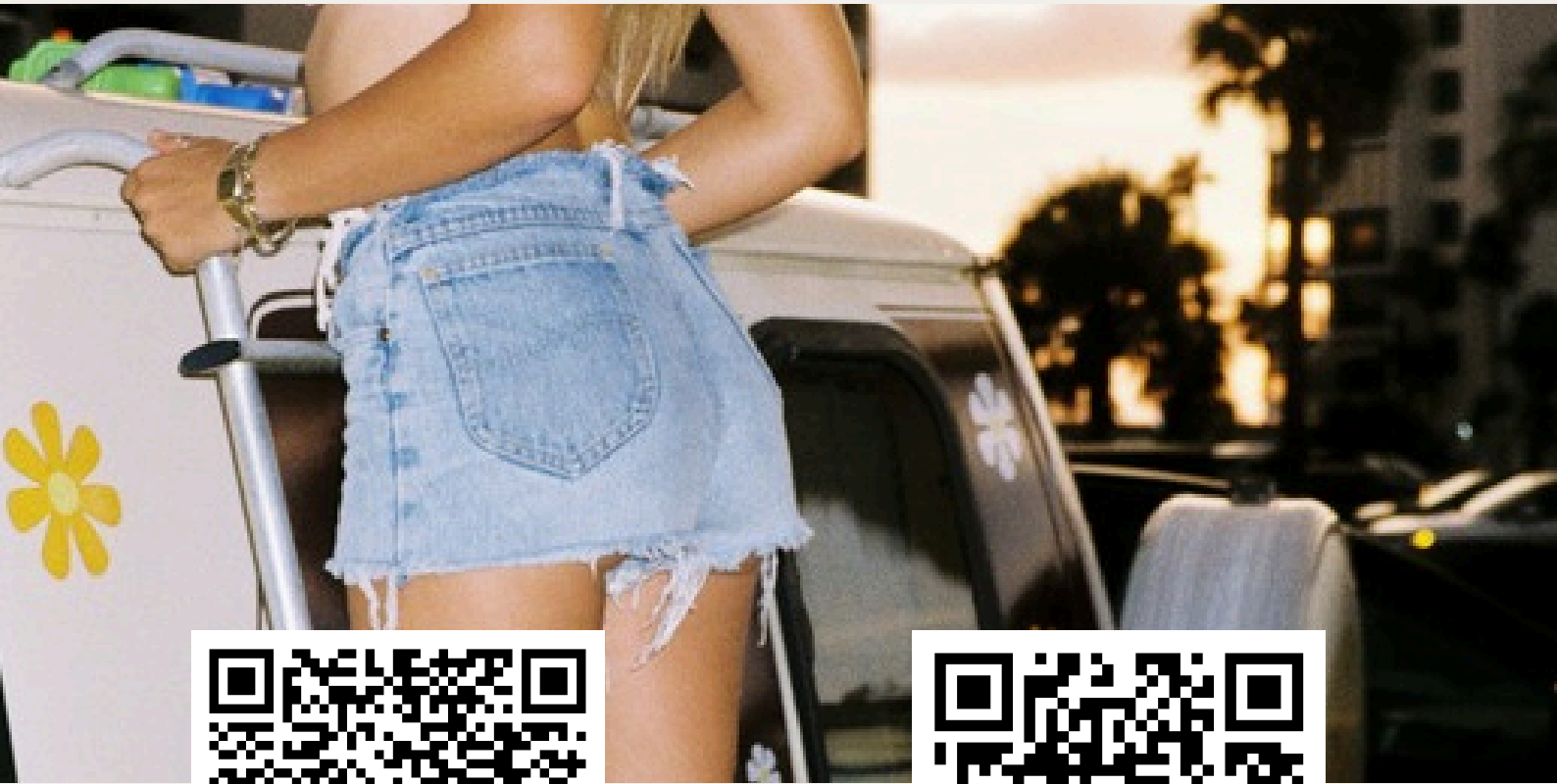
“Super Impressed, Cozy Looking”

“Super impressed, it’s so cozy looking. There’s obviously a ton of care that goes into this van, which implies more trust in the other components of the build.”

Luke



video testimonials



“An Entire Experience”

“More than just a transaction, it was an entire experience with Estelle. She was transparent from the beginning. She personalized our van, cared about our experience and addressed our concerns and questions.”

