

2020



THE
PORTAGE
GROUP

2020 Family Vacation Cost Analysis

RECREATION VEHICLE DEALERS ASSOCIATION OF
CANADA, CANADIAN RECREATIONAL VEHICLE
ASSOCIATION & GO RVING CANADA
NOVEMBER 2020

PREPARED BY THE PORTAGE GROUP INC.

About Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association

The Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association of Canada (RVDA) is a national federation which exists to protect and promote the interests and welfare of RV Dealers across Canada to enable the industry to maximize its potential. The core objective of the RVDA of Canada is to bring together and represent the retail businesses involved in the recreation vehicle industry across Canada, thus providing the support and strength to protect and promote the interests and welfare of Canadian RV Dealers, and to maximize the potential of the industry for all involved.

About The Canadian Recreational Vehicle Association

The Canadian Recreational Vehicle Association (CRVA) is a non-profit organization comprised of leading Recreational Vehicle Manufacturers and Suppliers of the components that go into Recreational Vehicles that are sold in Canada. CRVA has been in existence for over 40 years and works continually to promote all aspects pertaining to the quality and safety in the RVs built by its member companies. The Association ensures a continuity of professional standards beneficial to the RV industry and, ultimately, in the best interest of the consumer.

About Go RVing

The Go RVing Canada coalition was formed in 1997, and consists of RV manufacturers, RV dealers and campground operators in the multi-billion dollar Canadian RVing industry. The coalition serves as the Canadian RV camping industry ambassador to provide the public and media with information about the benefits of RV travel. Go RVing Canada seeks to enhance consumer information and satisfaction with the RV experience, it's the destination for everything RVing.

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Although the information in this report has been obtained from sources that The Portage Group Inc. believes to be reliable, its accuracy and completeness cannot be guaranteed. This report is based on available data from sources as identified and were accurate at the time of collection in September, October and November 2020. Travel pricing is dynamic and subject to frequent change. Accordingly, the same prices may not be applicable at a future date. This report is for information purposes only. All opinions and estimates included in this report are based on available data combined with our judgment as of this date and are subject to revision.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For many Canadians, recreation vehicles (RVs) are more than just a convenient way to travel and enjoy the outdoors, it is a way of life. However, travellers today have a wide range of options when it comes to vacation travel. Not only do travellers have traditional options such as hotels, motels, resorts and campgrounds, but the last decade has seen a significant rise in private rental options through platforms like Airbnb.

First time RV purchasers often ask the significant question of whether or not there is cost savings when travelling by RV vs traditional travel. The purpose of this study is to answer this question by providing a cost comparison between vacations taken via RV and those where travellers stay in hotels or private rentals and travel by other means.

This report summarizes the approach, assumptions and analysis used to compare the different travel options.

VACATION COST ANALYSIS

The vacation cost analysis was based on a hypothetical family consisting of two adults and two children, travelling by different modes of transportation and staying in different types of accommodation. The following five trips were analyzed:

- Trip 1 – Montreal, QC to Algonquin Provincial Park, ON for 3 Days
- Trip 2 – Halifax, NS to Quebec City, QC for 10 Days
- Trip 3 – Toronto, ON to Sturgeon Falls, ON for 3 Days
- Trip 4 – Brandon, MB to Drumheller, AB for 10 Days
- Trip 5 – Vancouver, BC to Banff National Park, AB for 7 Days

For each of the five trips, major vacation costs were calculated for six scenarios (trip configurations) as follows:

1. **Tent Camping Trailer:** Family travelling in a personal car, towing a tent camping trailer, staying at campgrounds, and preparing all meals in the RV or outdoors at campsites.
2. **Travel Trailer:** Family travelling in a personal light duty truck or SUV, towing a travel trailer, staying at campgrounds, and preparing all meals in the RV or outdoors at campsites.
3. **Class C Motorhome:** Family travelling in a class C motorhome, staying at campgrounds, and preparing all meals in the RV or outdoors at campsites.

4. **Personal Car - Hotel:** Family travelling in a personal car, staying at hotels/motels, and eating meals in restaurants.
5. **Personal Car – Airbnb:** Family travelling in a personal car, staying at Airbnb rentals in the destination and hotels/motels in stopover locations. Meals are eaten in restaurants during travel and in the rental property at the destination.
6. **Air Travel:** Family travelling by air to the destination, renting a car, staying at hotels/motels, and eating meals in restaurants.

