WHAT CAN I EXPECT ON A THRILLIST CARAVAN EXPERIENCE?
Amazing food, good company, and unique local experiences that get to the heart of what a place is all about. Make lifelong friends, see new places, and return home with a different view of our beautiful country. While the trip is full of exclusive special access experiences that you could not do on your own, you are also free to opt out of any activities. You can choose exactly how much structured time you want, and how much you want to explore on your own time. On a Thrillist Caravan, you take the wheel!

HOW DOES IT WORK?
Grab anywhere between one and five friends from your trusted "pod" and confirm your booking. You will share an RV and follow the Caravan or GPS to each destination for four days of packed adventure.

WHERE DO I PICK UP THE RV?
You’ll gather with your pod for a walk-through and orientation at the Road Bear Depot in South Amboy, New Jersey, at 9 am on the Thursday your trip departs.

WHAT'S THE ADDED VALUE OF A THRILLIST TRIP?
While you could try to recreate our itineraries on your own, you wouldn’t get the same special experience. Traveling with Thrillist opens doors. Our itineraries offer behind-the-scenes access and visits to places that aren’t available to the general public. You’ll be camping at vineyards and farms; meeting with local business owners, singers, and songwriters; and exploring the backroads of the Finger Lakes. Finally, Thrillist makes travel hassle-free. We’ve done all the planning for you so all you need to do is show up!

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE TRIP COST?
Just about everything! We don’t want you to feel nickel and dimed along the way, so in addition to the RV rental, the program price covers most meals and activities. We’ll take care of any fees and entrance charges for visits on the itinerary, and you don’t need to worry about tips for your Adventure Director or hosts. The fridge in your RV will be stocked with groceries for breakfast, as well as snacks and some wine & beer to be enjoyed throughout the Caravan.

Lunch on day two in Corning is "at your leisure" (not included). Other expenses you should expect include additional food/snacks/beverages, transfers to the RV rental site, gas for the RV, souvenirs, and activities noted as optional in the itinerary. There’s also a small charge to use the RV generator if you decide you need air conditioning at night.
HOW MUCH FREE TIME WILL I HAVE?
While the trip is filled with special access and exclusive experiences, this is your Caravan—you take the wheel. You can choose to skip out on any of the included programs to venture out on your own to pick up souvenirs for friends back home, grab a drink at the local café down the street, or explore anything that catches your eye. If you wander far off our planned itinerary, you may need to pay an additional mileage fee.

HOW BIG ARE YOUR GROUPS?
Our trips have a maximum group size of 30 people. They’re large enough to meet new people with similar interests and diverse backgrounds, but small enough to be on a first-name basis with everyone and be able to maintain social distancing around the campfire.

WHO IS MANAGING THE TRIP LOGISTICS?
Thrillist has partnered with Academic Travel Abroad (ATA), a Washington, DC-based trip operator with more than 70 years of experience. You’ll book directly with ATA online or by calling 866.264.5152. The ATA team will help with any questions you might have before departing on your trip. An Adventure Director will accompany you on the trip, and will be leading the way on the road from point to point.

WHAT WILL I NEED TO BRING?
Thrillist Trips are no hassle, so besides your clothes, phone, and adventurous spirit, you won’t need to bring much! Your RV will be equipped with utensils, cookware, linens, towels, and a first-aid kit.

WHAT’S IN MY FRIDGE?
We want to make sure you have all the comforts of home—including comfort foods—on your Caravan. Your fridge and pantry will be stocked with staples for breakfast (milk, juice, eggs, cereal, whole-wheat bread, bananas, avocados, and coffee), some snacks for the road (chips, granola bars), and some local beer and wine to enjoy in the evenings around the campfire! You’ll have a chance to share any food allergies or dietary restrictions before we hit the road, and we’ll do our best to accommodate your needs.

WHAT COVID PRECAUTIONS IS THRILLIST TAKING?
Our number one priority is our travelers’ health and safety, and many boxes will have been checked before a trip is cleared to depart. Hospital capacity, infection trajectories and the status of local commerce will be key factors in our decision-making process. During our trips, we’ll follow the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) Safe Travel Protocols for Tour Operators. These protocols ensure that we will only stop at restaurants and attractions that demonstrate a strong commitment to the safety of their customers.