Chris



“Spunky, Unique, & Well Done”

“What sold me was Florida Van Life Co. customer service, personality, being open, honest, and raw. I felt comfortable immediately. I felt safe, even with a new lifestyle which is scary and crazy. I felt grounded and sound in my decision”

Megan



spread the love



your honest experience matters

if your journey with florida van life co. meant something to you, we'd love for you to share it. not because we expect perfection — but because real stories help future buyers understand what this experience is truly like.

your words help us grow, improve, and continue building thoughtfully.
If something felt magical, say so.

thank you for being part of our story



chapter 21



Florida Van Life Co



chapter 22

welcome to official ownership



title transfer

THE GOVERNMENT STUFF

welcome to official ownership

transferring your title is one of the first real steps of becoming the legal owner of your camper van. it's straightforward, but it does require your participation. this page walks you through what to expect so you can move through the process confidently.

why this matters

the title transfer legally moves ownership from previous owner to you. until this is completed, the vehicle is not registered in your name. this step is time-sensitive and is the buyer's responsibility. the dmV will sell you a license plate. your camper van may have arrived with a decorative license plate used for marketing purposes only, ***it's illegal to drive on the road with a decorative license plate.***

when to do it

visit the dmV as soon as possible after purchase. most states have a deadline (often 30 days). delays may result in late fees or penalties.

what to bring with you

requirements vary slightly by state, but you'll typically need:

- the signed title (we will provide this at purchase)
- a bill of sale
- a valid photo id
- proof of insurance for the vehicle
- payment for taxes, title, and registration fees

some states may also require:

- an odometer disclosure
- a vin verification
- an emissions or safety inspection (this is not required in florida and we do not guarentee passing these inspections)



title transfer

THE GOVERNMENT STUFF

welcome to official ownership

check your local dmv website before going so there are no surprises.

what happens at the dmv

- you'll submit your paperwork at the counter
- you'll pay applicable taxes and fees
- the dmv will process the ownership transfer
- you'll receive registration and, in many cases, license plates
- your new title may be stored electronically, printed the same day, or mailed to you within a few weeks

common tips for a smooth visit

- go earlier in the day if possible
- double-check that names and signatures match exactly
- bring originals, not photos, unless your state allows otherwise
- stay calm—this is a normal process, even if it feels unfamiliar

important notes

- florida van life co. does not accompany buyers to the dmv
- florida van life co. is not responsible for delays, fees, or state-specific requirements
- all questions about taxes, deadlines, and documentation are handled by the dmv

mindset reminder

this step marks a shift: the van is official yours. ownership includes freedom, responsibility, and follow-through. navigating logistics like the dmv is part of the journey—and a small price for the independence ahead.

if you can handle this, you can handle the road. 🌞 🚐



title transfer

HOW TO FILL OUT THE TITLE

Mail Lien Satisfaction to: Dept of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, Neil Kirkman Building, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0000

T# 1794682377
B# 2683658

Identification Number: 1FDEE14H0NHA90784 Year: 1992 Make: FORD Body: VC WT/LBHP: 3901 Vessel Regs. No.: Title Number: 90506686

Registered Owner:
FLORIDA VAN LIFE CO LLC
4671 13TH AVE S
ST PETERSBURG, FL 33711-2313

Date of Issue: 04/13/2023

Lien Release
Interest in the described vehicle is hereby released
By: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- When ownership of the vehicle described herein is transferred, the seller MUST complete in full the Transfer of Title by Seller section at the bottom of the certificate of title.
- Upon sale of this vehicle, the seller must complete the notice of sale on the reverse side of this form.
- Remove your license plate from the vehicle.
- See the web address below for more information and the appropriate forms required for the purchaser to title and register the vehicle, mobile home or vessel: <http://www.hsmv.state.fl.us/titles/titinf.html>

Mail To:
FLORIDA VAN LIFE CO LLC
4671 13TH AVE S
ST PETERSBURG, FL 33711-2313

CERTIFICATE OF TITLE

Identification Number: 1FDEE14H0NHA90784 Year: 1992 Make: FORD Body: VC WT/LBHP: 3901 Vessel Regs. No.: Title Number: 90506686

Prev. State: FL Color: TEL Primary Brand: Secondary Brand: No. of Brands: Use: PRIVATE Prev Issue Date: 02/14/2022

Odometer Status or Vessel Manufacturer or OH use: EXEMPT Engine Drive: Hull Material: Prop: Date of Issue: 04/13/2023

Registered Owner:
FLORIDA VAN LIFE CO LLC
4671 13TH AVE S
ST PETERSBURG, FL 33711-2313