Exhibit I provides a summary of the total costs and cost per day for each trip for each of the six trip configurations.

Exhibit I – Vacation Cost Analysis Summary

	Tent Camping Trailer	Travel Trailer	Class C Motor- home	Personal Car/ Hotel	Personal Car/ Airbnb	Air Travel
Trip 1 – Montreal to Algonquin Provincial Park – 3 Days						
Total Cost	\$1,272	\$1,331	\$1,518	\$2,025	\$1,498	\$4,321
Cost per Day	\$424	\$444	\$506	\$675	\$499	\$1,440
Trip 2 – Halifax to Quebec City – 10 Days						
Total Cost	\$3,918	\$4,033	\$5,812	\$6,670	\$4,344	\$8,971
Cost per Day	\$392	\$403	\$581	\$667	\$434	\$897
Trip 3 – Toronto to Sturgeon Falls – 3 Days						
Total Cost	\$1,142	\$1,188	\$1,442	\$1,740	\$1,477	\$2,668
Cost per Day	\$381	\$396	\$481	\$580	\$492	\$889
Trip 4 – Brandon to Drumheller – 10 Days						
Total Cost	\$3,864	\$3,979	\$5,710	\$6,045	\$4,400	\$7,662
Cost per Day	\$386	\$398	\$571	\$605	\$440	\$766
Trip 5 – Vancouver to Banff National Park – 7 Days						
Total Cost	\$2,777	\$2,887	\$3,930	\$4,947	\$3,794	\$6,076
Cost per Day	\$397	\$412	\$561	\$707	\$542	\$868

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the parameters and data samples in this study, RV vacations are generally less expensive than those where the travel party stays in a hotel/motel. However, while towable RVs are more economical than private property rentals, an Airbnb vacation can be more economical than one in a class C motorhome.

The difference in the cost of vacations in tent camping trailers and travel trailers tends to be small despite travel trailers carrying a higher initial price tag. The reasons behind this are twofold. First, the residual percentages tend to be a bit stronger compared to the actual price paid on travel trailers. Second, the average number of nights travel trailer owners use their RV per year is considerably higher

than among owners of tent camping trailers. So while the average annual total cost is significantly higher on a travel trailer, the daily cost (based on days used) is only slightly higher.

The lowest cost vacations are those taken in tent camping trailers and travel trailers. For the hypothetical travel party these trip configurations were, on average, 16% lower than driving and staying in Airbnbs, 37% lower than driving and staying in hotels and 57% lower than flying and staying in hotels. The actual cost difference varies significantly depending on the cost of accommodations in a destination, trip length and distance. The savings range was 7% to 27% compared to Airbnb, 32% to 44% compared to drive and hotel and 48% to 71% compared to flying.

Class C motorhomes represent a more significant investment. This results in this type of vacation being similarly priced to some Airbnb vacations and more expensive than others depending on the cost of the Airbnb. For three of the trips, the different in cost was within 5%. For the other two, Airbnb trips were more economical by 27% and 35%.

Class C motorhome trips were however more economical than trips where travellers stayed in hotels. For the hypothetical travel party these trip configurations were, on average, 16% lower than driving and staying in hotels and 41% lower than flying and staying in hotels. The cost difference varies significantly depending on the cost of accommodations in a destination, trip length and distance. The savings range was 6% to 25% compared to drive and hotel and 25% to 65% compared to flying.

The RV cost of ownership per day is based on the number of days the RV is used through the year and is a significant driver of total trip cost. The more often a travel party travels, the lower the daily cost of ownership which would widen the cost gap in favour of RVs. Likewise, holding onto the RV longer will also generally result in a lower daily cost of ownership.

I. INTRODUCTION

For many Canadians, recreation vehicles (RVs) are more than just a convenient way to travel and enjoy the outdoors, it is a way of life. However, travellers today have a wide range options when it comes to vacation travel. Not only do travellers have traditional options such as hotels, motels, resorts and campgrounds, but the last decade has seen a significant rise in private rental options through platforms like Airbnb.

