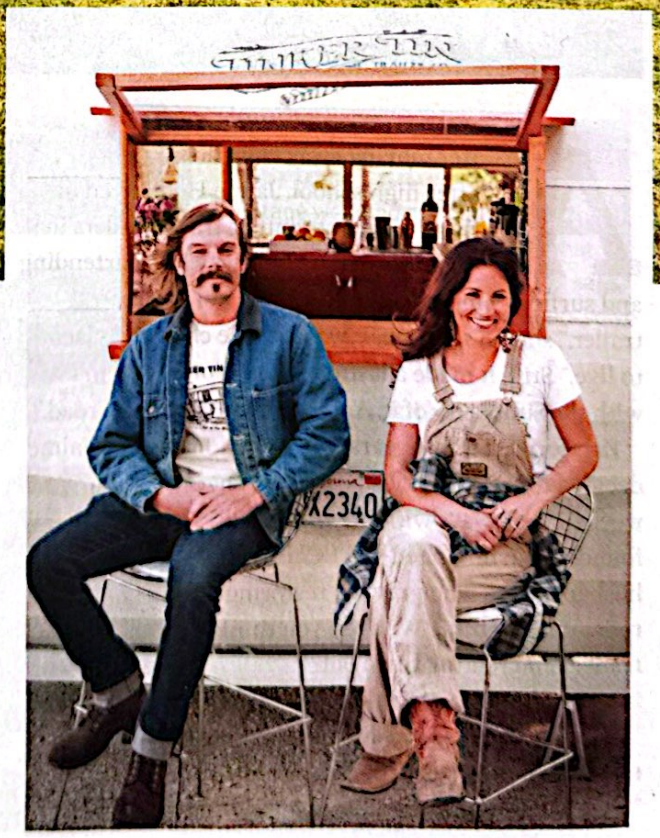


[IN THE BUSINESS]

Trailer Stash

The adventurous young couple behind Tinker Tin Trailer Co. has made it big, literally. They own the largest mobile vintage trailer collection for rent in the world.

Trailer photo by Tinker Tin Trailer Co. Portrait photo by Vanessa Plaklas. Words by Christine Hofmann Bourque

Scanned with CamScanner

After moving away from home right after high school, Jaime Holm lived in three different vintage travel trailers in Australia and California while bartending and surfing competitively. "Now it's cool to live in a trailer," she says. "Then, it was just the cheapest place to live." Still, it made a lasting impression. "I fell in love with the simplicity of it. And I'd always loved the road."

Fast forward a few years, when then-newlywed Jaime decided to buy a funky, updated vintage trailer for weekend getaways with her girlfriends. Instead, she found one in dire need of TLC for $200. She called her husband, Carl, who grew up restoring old cars and hot rods. "I asked him, 'What do you think about restoring trailers and renting them out?'"

It was the birth of Tinker Tin Trailer Co.

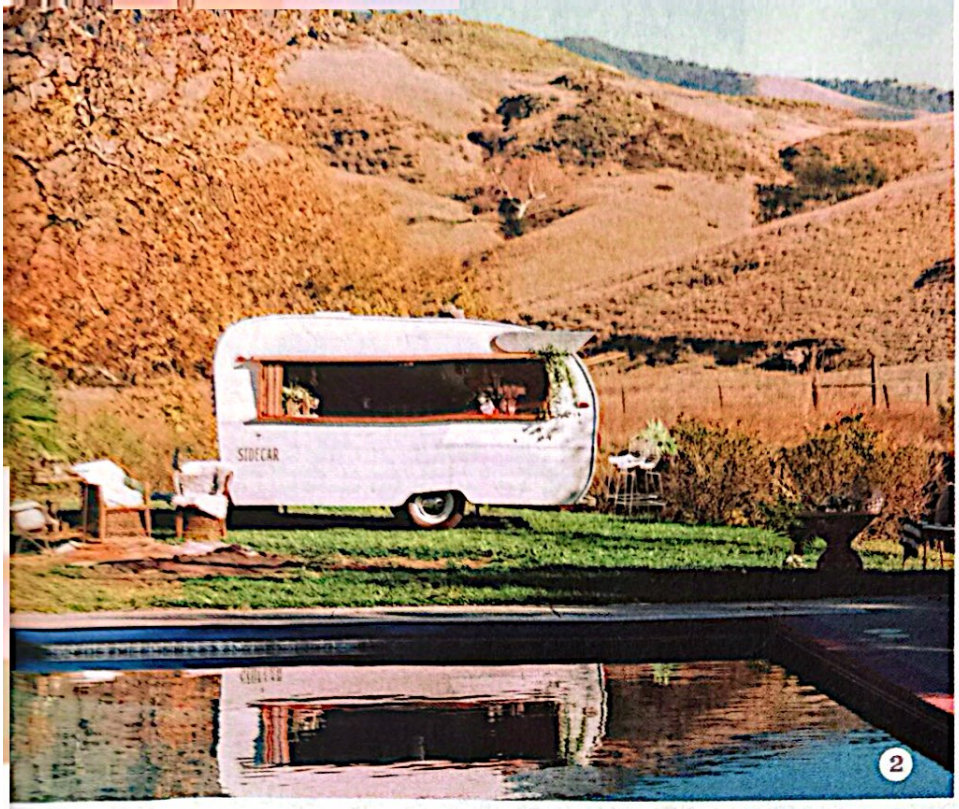
"We joke that trailers found us, we didn't find them," says Jaime. "One turned into five, five turned into 10." Today the Holms own more than 30 vintage trailers dating from the 1920s to the 1960s—all available to rent. Their fleet includes a green and white 1954 Aljoa with original fixtures for overnight campouts; a 1953 Crown tricked out as a photo booth for weddings and parties; and a 1952 Boles that was used on the set of George Clooney's movie *Hail, Caesar!*

The Holms have built Tinker Tin into a full-time business by focusing on exceptional customer service as they expand their trailer collection. When they say their collection is mobile, they mean it. They bring the trailers to customers, often hitting the road with one hitched to a pickup in their small fleet of trucks.