1st Lienholder:
NONE

DIVISION OF MOTORIST SERVICES TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Robert R. Kynard
Robert R. Kynard
Director

Control Number: 162273391
4 / 1 162273391

David M. Karner
David M. Karner
Executive Director

TRANSFER OF TITLE BY SELLER (This section must be completed at the time of sale.)
Federal and/or state law requires that the seller state the mileage, purchase's name, selling price and date sold in connection with the transfer of ownership.
Failure to complete or providing a false statement may result in fines and/or imprisonment.
This title is warranted to be free from any liens except as noted on the face of the certificate and the motor vehicle or vessel described is hereby transferred to:

Seller Must Enter Purchase's Name: _____ Address: _____
Seller Must Enter Selling Price: _____ Seller Must Enter Date Sold: _____
I/We state that this ☐ 5 of ☐ 6 digit odometer now reads: _____ X (no tens) miles, date read: _____ and I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge the odometer reading reflects ACTUAL MILEAGE. ☐ 2 is IN EXCESS OF ITS MECHANICAL LIMITS. ☐ 3 is NOT THE ACTUAL MILEAGE.

UNDER PENALTIES OF PERJURY, I DECLARE THAT I HAVE READ THE FOREGOING DOCUMENT AND THAT THE FACTS STATED IN IT ARE TRUE.

SELLER Must Sign Here: _____ CO-SELLER Must Sign Here: _____
Print Here: _____ Print Here: _____
Selling Dealer's License Number: _____ Tax No: _____ Tax Collected: _____
Auction Name: _____ License Number: _____
PURCHASER Must Sign Here: _____ CO-PURCHASER Must Sign Here: _____
Print Here: _____ Print Here: _____

NOTICE: PENALTY IS REQUIRED BY LAW IF NOT SUBMITTED FOR TRANSFER WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PURCHASE.

HSMV 82250 (REV. 3/15) STATE OF FLORIDA



chapter 22

insurance

PROTECT YOURSELF

how to get insurance for your camper van

before you drive away

insurance is required before you can legally drive your camper van. securing coverage is your responsibility as the buyer, and it should be completed before pickup or immediately after purchase, depending on your provider. this page explains the simplest and most cost-effective way most buyers handle insurance.

when to get insurance

- before pickup is ideal and recommended
- at minimum, insurance must be active before driving the vehicle
- some providers allow you to add the vehicle the same day by phone or app

do not assume coverage transfers automatically from another vehicle.

step-by-step process

1. contact your insurance provider
2. call, use their app, or log into your online account.
3. provide basic vehicle information
4. you'll typically need:
 - vin
 - year, make, and model
 - purchase date
 - intended use (most buyers choose personal travel)
5. choose standard auto insurance coverage
6. most buyers find the most affordable option is to insure the vehicle as a standard van, not as a camper van or rv.
7. activate coverage
8. confirm the policy start date and request proof of insurance.
9. save your insurance card
10. keep a digital copy on your phone and a printed copy in the van.



chapter 22

insurance

PROTECT YOURSELF

how to get insurance for your camper van

important cost insight

in many cases, rv or camper-specific insurance policies are significantly more expensive and are not required for standard van ownership. for affordability and simplicity, most buyers:

- insure the vehicle as a standard van
- carry regular auto liability and optional comprehensive/collision
- avoid specialty rv classifications unless required by their insurer

insurance classifications and rates vary by company and state. you are responsible for choosing the policy that fits your needs.

what florida van life co. does not:

- florida van life co. does not arrange insurance
- florida van life co. does not recommend specific carriers
- florida van life co. does not guarantee coverage types or rates
- florida van life co. does not make insurance decisions

helpful tips

- call more than one provider if pricing seems high
- ask if existing multi-vehicle or loyalty discounts apply
- be clear and calm when explaining the vehicle
- avoid overcomplicating the description unless asked

mindset reminder

insurance is part of ownership. taking initiative here is your first act of stewardship over the van. once coverage is active, the road is officially yours. freedom comes with responsibility—and you're capable of both. ☀️ 🚐



chapter 23

welcome to clarity



no warranty

BECAUSE, THIS IS A VINTAGE VAN

why this matters, and what it means for you

all vehicles require upkeep — especially vintage vehicles.

we work with older vans because they're soulful, affordable, and full of character. they're also mechanical systems with history. because of that, we do not offer a mechanical warranty. no builder can truly guarantee the future behavior of a vintage vehicle.