First time RV purchasers often ask the significant question of whether or not there is cost savings when travelling by RV vs traditional travel. The purpose of this study is to answer this question by providing a cost comparison between vacations taken via RV and those where travellers stay in hotels or private rentals and travel by other means.

This report summarizes the approach, assumptions and analysis used to compare the different travel options.

II. STUDY PARAMETERS AND METHODOLOGY

This section provides a detailed summary of the approach used to undertake the vacation cost analysis. It includes an overview of key parameters, assumptions and background data along with details about how the data was applied.

GENERAL STUDY PARAMETERS

Following are the general parameters for the vacation cost analysis:

- Data collection was completed in September, October and November 2020.
- Trips were assumed to be starting on Friday, July 16, 2021.
- Costs analyzed include major cash or credit expenditures from the start of the hypothetical trip to the end. Major costs include airfare, car rental, fuel, accommodation (hotel, campsite or Airbnb) and food (grocery and/or restaurant). Incidental expenses, such as entertainment, shopping and activities were not considered as they are unlikely to vary by mode of transportation or type of accommodations used.
- For those travelling by RV, the cost of ownership (depreciation, maintenance, insurance and storage) is factored in based on the average nights RVs are used each year.
- Costs also include wear and tear on personal vehicles for the trip. However, as most families are likely to own a personal vehicle, the cost of owning a personal vehicle is not included.
- All trips analyzed were taken exclusively in Canada.
- A vacation is defined as a non-work-related trip take for pleasure and/or leisure.
- Vacations that include overnight stays in the homes of friends and relatives were not analyzed in this study.

Study Limitations

The purpose of the analysis is to provide a general idea of the difference in cost for different vacation profiles. The analysis is not intended to be representative of all trips. The analysis is based specifically on the sample data selected for the analysis based on assumptions about the level of accommodations used, grocery and restaurant choices and other trip variables. The costs of actual trips will vary depending on the actual choices made by the travel party.

TRIP PARAMETERS

TRAVEL PARTY

For the purpose of this study, all vacation trip costs are based on the same hypothetical travel party. The hypothetical travel party used in the vacation cost analysis is a family of four comprised of two adults and two children – one under the age of 12 and one over the age of 12.



The rationale for the travel party having both a child under 12 and a child over 12 is that party composition sometimes impacts the cost of accommodation. Where applicable, the age of the children was included in the accommodation parameters.

VACATION LOCATIONS

Vacation destinations were selected in conjunction with Go RVing Canada. The destinations selected are all highly popular RV destinations. Origins were selected based upon travel distance and the availability of commercial air service while also ensuring the distance between origin and destination was large enough that air travel is a realistic alternative. The origins and destinations are consistent with previous studies. The following table lists the origin, destination, and duration of each of the trips analyzed.

	Origin	Destination	Duration
	Montreal, QC	Algonquin Provincial Park, ON	3 Days
	Halifax, NS	Quebec City, QC	10 Days
	Toronto, ON	Sturgeon Falls, ON	3 Days
	Brandon, MB	Drumheller, AB	10 Days
	Vancouver, BC	Banff National Park, AB	7 Days

SELECTED RV TYPES

There are several different types of RVs available to consumers. For the purpose of the vacation cost analysis, the study focuses on three specific types of RVs including:

- Tent camping trailers
- Travel trailers
- Class C motorhomes

The types of RVs were selected in consultation with Go RVing Canada and are consistent with those analyzed in previous studies. Following is a brief description of each of the three RV types.



Tent Camping Trailer

Known as pop-up's and fold-down trailers, these versatile, hard-working tent camping trailers have been a feature in many family histories. They are often bought as a first trailer, are lightweight enough to be towed by virtually any car and can be found in many lengths with

options such as hot water, refrigerator, air conditioning and washrooms.¹ For the purpose of this study, it was assumed the travel party used a tent camping trailer weighing approximately 2,000 pounds (between 1,500 pounds and 3,000 pounds).

Travel Trailer

These compact homes can be towed by a car, SUV or pick-up truck and hauled all over the country. RV travel trailers come in endless sizes and many feature garages, roof top patios, bay windows, fireplaces, offices, hideaway beds, expanding sides, and lowering roofs.² For the purpose of this study, it was assumed the travel party used a lightweight travel trailer weighing approximately 4000 pounds (between 3,000 pounds and 5,500 pounds).



