GENERAL

1987 allegro motorhome

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Discovering the 1987 Allegro Motorhome: A Classic Road Trip Companion

The 1987 Allegro motorhome has long been a favorite among vintage RV enthusiasts and road tripping families looking for a blend of nostalgia, ruggedness, and practical design. While modern motorhomes boast advanced technology and luxury amenities, the Allegro's 1987 model offers a distinct charm that appeals to those who appreciate the simplicity and reliability of classic travel vehicles. In this comprehensive guide, we'll dive into the history, design, interior layout, exterior features, common maintenance concerns, restoration tips, and buying advice for anyone interested in this iconic 1987 Allegro motorhome.

Historical Context: The Birth of the Allegro Motorhome

The Allegro motorhome brand emerged in the early 1980s as a response to growing demand for affordable, durable, and family friendly travel vehicles. The 1987 model, in particular, represented the pinnacle of the first generation's design, featuring a sturdy chassis, efficient engine options, and a well planned interior layout that could accommodate a small family on a multi day trip.

During the 1980s, the RV market was expanding rapidly. Manufacturers were experimenting with new materials and layouts to meet evolving consumer preferences. Allegro's 1987 motorhome stood out for its combination of a lightweight aluminum frame with a robust steel body, making it both easy to tow and resilient against wear and tear. The model's production run was limited, which has contributed to its current status as a sought after collector's item.

Exterior Design and Key Features

1. Body Construction

The 1987 Allegro motorhome is built on a steel chassis with a fiberglass body, a common construction technique of the era that balances durability with weight reduction. The body's modular design allows for easy replacement of panels, making repairs simpler for owners who prefer DIY maintenance.

2. Roof and Sunroof Options

One of the defining features of this model is its removable roof panels, which enable owners to convert the motorhome into a more open, airy space during sunny days. The optional sunroof adds natural light to the interior, creating a brighter atmosphere without compromising insulation.

3. Exterior Styling and Color Choices

Typical 1987 Allegro motorhomes were offered in pastel hues—soft blues, mint greens, and gentle yellows—reflecting the aesthetic trends of the period. The front fascia includes a chrome grille and a small, functional front bumper, giving it a classic look that still feels contemporary in the right hands.

Interior Layout: Comfort Meets Functionality

1. Living Area and Seating

Inside, the living area is thoughtfully arranged around a fold out sofa that converts into a bed. The sofa's cushions

are upholstered in durable canvas, making it easy to clean and resistant to spills. A small dining table tucked under a fold down table extends the space, allowing for meals and game nights on the road.

2. Kitchen Facilities

The kitchen is compact but fully functional, featuring a two burner stove, a single sink with a pull out faucet, and a refrigerator that runs on 12 volt DC power. Storage cabinets line the walls, offering ample space for cookware, utensils, and dry goods.

3. Sleeping Quarters

The rear of the motorhome houses a dedicated sleeping area. The master bunk is a single bed with a storage chest underneath, while the second bunk can be folded down for extra sleeping space. The interior ceiling is fitted with a small ventilation fan, ensuring a comfortable environment during hot summer drives.

4. Bathroom and Hygiene

Although modest in size, the bathroom includes a toilet, a small shower area with a curtain, and a sink with a hand crank water pump. The 1987 model's bathroom is designed for efficiency, with a compact layout that maximizes every square inch.

Power and Mechanical Systems

1. Engine Options

The Allegro motorhome was available with either a 4-cylinder or a 6-cylinder gasoline engine, both known for their reliability and ease of maintenance. The 4-cylinder engine was favored for its fuel efficiency, while the 6-cylinder offered a smoother ride for longer trips.

2. Transmission and Drivetrain

A 4 speed manual transmission was standard, allowing drivers to have full control over gear selection. The vehicle's drivetrain is built for durability, with a robust differential and a well tuned suspension system that absorbs road bumps effectively.

3. Electrical System

The 1987 Allegro motorhome runs on a 12 volt DC electrical system, powered by a deep cycle battery and a small alternator. While the system is modest by today's standards, it is adequate for essential lighting, charging devices, and the kitchen appliances mentioned earlier.