florida van life co. is an entry-level, budget-conscious camper builder. our goal is to help people get on the road without luxury-brand pricing, corporate overhead, or inflated expectations.

because of this, ***we do not offer a warranty of any kind.***

what we do offer is transparency, thoughtful design, careful installation, and real-world experience living in and traveling with these vehicles.

we provide a walk-through, educational resources, and guidance designed to support confident, empowered ownership

this path isn't for everyone.

for the right person, it's freedom, responsibility, and adventure — intentionally chosen



no returns

BECAUSE, THIS IS A CUSTOM, INTENTIONAL PURCHASE

the reasoning behind this, and what to expect

every florida van life co. vehicle is one of a kind.

these are not mass-produced products — they are thoughtfully built, complete vehicles with history, character, and imperfections. because of this, **we do not offer returns once a vehicle has been purchased.**

this policy exists to create clarity and fairness on both sides.

buying a camper van is not a trial period. it's a conscious decision to step into ownership, responsibility, and a new way of living — beginning the moment you drive away.

before the sale, we focus on helping you decide with confidence through transparency, education, walkthroughs, and honest conversations about vintage vehicles.

what we offer is preparation and honesty — not reversibility.

this allows us to keep pricing accessible, operate sustainably as a small builder, and continue creating soulful and affordable vans.

this path isn't for everyone.

for the right person, it's commitment, freedom, and adventure — intentionally chosen, not undone.



resale support

BECAUSE ADVENTURES EVOLVE

the intention behind this, and why it supports you

many people don't plan to own their camper van forever.

van life is often a chapter. when that chapter ends, it's common to want a simple, supported way to transition out of ownership.

when the time comes, florida van life co. offers optional resale brokering through our platform.

we help connect your van with the right next owner — someone aligned with this lifestyle and these vehicles.

pricing is set thoughtfully based on year, make, mileage, condition, and current market values. our goal is a fair, realistic price that reflects the van's true place in the market.

while resale value and timing can't be guaranteed, having an established platform and a qualified audience can make the process clearer and more approachable.

this path isn't linear.

for many, van life is a season — and letting go can be just as intentional as starting.

contact estelle when you're curious to learn more about our brokering camper van service 952-250-0000.



selling with fvl

PASSING THE KEYS - THE OFF RAMP

what to expect on this chapter

when you start to feel your season with the van shifting, you don't have to figure out what comes next alone.

reach out to florida van life co. and we'll talk through what selling could realistically look like — based on your van, the market, and your timing — with no pressure to move forward.

if you choose to move forward, we take care of the heavy lifting:

- **photos + listing**
- **pricing + positioning**
- **buyer screening**
- **inquiries + showings**
- **paperwork support**

we simply provide the platform, the audience, and the structure.

we don't promise a specific price or timeline — what we offer is something better: a real audience, fair pricing, and a clear, supported path when you're ready to let go.

the van may move on — but you'll always be part of the florida van life co. story.



chapter 24

welcome to adventure



what to expect

IN YOUR FIRST 3 MONTHS

month 1

month 1: settle in + observe

your only job this month is to learn your van.

do this, what we recommend

- drive locally first. short trips build confidence without pressure.
- use your senses, listen to the van: new sounds, smells, and vibrations. *write them down.*
- learn your systems one at a time (water, battery, propane, fridge).
- organize your interior for how you actually live, not how it looks on instagram.
- find a local mechanic you trust and introduce yourself.

mindset

- nothing is “wrong” just because something is new.
- every van has quirks. learning them early is a gift.



what to expect

IN YOUR FIRST 3 MONTHS

month 2

month 2: maintain + refine

now you start becoming a responsible owner, not just an excited one.

do this

- schedule a basic checkup if you haven't already.
- tighten bolts, adjust cabinet latches, secure anything that rattles.
- track fuel mileage and fluid levels.
- refine storage based on what you use daily vs. never touch.
- practice simple fixes: fuses, water pump reset, battery monitoring.

money reality

- set aside a maintenance buffer (even if nothing breaks).
- expect small expenses. this is normal, not failure.

mindset

- maintenance is not bad news. it's part of the relationship.
- the more proactive you are, the more freedom you earn.



what to expect

IN YOUR FIRST 3 MONTHS

month 3

month 3: stretch + explore

this is where trust builds — between you and the van.