¹ <https://gorving.ca/rv/tent-camping-trailer>

² <https://gorving.ca/rv/travel-trailer>



Class C Motorhome

Class C Motorhomes are built on a commercial cut-away van chassis and come with all the amenities of any motorhome. Equipped with full sleeping, kitchen, dining, and bathroom facilities found in a conventional motorhome, as well as entertainment systems and plenty of storage.

Gas or diesel models are available, and they can typically sleep 5-7 comfortably.³

TRIP CONFIGURATION

For each of the five trips, major vacation costs were calculated for six scenarios (trip configurations) as follows:

1. **Tent Camping Trailer:** Family travelling in a personal car, towing a tent camping trailer, staying at campgrounds, and preparing all meals in the RV or outdoors at campsites.
2. **Travel Trailer:** Family travelling in a personal light duty truck or SUV, towing a travel trailer, staying at campgrounds, and preparing all meals in the RV or outdoors at campsites.
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4. **Personal Car - Hotel:** Family travelling in a personal car, staying at hotels/motels, and eating meals in restaurants.
5. **Personal Car – Airbnb:** Family travelling in a personal car, staying at Airbnb rentals in the destination and hotels/motels in stopover locations. Meals are eaten in restaurants during travel and in the rental property at the destination.
6. **Air Travel:** Family travelling by air to the destination, renting a car, staying at hotels/motels, and eating meals in restaurants.

Travel Dates

All trips were assumed to have started on Friday, July 16, 2021. Trips ranged from 3 to 10 days in length. The number of days for each trip is related to the round-trip driving distance.

³ <https://gorving.ca/rv/class-c-motorhome>

TRANSPORTATION COSTS

The vacation cost analysis includes the following transportation costs:

- Round-trip commercial airfare
- Rental vehicle fees
- Fuel cost of personally owned or rental vehicles

Below is a summary of the approach and information sources used to determine the transportation cost.

AIRFARES

For trip profiles where the travel party flew to the destination, it was assumed that they flew from their origin city to the airport closest to the destination with commercial flights available. Round trip airfares were gathered directly from the airline's websites for major airlines, Air Canada, West Jet and Porter (in the east). It was assumed that the theoretical travel party would select the lowest economy fare for the given travel dates. All airfares were collected in September, October and November 2020 for a trip starting on July 16, 2021. Airfares include all fees and taxes. It should be noted that airfares are dynamically priced and can change from day to day. Accordingly, the rates found for this study may not be available, or may not be the cheapest, at a later date.

Note: The average airfare for each trip configuration is presented with the trip cost summaries later in this report.

RENTAL CAR

Those travelling by air were assumed to have rented a standard mid or full-size car from a national car rental company for the duration of their stay in the destination. Further, it was assumed that they would rent the vehicle from an airport rental facility. Collision damage waiver fees, personal accident insurance fees, and additional insurance fees were not included in the cost calculation as they are not mandatory and are automatically covered by many personal auto insurance policies and/or credit cards. Car rental fees were gathered directly from the rental agency websites in September, October, and November 2020.

Note: The average car rental fee for each trip configuration is presented with the trip cost summaries later in this report.

DISTANCE TRAVELLED

The total distance driven was calculated based on two components as follows:

- **Travel Distance:** The distance from the origin to the destination was obtained using the shortest travel time route suggested by Google Maps. Where applicable, the route included passing through a stopover city. For those who travelled by air, the distance from the destination airport to the destination was included in the distance travelled. The travel distance was doubled to account for the return trip.
- **Activity Distance:** The analysis assumes that the travel party will drive 75 kilometres per day for activities and sightseeing. This is consistent with previous studies. For those towing an RV, it is assumed the RV is left at the campground for these excursions.

Note: The distance driven for both components are presented with the trip cost summaries later in this report. Maps for the route travelled for each trip is also presented in the trip summary.

