

# EVERYTHING on Wheels



## Cars

re you a classic car type of driver who gets excited at the sound of a big block revving up for a summer cruise around town? Maybe you prefer a newer, sleeker model with all of the latest technological bells and whistles.

No matter what type of car fits your fancy, there are hundreds if not thousands of options in your neck of the woods waiting for you to drive them off the lot.

Since the Benz Patent Motor Car hit the ground in the late 1880s, the evolution of the car has transformed the way people get around town. As technology has enabled advanced designs and features, the cornerstones of the car have stayed true: style, affordability and reliability.

#### **SAFETY ON THE ROAD**

Numerous studies show major reductions in the number of U.S. traffic deaths — more than 25 percent over the past decade, according to a report published in The Wall Street Journal. Safety features built into the latest models have led to the drop in fatalities. Additionally, the way engineers design the structure of cars has come a long way, as well.

What kind of features make the biggest impact? Look for car stability controls and multiple airbags when you're shopping around. Advanced steering options and rearview cameras also have made an impact on driver, passenger and pedestrian safety.



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#### THEY'RE EFFICIENT

Even as gas prices plummet into very affordable ranges for drivers, the great gas mileage provided by cars is a definite selling point. And cost is only part of the equation.

Especially with today's mod-

els, cars are becoming more

and more friendly to the envi-

ronment. In fact, the average new vehicle fuel economy hit a record high in miles per gallon in 2014.

The Environmental Protection Agency reported that overall fuel economy is on the rise because automakers have improved their gas engines and transmissions, as well as added turbochargers to give smaller motors more power.

#### **LOOKING TO SPEND?**

The great thing about buying a car is you can find many in your price range. If you're looking to splurge on your next car, check out this list of the most popular vehicles in America's richest neighborhoods, as reported by CBS Money Watch:

- 1. Mercedes-Benz E-Class
- 2. BMW 328i
- 3. Mercedes-Benz C-Class
- 4. Lexus RX 350
- 5. Toyota Prius

## Trucks

Thether you live in the country or the city, everyone at some point in their life utters the phrase, "I wish I had a truck."

Trucks are versatile machines perfect for hauling, loading, towing and every job in between. And their true value isn't uncovered until we're in desperate need of one.

A major factor driving the popularity of trucks is versatility. Do you need a rugged, full-bed option for the construction site? Maybe you're looking for a smaller, half-cab truck for smaller jobs and trips to the lumber yard. No matter your need, trucks provide the purpose.

#### **COMPACT PICKUP TRUCKS**

A survey by U.S. News & World Report found that the top 2015 compact truck models are the GMC Canyon, Chevrolet Colorado and Toyota Tacoma.

These trucks are at the top of the list every year, primarily because their manufacturers know not to change a good thing. Body types remain similar from year to year with the major changes affecting performance, safety and luxury accessories. Compact doesn't have to mean small when you consider all the use you'll get out of your new pickup.

#### **FULL-SIZE PICKUP TRUCKS**

The Ford F-150 reigned supreme yet again in 2015, as



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the most popular full-size truck on the market, according to U.S. News & World Report. The Dodge Ram 1500 and GMC Sierra 1500 follow the F-150.

Regardless of your brand loyalty, you can't go wrong with a strong full-size pickup for your heavy hauling and worksite purposes. And it's not just the frame and body that make these types of trucks the go-to vehicles for hard-working professionals. New technology features allow for high-speed Internet, voice-activation control, capacitive touch screen and swipe capability. It's never been a better time to drive a truck.

#### WORK TRUCKS

Commercial vehicles have

made a major impact on the truck market, as a variety of direct cab-to-body access designs are making it easier than ever to be a business owner on the go.

Major manufacturers continue to roll out commercial vehicles with cost-efficient up-fitting for multiple body configurations and added security.

Ford recently unveiled its
Transit Cutaway and Chassis
Cab models that feature innovative uni-ladder structures
that combine the truck's cab
with a durable girder frame.
The standard frame comes
with rail extensive adapters to
allow an up-fitted body.

The options are endless when it comes to finding the right truck to fit your needs.

## RVs

o you remember when the open road and a game of cards were all the entertainment you had available to you on a long trip? Those days are long gone.

Recreational vehicles are exploding in popularity due to the comfort level they provide drivers and passengers alike.

If you own an RV, you know there is a specific lifestyle that comes along with it. Call it the RV experience. You love the independence your RV provides, as you're able to hook up from campsite to campsite without having to leave the comfort of the RV.

Most new models are now fitted with mobile Internet, Wi-Fi boosters, navigation systems and even satellite television, giving a true "at-home" experience to RV driver and passengers.