do this

- take your first longer trip (but not rushed).
- test different environments: heat, rain, highway, dirt roads.
- practice problem-solving on the road calmly.
- create your personal routines: morning setup, nightly shutdown, packing flow.
- note what upgrades actually matter and which don't.

confidence check

- you now know how your van behaves.
- you know how you behave when something goes sideways.



chapter 25

welcome to preparation



packing

THINGS YOU MIGHT WANT

your first two weeks on the road

this list is designed to help you feel settled, prepared, and calm during your first two weeks of van life — when everything is new and routines are still forming.

you don't need everything on day one. ***you do need enough to stay warm, fed, clean, rested, and emotionally grounded.***

sleep & personal comfort

- pillow you actually love (not just what fits)
- extra blanket or throw (even in warm climates)
- sleep mask + earplugs
- comfortable loungewear (not just “outdoor” clothes)
- cozy socks or slippers
- small personal item that makes the van feel like home (book, photo, candle unlit, etc.)

clothing (two-week reality)

- 7–10 days of everyday clothes (layers > outfits)
- one warm layer (even in florida)
- rain jacket or windbreaker
- sleepwear
- underwear & socks for at least 7 days
- comfortable walking shoes
- flip flops or sandals
- hat & sunglasses
- compact laundry bag or tote



packing

THINGS YOU MIGHT WANT

your first two weeks on the road

kitchen & food basics

- reusable water bottle
- 1–2 favorite mugs or cups
- simple snacks that don't require cooking
 - nuts, bars, crackers, jerky, dried fruit
- spices you use regularly (salt, pepper, oil at minimum)
- paper towels + dish towels
- sponge + small dish soap
- trash bags
- food storage containers or zip bags
- lighter or matches (even if you don't plan to cook much)

hygiene & bathroom essentials

- toiletry kit (keep it simple)
- shower flip flops
- quick-dry towel
- wet wipes (for everything)
- hand sanitizer
- toilet paper (even if you plan to use public restrooms)
- small toiletry caddy for gym / campground showers
- laundry detergent pods or small bottle

health & first aid

- daily medications
- pain reliever (headache / muscle aches)
- allergy meds
- motion sickness or nausea meds
- basic first aid kit
- sunscreen
- bug spray
- lip balm



packing

THINGS YOU MIGHT WANT

your first two weeks on the road

tech & power sanity

- phone charger + backup cable
- power bank
- headphones
- flashlight or headlamp
- extension cord (if you plug in at campgrounds)
- notebook or journal
- pen

organization & “van life glue”

these are the things that quietly make life easier:

- small storage bins or baskets
- hooks or clips
- zip ties
- bungee cords
- microfiber cloth
- small broom or handheld vacuum

outside & everyday living

- camp chair
- reusable grocery bag
- daypack or tote
- beach towel or picnic blanket
- bug screen or shade if you have one
- simple entertainment (book, cards, downloaded movies)



packing

THINGS YOU MIGHT WANT

your first two weeks on the road

vehicle & road essentials

- roadside assistance membership
- printed insurance info
- vehicle registration
- tire pressure gauge
- small tool kit (even basic)
- paper map (yes, really)

one final note

your first two weeks are about learning your rhythm, not doing van life perfectly.

you'll discover what you use, what you don't, and what you wish you had. that's normal. most van lifers adjust their setup after the first trip — not before.

pack for comfort, stay curious, and give yourself grace



remember



THINGS TO REMEMBER

the big picture

- older vehicles communicate through behavior, not warning lights alone.
- discomfort usually comes from unfamiliarity, not danger.
- van life rewards patience, curiosity, and responsibility.
- asking for help is smart. panicking is optional.

your first three months aren't about perfection — they're about partnership.