FUEL ECONOMY

Fuel economy ratings for a wide range of light vehicles is tracked by Natural Resources Canada (NRC) and can be found using their search tool at <https://fcr-ccc.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca/en>. According to the Automotive Industries Association of Canada's 2018 Outlook Study, the average age of light vehicles on the road in Canada is 9.7 years. Accordingly, average fuel economy ratings were calculated for vehicle model years 2001 to 2020. Average fuel economy ratings (combined city and highway) were calculated for the following categories:

- **Mid/Full Size Car or SUV:** It was assumed those not towing an RV would be driving a mid or full-size car or a SUV. The average fuel economy for these types of vehicles across model years is 12.0 litres per 100 kilometres.
- **Non-Truck Tow Vehicle:** Those towing a tent camping trailer were assumed to be driving a full-size car or SUV. The average fuel economy for these types of vehicles across model years is 12.6 litres per 100 kilometres.
- **Light Truck:** Those towing a travel trailer were assumed to be driving a light truck (pickup). The average fuel economy for these types of vehicles across model years is 13.6 litres per 100 kilometres.
- **Class C Motorhome:** Official ratings of fuel economy were not found for class C motorhomes. The website www.fuelly.com was used to obtain an estimate for class C motorhome fuel economy. The website is a crowd sourced fuel economy tracking application where users enter data used to calculate the actual fuel economy achieved. Appropriate benchmarks were

identified for 79 class C motorhomes with a total of 1.2 million kilometres tracked. The average fuel economy reported was 27.8 litres per 100 kilometres (or 8.4 MPG).

- **Rental Car:** The average fuel economy for rental vehicles was based on the common vehicle models offered by rental companies in the mid to full size classes. The average fuel economy across benchmark vehicles is 9.1 litres per 100 kilometres. The fuel economy ratings of specific vehicles according to the NRC is as follows:
 - 2020 Kia Forte - 8.6 L/100 KM
 - 2020 Volkswagen Jetta - 7.8 L/100 KM
 - 2020 Hyundai Elantra - 8.9 L/100 KM
 - 2020 Toyota Corolla - 8 L/100 KM
 - 2020 Chevrolet Malibu - 8.2 L/100 KM
 - 2020 Dodge Charger - 12.4 L/100 KM
 - 2020 Hyundai Sonata - 8.6 L/100 KM
 - 2020 Toyota Camry - 10.5 L/100 KM

Impact of Towing

A search of the internet did not reveal any official data related to the impact of towing a trailer on fuel economy. Previous studies have used the theory (based on results) of a leading trailer manufacturer that for every 1,000 pounds, one additional gallon of fuel will be used per 100 miles.⁴ This translates to an additional 2.352 litres per 100 kilometres per 1,000 pounds. It should be noted that this estimate does not account for the variability of trailer aerodynamics, highway wind conditions or wind resistance. However, these will impact fuel consumption.

FUEL PRICES

Average weekly fuel prices were collected for both gasoline and diesel from Natural Resources Canada (NRC - <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/our-natural-resources/domestic-and-international-markets/transportation-fuel-prices/4593>). Prices were gathered for all origins and destinations as well as for all available cities along the selected routes for each vacation. For the vacation cost analysis, the NRC data was used to calculate average fuel price for each city for the 52-week period ending October 1, 2020. As it is not possible to determine where the hypothetical travel party would fill their tanks, fuel prices were calculated for their trips by averaging the origin, destination and route city prices to create a regional benchmark for each trip.

The 52-week average gasoline price in Canada was \$1.12 per litre. Most regional benchmarks were within $\pm 10\%$ of the national average. Exceptions include Vancouver (+23%) and Calgary (-12%). Similarly, the 52-week average diesel in Canada was \$1.15 per litre. All regional benchmarks were within $\pm 10\%$ of the national average except for Vancouver (+11%). It is important to note that fuel prices fluctuate significantly throughout the year and over time. Accordingly, the benchmark fuel prices may or

⁴ Source: "Family Vacation Cost Comparison", Go RVing Canada 2011 and "The 2018 Vacation Cost Comparison", RV Industry Association, 2018

may not be reflective of the actual fuel prices for the summer of 2021 when the hypothetical trips would occur.