Common Maintenance Concerns and How to Address Them

1. Rust and Corrosion

Even though the body is fiberglass, the steel chassis can develop rust over time, especially in coastal areas or places with high humidity. Regular inspections, especially after winter, are crucial. If rust is detected, it should be sanded and painted immediately to prevent further spread.

2. Engine Wear

Regular oil changes are vital for keeping the engine running smoothly. For the 4 speed manual transmission, check the gear oil every 10,000 miles and replace it as recommended by the manufacturer's service schedule.

3. Electrical System Issues

Battery degradation is common in older motorhomes. If the battery is more than five years old, consider replacing it

with a modern deep cycle battery that offers better performance and longer life. Additionally, inspect the alternator's output to ensure it's charging the battery correctly.

4. Interior Wear and Tear

Canvas upholstery and vinyl seats can fade or tear over time. Use UV protective sprays on the exterior and replace worn interior fabrics with high quality, mildew resistant materials.

Restoration: Bringing the 1987 Allegro Motorhome Back to Life

1. Planning Your Restoration Project

Before beginning a restoration, create a detailed inventory of all parts, both original and replacement. Determine which components you want to preserve for authenticity and which can be upgraded for comfort and safety.

2. Sourcing Parts

Finding parts for a 1987 Allegro motorhome can be challenging. Online marketplaces, RV forums, and specialty parts suppliers often carry the necessary components. For hard to find items, consider contacting the manufacturer's legacy support or a dedicated RV restoration shop.

3. Interior Upgrades

While preserving the classic look, you can upgrade the interior with modern amenities. Adding a USB charging station, LED lighting, or a compact, modern kitchen unit can significantly enhance the motorhome's usability without compromising its vintage appeal.

4. Exterior Enhancements

Replacing the original paint with a fresh coat of high quality, UV resistant paint can protect the body from the elements. Additionally, installing a new roof sealant will prevent leaks and extend the life of the fiberglass panels.

5. Safety Upgrades

Consider adding modern safety features such as a seatbelt system, an upgraded braking system, and a modern fire suppression system. These upgrades improve safety while maintaining the motorhome's original character.

Buying a 1987 Allegro Motorhome: What to Look For

1. Condition of the Chassis

Inspect the steel chassis for rust, dents, or structural damage. A strong chassis is essential for long term reliability.

2. Engine and Transmission Health

Ask for service records and verify that the engine has been regularly maintained. A smooth, quiet engine operation is a good indicator of overall health.

3. Interior and Exterior Finish

Check for signs of water damage, mold, or excessive wear on the interior surfaces. On the exterior, look for scratches, dents, and paint damage that could indicate a history of accidents.

4. Electrical System Functionality

Test the battery, alternator, and all electrical outlets to ensure they are working correctly. A fully functional electrical system is a sign of proper maintenance.

5. Documentation and Title

Verify that the title is clear and that all necessary paperwork is in order. A well documented history can also provide insight into past repairs and upgrades.

Why the 1987 Allegro Motorhome Still Matters Today

In an age dominated by high tech, luxury motorhomes, the 1987 Allegro offers a refreshing return to basics. Its lightweight construction, straightforward mechanical systems, and nostalgic aesthetic make it a perfect vehicle for those who value authenticity over extravagance. For families who enjoy weekend getaways or seasoned travelers who cherish the open road, this motorhome remains a reliable and enjoyable choice.

Moreover, the 1987 Allegro motorhome's relative affordability compared to newer models makes it an attractive option for budget conscious buyers. With the right maintenance and occasional upgrades, it can serve as a dependable companion for many years.

Conclusion

From its robust steel chassis to its thoughtfully designed interior, the 1987 Allegro motorhome exemplifies classic RV engineering and timeless appeal. Whether you're a seasoned RV enthusiast looking to restore a vintage vehicle or a newcomer seeking a dependable, affordable motorhome, this model offers a unique blend of practicality and nostalgia.

By understanding its historical context, key features, maintenance needs, and restoration possibilities, you can make an informed decision and enjoy the road with confidence. The 1987 Allegro motorhome is more than just a vehicle—it's a portal to the golden era of travel, waiting for the next adventure.

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