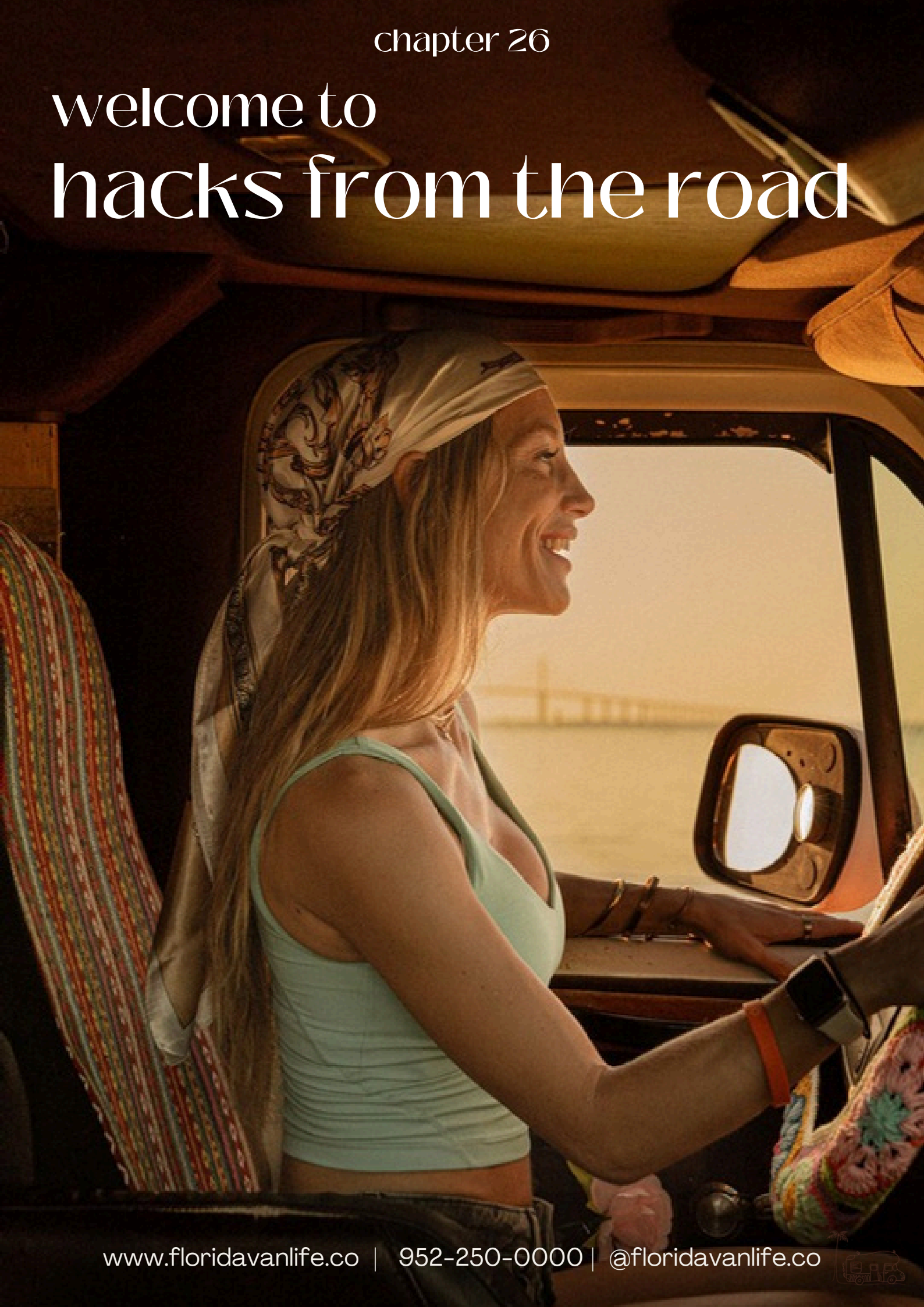
this van will teach you self-trust, adaptability, and presence if you let it.
go slow. pay attention. enjoy becoming someone who can handle more than they thought.

good things take time.



chapter 26

welcome to hacks from the road



hacks

FROM THE ROAD

make your life easier

showering: lots of van lifers choose a basic membership to a 24-hour gym like planet fitness or similar chains. this gives you access nationwide to hot showers, cold water, air conditioning, bathrooms, and a parking lot where overnight vehicles don't stand out. (as well as access to a gym lol)

bathroom: always know where your next bathroom option is. it's a small thing that makes a big difference in comfort and decision-making.

laundry: use laundromats for laundry. they're everywhere, fast, and efficient. you can wash everything at once, use large machines for bedding, and reset your space in under two hours — often while catching up on work or resting nearby.

maps: download offline maps before losing service. cell signal comes and goes — preparation saves stress.

grab bag: keep a “grab bag” by the front seat. headlamp, shoes, keys, wallet, and phone in one place means no scrambling if you need to move quickly.

water: store a few gallons of extra water when possible. it's peace of mind for dishes, brushing teeth, or unexpected stretches between stops.

mail: always know how to receive packages on the road. amazon lockers are a great option for secure deliveries. consider a mail forwarding service or having packages sent to friends, campgrounds, or post offices via general delivery. planning ahead saves stress.