Notes:

- *Fuel prices assume all gasoline purchases are regular unleaded.*
- *The average fuel rates for each trip are presented with the trip cost summaries later in this report.*

TOTAL FUEL COST

The total fuel cost is calculated by multiplying the distance driven by the appropriate fuel economy as follows:

$$\text{Kilometres} / 100 \times \text{Litres per 100KM} \times \text{Fuel Price per Litre}$$

Notes:

- *For those towing an RV, activity fuel was calculated using the standard fuel economy while travel fuel economy was calculated using the standard fuel economy plus an additional 2.352 litres per 100/KM per 1,000 pounds of trailer weight.*
- *Class C motorhome fuel cost was calculated using the average fuel price for gasoline and diesel.*

ACCOMMODATION COSTS

As noted in trip configurations, there are three types of accommodations studied in the vacation cost analysis, campgrounds, hotel/motels and Airbnb rentals. Following is a summary of the methodology and assumptions regarding accommodations for each of these categories:

- **Campgrounds:** For the analysis, it was assumed that those travelling by RV would stay in campgrounds within 25 kilometres of the destination or stopover location. Where available, it was assumed that the travel party would select a campsite offering a full three service hook-up or the highest number of hook-ups available. All campgrounds at least offered electrical hook-up. Additionally, where applicable, costs were based on the travel party composition (two adults and two children). The nightly cost of campsites was collected directly from the campground websites and include all additional visitor fees and taxes. Campground prices were collected in September and November 2020. It should be noted, the prices were generally consistent from one period to the next.
- **Hotels/Motels:** For those staying in hotels/motels, it was assumed they would stay in hotels/motels within 25 kilometres of the destination or stopover location. It was generally assumed that the hypothetical travel party would stay in recognized brand name mid-level properties or similar. Nightly rates for a collection of properties were obtained via Hotels.com in September, October, and November 2020. Other internet booking services were also checked; however, it was determined that the listings and prices were largely the same across

websites. Where applicable, costs were based on the travel party composition (two adults and two children). Nightly rates include all fees and taxes. It should be noted that hotel prices are dynamic and can change from day to day. Accordingly, the rates found for this study may not be available at a later date.

- **Airbnb:** As with other accommodation types, it was assumed that the travel party would select Airbnb rentals within 25 kilometres of the destination. It was also assumed that the travel party would stay in a mid-range property with a full kitchen capable of accommodating four people comfortably. Nightly rental prices were obtained for a selection of properties through the Airbnb booking website in September 2020. The rates were verified in November 2020. For stop over locations, it was assumed the travel party stayed in hotel/motel accommodations as described above.

For stopover cities, it was assumed that the travel party would drive a maximum of 600 kilometres or 7.5 hours of travel time per day including stops for fuel and refreshment, to avoid fatigue. For trips exceeding 600 kilometres, stopover cities were selected at logical stopping points along the route that were between 400 and 600 kilometres from the starting location for the day. Under these assumptions, all trips analyzed can be driven in a maximum of two days.

Note: The average nightly rate for each of the accommodation categories for each location is presented with the trip cost summaries later in this report.

FOOD COSTS

The cost of food is a significant contributor to the cost of travel. However, there is a significant difference in the way people eat depending on whether they are camping, staying in hotels or stay in Airbnb accommodations. Following is a summary of the different types of food costs and how they were used in the vacation cost analysis.

Grocery Cost

The grocery component was calculated using data generated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion. Specifically, grocery costs are from the USDA's *Official USDA Food Plans: Cost of Food at Home at Four Levels, U.S. Average, August 2020*. Consistent with previous

studies, the "liberal" plan was selected as the most appropriate for the travel party. Values were converted to Canadian dollars based on the average exchange rate for August 2020 per the Bank of Canada. Based on this plan, the daily grocery cost for a family of four is \$61.15. The daily grocery costs for each family member is summarized in **Exhibit 2-1**.

Exhibit 2-1 – Grocery Cost Per Day

Hypothetical Family Member	Grocery Cost
Male - 19 to 50	\$16.89
Female - 19 to 50	\$14.94
Child 12 to 13	\$14.99
Child 9 to 12	\$14.34
Total Family	\$61.15

Source: USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion
 Note: Converted at average August 2020 Bank of Canada exchange rate of 1.3222

While Statistics Canada also provides data on household food spending, it is limited to the average annual amount spent per household per year. However, the Statistics Canada data can be used to test the reasonableness of the USDA grocery data as an approximation for Canadian grocery spending. Using the average annual household food spend and the average household size from Statistics Canada, the estimated daily food expenditure in Canada is \$14.46 per person, or \$57.84 for a family of four which falls between the moderate and liberal plans from the USDA data. Accordingly, the USDA grocery data is a good approximation of Canadian grocery spending.