### THE PERFECT CHOICE FOR TRAVELERS

Are a trip down Route 66, a visit to the Grand Canyon and a drive up the California coastline all on your bucket list? The traveler in all of us deserves an RV to make those experiences happen. Convenience, reliability and luxury are all cornerstones of the new and improved RV. It's time you check one out for yourself.

When you decide to shop around, remember that RVs come in Class A, B or C each having its own advantages. Size and cost are the main



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differentiators between the classes, so do your homework before settling on an option.

## NEW TO THE RV LIFESTYLE?

If you're considering buy-

ing your first RV, there are many ways to prepare yourself for the different driving approach that motorhomes require. There are RV driving schools with multiple training locations across the country, giving you peace of mind before you sit behind the wheel for the first time.

Your local community college is one place to start when searching for credible training courses. As long as it

provides over-the-road training for truck drivers, it probably offers some sort of RV-driving course as well. Reach out to local truck driving schools and institutions, too.

# Motorcycles

otorcycles offer an intimate experience with nature, wind and great company. Your engine roars over the indistinct sound of the breeze while your body glides to its next destination.

There may not be a better way to experience the open road.

That's why many motorcycle enthusiasts chomp at the bit every winter for the first sign of springtime weather. The warmup only means one thing: It's time for a road trip.

So where are the best places in the United States to take a motorcycle road trip? The Travel Channel recently compiled a list full of tips, directions and details. Here are five from their list:

### TAIL OF THE DRAGON AT DEALS CAP

Tail of the Dragon is a winding stretch of U.S. 129, and according to the Travel Channel, features 318 curves twisting through 11 miles. This unique trek has made it one of the most popular roads for motorcyclists in the United States.

#### **TRAIL OF TEARS**

The Trail of Tears Motorcycle Remembrance Ride takes place every year on the third Saturday of September. Riders follow the trail along Highway 72 from Chattanooga, Tenn., to Waterloo, Ala., to commemorate the Native Americans who were forced from their land after the Indian Removal Act of 1830.

#### **PRUDHOE BAY**

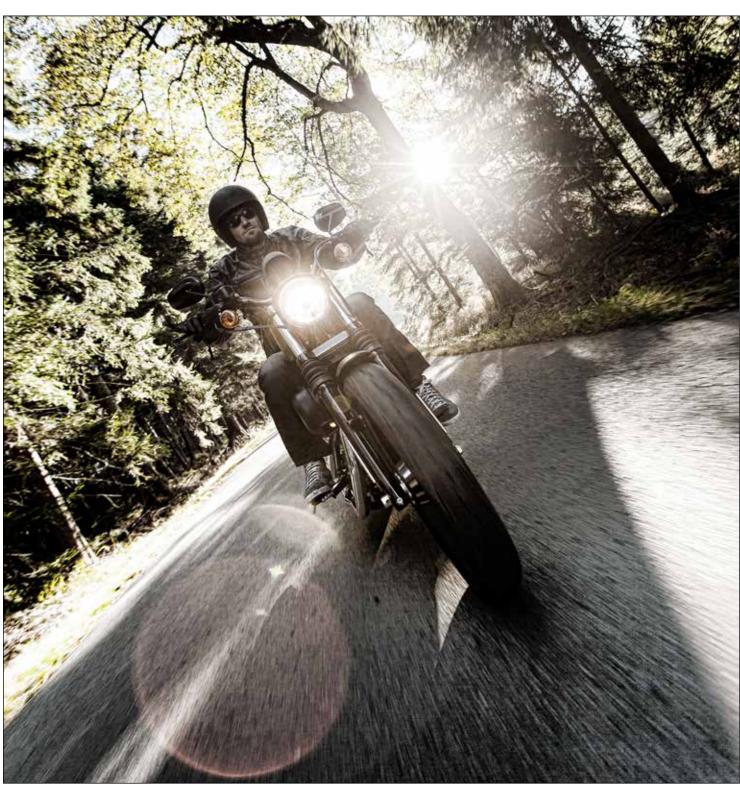
Prudhoe Bay snakes past national parks including Denali and Gates of the Arctic, offering amazing scenery from the looping, winding roads. This is an expert-level ride, according to the Travel Channel, so know your own skillset before taking it on.

#### **ROUTE 66**

One of America's most scenic, historic highways, Route 66 allows numerous sight-seeing opportunities stretched across very manageable terrain. The Grand Canyon, Mojave Desert and stunning Santa Monica are all peppered along the route.

#### **PALOMAR MOUNTAIN**

California Highway 76 lies between San Diego and Los Angeles, offering a striking coastline trip through mountainous, wooded landscapes. The Southern California weather coupled with dramatic views make it a must-ride destination for motorcycle road-trippers.



## **ATVs**

II-terrain vehicles have found a niche that spans many ages and riding levels. Some people love ATVs for their functionality around the farm while others love riding through muddy obstacles to fulfill their competitive spirit.