minimalist: keep life simple. fewer items mean less to manage, less to secure, and more mental space to enjoy the road.



welcome to tips from the team



tips from the team

FOR THE ROAD

from the experts:

from estelle

"don't overplan this. have a general direction you want to go, then just drive. let the road teach you. the best moments usually happen when you stop trying to control every detail and just.... be. where. you. are."

from kristy

"one of my favorite things is leaving the van doors open at camp — fresh air flowing through while i'm cozy in bed painting the scenery outside. i installed a battery terminal switch under the hood so my starter battery never runs dry, even with the doors open all the time. comfort and peace of mind can coexist."

from eric

"download the victron connect app and actually use it. knowing how much power you have left at any moment removes a ton of unnecessary stress and helps you make better decisions on the road."

from jess

"crack open your journal, bible, (or another holy book). van life creates space — use it to get closer to god, (source, the universe, etc.). quiet mornings and slow nights are a gift."

from nate

"use this time to get out into nature and get in touch with your psychedelic side. there's so much to learn about yourself and the world if you're open to it."

from kyle

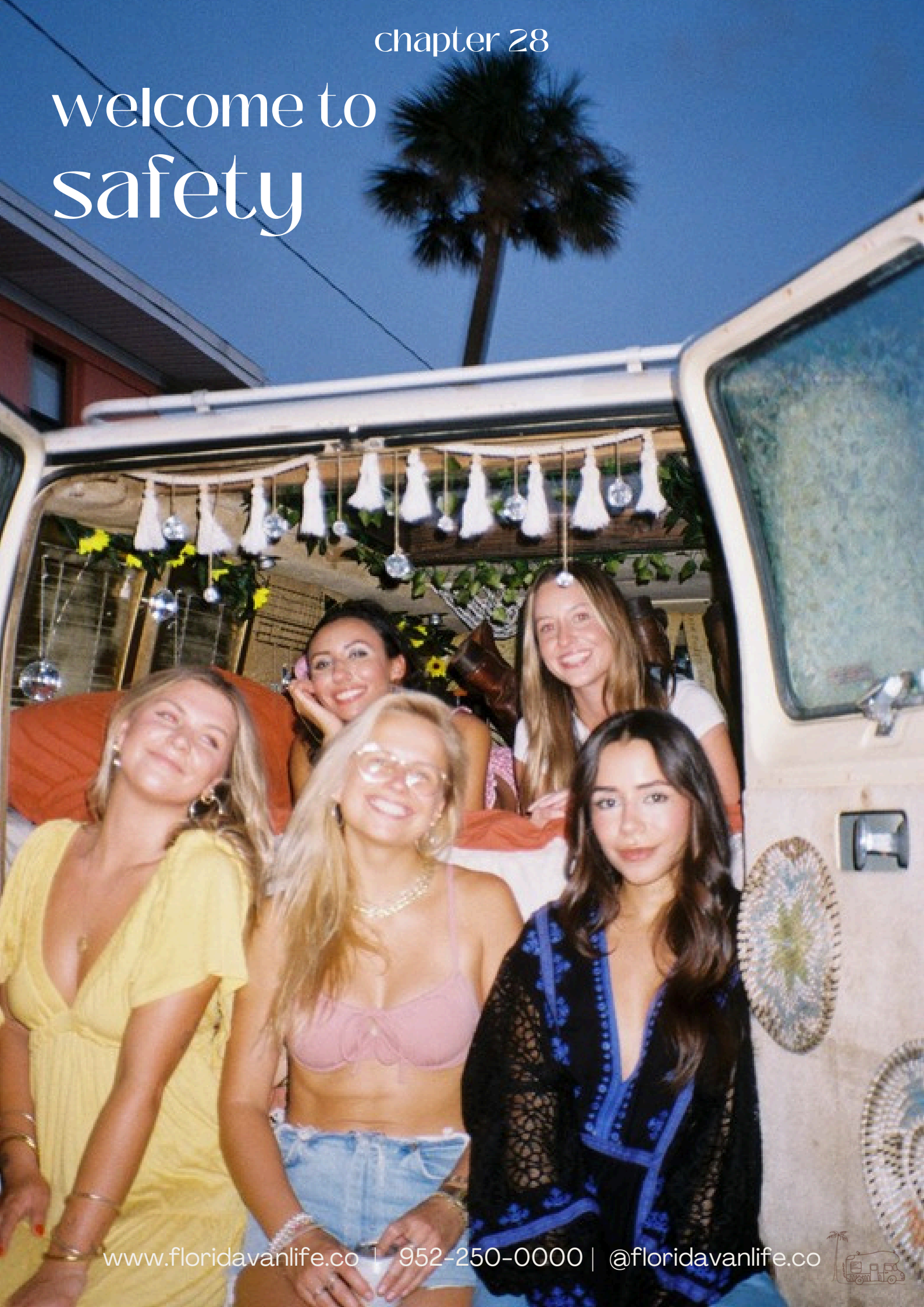
"lean into your curiosity. find a local kava or kratom bar for a sober social spot. it's a great way to get some much-needed people time without the pressure."