Restaurant Food Cost


The current per diem rates from the Treasury Board of Canada were used to estimate the amount spent daily to eat in restaurants. As of October 1, 2020, the daily meal allowance rate from the Treasury Board of Canada was \$93.50 per person, or \$374 for the hypothetical travel party of four.

Vacation Meal Cost Per Day

The cost of food varies for each vacation configuration as follows:

- RV Trips:** Research has shown that campers tend to prepare their meals at the campground. Accordingly, the analysis assumes the meals for all RV trips are prepared exclusively in the RV or at the campground. The daily food cost is based solely on the grocery cost which is \$61.15 per day.


- Hotel Trips:** For travel parties staying in hotels, it is assumed that the majority of their meals are eaten in restaurants. However, it is acknowledged that travel parties often eat some meals outside of restaurants such picnics or donuts for breakfast. The analysis takes this into account by assuming 75% of meals will be eaten in restaurants and 25% outside of restaurants. Using this ratio, the combined restaurant/grocery cost for the travel party is estimated at \$294.79 per day.


- Airbnb Trips:** The analysis assumes that those staying in Airbnb accommodations will generally purchase groceries and make their meals in the rental unit while in the destination. This is calculated at the grocery cost of \$61.15 per day. While travelling to and from the destination, it is assumed these travellers will eat in restaurants. This is calculated at the combined restaurant/grocery cost of \$294.79 per day.

Notes:

For air travel, none of the flights in the analysis would be long enough for a meal to be served.

The analysis does not take into account any regional variations in the cost of food.

VEHICLE OWNERSHIP COSTS

The analysis includes the cost of vehicle ownership as outlined in the following sections.

PERSONAL VEHICLE OWNERSHIP COSTS

As it is assumed most travel parties would own a vehicle, the cost of personal vehicle ownership included in the analysis is limited to trip specific wear and tear. The cost of wear and tear is based on the automobile allowance rates provided by the Treasury Board of Canada. As of October 1, 2020, the Treasury Board of Canada rate for all personal vehicles was \$0.59 per kilometre. This rate includes the cost of fuel which has already been taken into account elsewhere in the analysis. Removing the average fuel cost per kilometre based on average fuel consumption and current fuel prices leaves \$0.446 per kilometre in wear and tear.

RV COST OF OWNERSHIP

Following is a summary of the various elements, including data sources, used in calculating the cost of ownership for RVs:

- **New RV Prices:** NADA Guides (www.nadaguides.com) provides a searchable database of RVs of all types that tracks, among other things, the original suggested list price (MSRP) and average retail price (current value). The price of a new RV is based on the average retail price of a sample of 2020 model RVs in each category (74 tent camping trailers, 210 travel trailers, 173 class C motorhomes).
- **Used RV Prices:** Used RVs were assumed to be approximately nine years old. RV prices were collected for all RV categories for model years 2010 to 2012 from www.autotrader.ca. Prices were collected for all applicable RVs listed across Canada. The average price for applicable RVs was used for the average used RV price.
- **Length of Ownership:** Consistent with previous studies, it was assumed that owners would keep their RV for seven years. It should be noted that the average cost per day of use generally decreases with longer ownership periods.
- **Residual Values:** NADA Guides was used to determine the approximate residual value of RVs. NADA Guides was used to collect MSRP prices and current selling prices for RVs from 2001 to 2020. This data was used to determine the approximate residual value ratio over time. The ratios were used to determine the residual value after seven years of ownership for both new and used RVs.
- **Financing Cost:** An internet search of RV dealers across the country indicates the current financing rate for RVs is 5.99%. Specific financing terms are outlined later for each RV type.