The vehicles are rugged, dependable and high-powered — providing a liberating experience full of thrills and speed. For children old enough to ride an ATV, operating one can be a great forum for teaching them about the safety required to drive, ride and maintain a machine.

#### **STAY SAFE**

Having fun is usually the main objective of riding an ATV, but don't forget to stay safe while enjoying your highspeed hobby. Any avid ATV rider understands the importance of solid protective gear during a ride and how important it can be to keeping you safe for vears to come.

Check in with your local ATV dealer on options for safety gear. Start with the helmet, of which there are many on the market to fit your needs and design preferences. Your head is the most important part of your body to protect on ATVs, which are sometimes prone to potential rolls or crashes.

Other important items to buy and wear for your next ride include heavy boots, gloves, long-sleeve shirts and goggles. The more protected you feel during your ride, the more fun you can have taking on that giant mud puddle or hilly terrain.

#### COMPETITIVE ATV RIDING

When you're ready to turn your hobby into an adventure, it's time to consider ATV racing. The sport has experienced explosive growth over the past decade, even finding its way onto major television programming and pro-



motional coverage.

Joining an ATV racing organization can be an expensive endeavor, so make sure you're willing to commit to your

craft for it to make financial sense. Different racing organizations have different rules as far as changes you may need to make to your machine to make it race-compliant. This can cost you time and money up front. Do your research before joining your organization to make sure it's a good fit.

# Tractors and Lawn Equipment

or farmers, weekend warriors and everyday homeowners, there is nothing quite as satisfying as completing land or yardwork atop a high-powered tractor or mower.

Thanks to many technological advances, the experience also can be a comfortable one.

Air-conditioned cabs, GPS tracking capability and zero-turn features make farm and yardwork a breeze. And as long as you properly maintain your machinery, you can get decades out of a piece of equipment.

#### **MAKING YOUR LIFE EASY**

Can you imagine living in more primitive days when the convenience of machinery was still hundreds of years away? Take a second to appreciate the sheer power of your tractor and lawn equipment. Consider all that we take for granted because of the capabilities of our machines.

From mowers to tillers and everything in between, lawn equipment can make your life easy when it comes to performing manual labor. That's why it's important to choose the right equipment for your needs and keep it running strong.

### PROTECTING YOUR INVESTMENT

This means taking responsibility to service them on time and promptly fixing any issues with engines, tires or computer systems. Buying



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new equipment will require less maintenance up front, but this is obviously a more costly option.

Are you considering buying a used tractor or lawn mower? Follow these tips to make sure you get your money's worth.

• Check out the external condition. You can tell a lot by giving a tractor or lawn mower a good once-over and should be able to quickly identify any dings, scratches or major concerns. No visible issues means the previous owner likely took care of the

machine and you can have confidence in its longevity.

• Check for serious leaks or wiring issues. Types of leaks can include gas, oil or water. These are all signs of a larger problem. As for wiring, any frayed or damaged wires should be immediately replaced.

• Take it for a test drive. How does it ride? Is it com-

for does it fide? Is it comfortable for you to climb on, ride and get off? Do you have any concerns about it tipping over? These are all questions to ask yourself before taking it off the lot.

# Bicycles

That's your idea of a perfect bike ride? A scenic ride through a wooded trail on a Sunday afternoon? Competing in a Saturday morning race?

The best thing about bicycles is that they can be enjoyed by people of all ages and skill level. Their simplistic design and ease of maintenance makes bikes the perfect contraptions on two wheels.

#### ALONG FOR THE RIDE

Bicycling offers a fun way to stay in shape while taking in some breath-taking scenery. Research has shown that people who do the majority of their exercise on their bike are saving their joints from wear and tear that can occur with other forms of physical activity, such as running and jogging.

Regular cycling also can help protect you from serious diseases such as obesity, cancer, heart disease, diabetes and arthritis.

#### **RACING TO THE FINISH**

The health benefits are great, but what about riders who crave a little competition with their exercise?

There are three basic types of bicycle racing: criteriums, road races and time trials. Criteriums are generally short, closed-circuit races lasting up to 90 minutes. Road races are typically longer, ranging from 35 to 80 miles. These courses are usually geographically diverse, featur-



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ing flat or hilly rides. And finally, time trials are set up to challenge riders against a clock, with the rider posting the fastest time claiming victory.

#### **USA CYCLING TIPS**

If you're looking to make the transition from riding to racing, USA Cycling has a breadth of tips and resources. Here a list from the organization of what to bring to your first race:

- Road bike
- Helmet
- Cycling shoes
- Sunglasses
- USA Cycling license if you're participating in a spon-

sored event

- Water bottles
- Spare tubes/tires and a pump
  - Money for entry fees
- Food and water for after the race.