from daniel

"keep up with preventative maintenance. treat the van like it's a mercedes, and it'll last like it's a mercedes."

chapter 28

welcome to safety



www.floridavanlife.co | 952-250-0000 | [@floridavanlife.co](https://www.instagram.com/floridavanlife.co)



chapter 28

safety tips

FOR THE ROAD

trust your gut, it knows the way

if something feels off, it probably is. you don't owe politeness, explanations, or proof. listen and act.

always park overnight with an easy escape route. back in when you can, avoid being boxed in, and remember: you're in a vehicle. if you feel unsafe, simply drive away.

don't make it obvious you're alone. especially if you're a solo woman. oversized men's work boots or men's clothing in the driver's seat or outside the door can make it look like someone big is with you. even the illusion of a man will often keep other men away.

arrive before dark when possible. daylight makes it easier to assess surroundings, notice exits, and trust what you're seeing.

sleep with a self-defense option within arm's reach. pepper spray, an alarm, or another legal option. estelle always kept pepper spray velcroed to the wall by her pillow.

always lock your doors. even if you're "just inside" or in a place that feels safe. make it a habit, not a decision.

keep enough gas to get yourself out of a situation. never let your tank get so low that you lose options. freedom includes fuel.

know where you are — and where you'll go if you leave. have offline maps, dropped pins, or at least a general sense of your exit route.

limit how much personal information you share with strangers. you don't need to explain your plans, where you're headed, or how long you'll be there.

choose confidence over fear, preparation over panic. awareness is powerful. most nights are quiet and uneventful — being prepared lets you actually rest.



chapter 28

safety tips

FOR THE ROAD

trust your gut, it knows the way

every van should carry a fire extinguisher, smoke alarm, and carbon monoxide (co) alarm. know where they are, keep them accessible, and do routine tests so you're not learning how they work during an emergency.

our builds are intentionally simple. one fresh water tank, and grey water flows directly outside. this reduces smell, buildup, and long-term maintenance. use biodegradable soap, and be mindful of food waste going down the drain unless you're fully out in nature and the food is compostable.

be aware of predators — both animal and human. bears, mountain lions, snakes, and dangerous people all exist. store food in sealed, smell-reducing containers and keep your space clean to avoid unwanted attention.

if traveling in winter climates, understand freeze risk. water lines, tanks, and fittings can freeze and crack. drain systems when temperatures drop, add insulation if needed, and avoid running water overnight in freezing conditions.

simplicity is safety. fewer systems mean fewer failure points, easier troubleshooting, and more confidence handling issues yourself.

preparation beats panic. most problems are manageable when you understand your setup and stay aware.



chapter 28

safety tips

FOR THE ROAD

this lifestyle rewards preparation.

these items aren't about fear — they're about options.
every camper van should carry:

fire safety

- fire extinguisher (mounted and accessible)
- smoke detector

air safety

- carbon monoxide (co) detector
- propane / gas detector (if applicable)

personal safety

- bear spray or personal deterrent (region-dependent)
- flashlight or headlamp within reach of the bed

food & scent control

- sealed food containers
- sealed trash container
- never leave food exposed overnight

exterior cameras

- mount a camera or two on the exterior of van for peace of mind if/when sounds happen at night

why this matters

small issues become big problems without early detection.
these tools give you time, information, and choice.

prepared doesn't mean paranoid. *it means calm.*



chapter 29

welcome to trust



we're trusting you

WE BELIEVE IN YOU. BELIEVE IN YOURSELF

you are capable.

you are resourceful.

you chose this because you wanted more **aliveness**, not more certainty.

van life is not instagram. it's also not constant chaos.

van life is problem-solving, learning, adapting, and growing in confidence.

everything is figureoutable. you don't need to know everything today.

keep moving forward.



Florida Van Life Co