On our trips, we follow all state and local health requirements. As of now, travelers from non-contiguous states outside New York must quarantine for three days upon arrival and then get a negative COVID test. We will monitor this requirement as our departures approach, and we can help you reserve extra nights in your RV before the trip, if you want. Even when not required by law, we’ll ask travelers to wear face masks in public areas.
places both indoors and outdoors when social distancing cannot be maintained. If any traveler shows symptoms of COVID infection while on the trip, they will be asked to separate themselves from the group until they can receive a negative test. We’ll also require all travelers to present a negative test at the start of the trip.

**HOW DO I MAKE A RESERVATION?**

Easy! You can book online here or call our reservations line at 866.264.5152. You’ll be asked for a $500-per-person deposit, which will be fully refundable until 60 days prior to departure. Pricing is based on the size of your RV and how many people will be sharing the RV. Please keep in mind that if one of your group members backs out, the price for the rest of the group will increase.

**WHAT SIZE RV DO YOU RECOMMEND?**

Travelers can choose between two vehicle sizes for the Caravan: Standard (22-24’) and Large (25-27’). Which works best for you will depend on three things: (1) How many are in your pod; (2) How much you want to spread out while traveling; and (3) How comfortable your driver is maneuvering large vehicles. The Standard RV has two double beds (one in the rear of the vehicle and a second above the driving cab with limited head space) and one oversized twin bed (after converting the dinette). While in motion, there are four front-facing seats, and one side-facing. It can accommodate up to five people but would be most comfortable for four adults. The Large RV has the same sleeping configuration as the Standard, with the addition of a narrow, side-facing sofa bed. This sofa offers additional space for passengers to spread out in-transit, but could be used by a single traveler overnight. The Large RV can accommodate six adults if one is petite. Both the Standard and Large RVs get the same mileage per gallon and have the same size water tank.

**I’VE NEVER DRIVEN AN RV. WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?**

As long as you’re 25 years old* and have a valid driver’s license, you should be able to manage with a little help from your friends! You will probably need guidance backing up, navigating turns, and parking, but if you’re a safe driver and can refrain from tailgating, you should be fine! More than one person can be listed as a driver on the rental agreement, so everyone can have a chance to pilot. There will be a group orientation session to review driving safety tips before hitting the road, and you’ll have access to a 24/7 emergency number if you experience any problems.

*Passengers between 21-25 will need to be pre-approved to be able to drive the vehicle.

**WHAT IF I GET IN AN ACCIDENT?**

Don’t worry—we’ll be there to help! That’s part of the beauty of traveling in a caravan—your experienced Adventure Director will be just a phone call away and can arrange for a tow truck or other roadside assistance if needed. We all know that accidents happen, so collision and comprehensive coverage is included in the price of the trip. There is a $1,000 deductible, so that amount will be authorized to your card when you pick up your RV and will be returned after a damage check has been done at the end of the trip. If you would prefer to avoid a deductible altogether, you can purchase a policy upgrade for $75 per vehicle. See here for more information.
DO I NEED TRIP INSURANCE?
We strongly recommend purchasing trip insurance, particularly during the pandemic. Unexpected cancellations happen more than you’d imagine, and insurance is the best way to guard against losses. We recommend using Academic Travel Abroad's partner insurance provider, Travel Insurance Services, which offers a few policies for travelers to choose from. See here for more information. When you pick up your RV, we also recommend the zero-deductible insurance policy upgrade for your RV—better safe than sorry!

ONCE I RESERVE MY TRIP, WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
After you've made your deposit, you'll receive a confirmation e-mail with a receipt of payment within one business day. Soon thereafter, your ATA Guest Services Advisor will be in touch to let you know your next steps and what to expect prior to departure.

WHAT ARE THE TERMS & CONDITIONS?
You can read our full Terms & Conditions here.

Questions about Thrillist Trips?
Phone: 866.264.5152
Email: reservations@academic-travel.com
FLOOR PLANS FOR “LARGE” 25FT - 27FT LAYOUTS