It isn't only big-budget movie studios that get the red-carpet treatment. They'll deliver an overnight camper trailer to a campground or backyard for a family, making sure it's fully stocked with games and firewood. "The American engineering and the craftsmanship was beautiful," Jaime says of the trailers. "There's something so special about that."

Photo by Tinker Tin Trailer Co.

Scanned with CamScanner



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RENT IT

Whether you're looking for a rare 1920s trailer or a fully restored 1960s camper, Tinker Tin Trailer Co. has it for rent. "It's everything A to Z," says owner Jaime Holm. Interested? Here are a few of the options:

1 Guest bedroom Need extra beds for visitors? Instead of pulling out the blow-up mattress, rent a trailer to park in your yard or driveway. Your guests will have a comfy retreat, and you'll have a conversation piece.

2 Bar trailers Skip the keg and red plastic cups. Several of Tinker Tin's travel trailers—plus a few old horse trailers—have been converted into traveling bars.

3 Bridal suites Planning the vintage wedding of your dreams? "There are a lot of barn venues that don't have a bridal suite on site," says Jaime. Tinker Tin's lounge trailers solve that problem beautifully.

4 Photo booths These vintage trailers didn't have anything original left inside when they were purchased, so they were gutted and set up as photo booths for parties.

5 Movie and TV sets The oldest trailers from the 1920s, '30s and '40s aren't fit for sleeping, but they are in demand by production companies.

Prices are by request. *tinkertin.com.*

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Bar trailer photo by Mirelle Carmichael. Bridal suite photo by Plum Jam Photography. Photo booth trailer photo by Nick Radford. Movie trailer photo by Tinker Tin Trailer Co

Scanned with CamScanner

Whether you've turned your vintage-trailer fantasy into a rolling reality or are still pining for a wee camper to decorate with kitschy finds and call your own, there is a circuit of vintage-camper-trailer experiences and events to fuel your obsession. Ready to get inspired, informed and maybe even hitched up to your new teardrop or canned ham on wheels? Read on, then get ready for the ride of a lifetime.

DRIVE, HITCH OR TOUR

Renting a camper is the best way to sample trailer life without the commitment. Your options to try before you buy may be limited or abundant, depending on where you live. Then again, what better excuse to plan a getaway than setting off to somewhere scenic to test drive a fully equipped vintage camper?

Vintage Surfari Wagons
vwsurfari.com
Iconic "hippie bus" design and the carefree nature of California beach culture are all wrapped up in these smartly refurbished vintage Volkswagen camper-van rentals. Hop behind the wheel and cruise the coast, then sleep under the stars in your groovy pop-top camper with two sleeping berths, potable water tank and camp stove. Or join a group Vintage Surfari Wagon tour that incorporates hiking, surfing, stargazing or wine tasting.

Route Fifty Campers
routefiftycampers.com
This petite fleet in Southwest Ohio represents the 1950s to 1980s and includes an Airstream, a Winnebago, a Scamp and more. Tow one on the open road or have it delivered to a regional campground in Ohio or Kentucky.

This 1958 Kenkill Deluxe from Tinker Tin Trailer Co. comes with its original full-size ice box and stove and sleeps two adults comfortably.

A day at The Trailer Pond begins with morning coffee and sweeping views. Take a hike, visit wine country, then catch sunset from the dock.

◂ **Tinker Tin Trailer Co.**
tinkertin.com
Boasting a host of 1950s and '60s trailers, each with a candy-colored stripe, this outfit delivers to the location of your choice in California or the Western states—whether it be private property or a public campground. Sit back and relax while they tow in and style your setup, complete with vintage awning and chairs, fresh linens and towels, a Tempur-Pedic mattress, cookware, games and firewood. Then they pack it up and tow it out when your vacation wraps up. (They also have teepees and tents, but c'mon.)

STAY

Maybe bunking up in a vintage Airstream or camper before you actually hit the road in one is more your speed. Ease into the experience at these campgrounds and camper-suites hotels. (Others can be found on *airbnb.com* and *hipcamp.com*.)

▴ **The Trailer Pond Paso Robles, CA**
thetrailerpond.com
How about an unforgettable vintage-trailer camping experience in the middle of an organically grown vineyard? Yes, please! In the heart of California's Central Coast wine region, the trailers are set between rolling hills and a pond, with a dock for lounging.

Shooting Star RV Resort Escalante, UT
shootingstar-rvresort.com
This drive-in movie theater turned campground welcomes guests to its nine Hollywood-themed Airstreams just off famous Scenic Byway 12.

El Cosmico Marfa, TX
elcosmico.com
These trailers from the heyday of nomadic recreation have been restored with marine-varnished birch interiors, furnishings collected from around the world and amenities for a comfortable camp experience.

Enchanted Trails Albuquerque, NM
enchantedtrails.com
A former 1940s trading post along historic Route 66, this stop for roadside lodging is flanked by three extinct volcanoes and offers vintage camper trailers under $100 per night.

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