- **Portion Buying New:** The portion of buyers purchasing new varies by RV type. Results from the 2018 RV Market Assessment Study for Go RVing Canada were used to determine the new vs. used ratio for each RV type. Specific ratios are outlined later for each RV type.
- **Average Nights RV is Used:** A re-analysis of data from the 2018 RV Market Assessment Study for Go RVing Canada was used to determine the average number of nights RVers use their RV per year. The specific averages are outlined later for each RV type.

Cost of Owning a Tent Camping Trailer

For the purpose of the study, it was assumed that the tent camping trailer used by the hypothetical travel party weighed approximately 2,000 lbs. Key assumptions regarding the tent camping trailer for the purpose of estimating the cost of ownership:

- Average purchase price is based on a sample of tent camping trailers under 3,000 pounds.
- Financing term is:
 - New – financed over 7 years
 - Used – financed of 5 years
- 37% buy new, 63% buy used
- Owners use the tent camping trailers for an average of 12.7 nights per year.

Based on these parameters, the cost of owning a tent camping trailer is approximate \$74 per night used. A summary of the calculation is presented in **Exhibit 2-2**.

Exhibit 2-2 – Cost of Ownership Calculation for Tent Camping Trailers

	New	Used
Average Purchase Price	\$17,669	\$8,489
Interest Over Ownership Period	\$4,006	\$1,356
Less Residual Value (after 7 years)	(\$10,099)	(\$6,263)
Total RV Cost	\$11,576	\$3,582
Cost Per Year	\$1,654	\$512
Cost Per Night of Use	\$131	\$40
Weighted Average Cost/Day	\$73.57	

In addition to the cost of owning the tent camping trailer, owners also must pay for maintenance, insurance, and storage. According to the 2018 RV Market Assessment Study for Go

RVing Canada, owners of tent camping trailers pay an average of approximately \$517 per year, or \$40.85 per night of use, for maintenance, insurance, and storage.

Cost of Owning a Travel Trailer

For the purposes of the study, it was assumed that the travel trailer used by the hypothetical travel party weighed approximately 4,000 lbs. Key assumptions regarding the travel trailer for the purpose of estimating the cost of ownership:

- Average purchase price is based on a sample of travel trailers between 3,000 and 5,500 pounds.
- Financing term is:
 - New – financing amortized over 15 years
 - Used – financed over 7 years
- 54% buy new, 44% buy used
- Owners use the travel trailers for an average of 21.5 nights per year.

Based on these parameters, the cost of owning a travel trailer is approximate \$79 per night used. A summary of the calculation is presented in **Exhibit 2-3**.

Exhibit 2-3 – Cost of Ownership Calculation for Travel Trailers

	New	Used
Average Purchase Price	\$27,657	\$14,764
Interest Over Ownership Period	\$9,689	\$3,347
Less Residual Value (after 7 years)	(\$23,172)	(\$8,888)
Total RV Cost	\$14,175	\$9,223
Cost Per Year	\$2,025	\$1,318
Cost Per Night of Use	\$94	\$61
Weighted Average Cost/Day	\$79.19	

In addition to the cost of owning the travel trailer, owners also must pay for maintenance, insurance, and storage. According to the 2018 RV Market Assessment Study for Go

RVing Canada, owners of travel trailers pay an average of approximately \$707 per year, or \$32.94 per night of use, for maintenance, insurance, and storage.

Cost of Owning a Class C Motorhome

Key assumptions regarding the class C motorhome for the purpose of estimating the cost of ownership:

- Average purchase price is based on a sample of the full range of class C motorhomes except for a handful of premium models whose MSRP is 60% higher than that the next closest model in the category.
- Financing term is:
 - New – financing amortized over 15 years
 - Used – financing amortized over 15 years
- 46% buy new, 54% buy used
- Owners use the class C motorhome for an average of 20.8 nights per year.

Based on these parameters, the cost of owning a class C motorhome is approximate \$366 per night used. A summary of the calculation is presented in **Exhibit 2-4**.

Exhibit 2-4 – Cost of Ownership Calculation for Tent Camping Trailers

	New	Used
Average Purchase Price	\$107,729	\$60,414
Interest Over Ownership Period	\$37,742	\$21,165
Less Residual Value (after 7 years)	(\$79,527)	(\$38,951)
Total RV Cost	\$65,945	\$42,628
Cost Per Year	\$9,421	\$6,090
Cost Per Night of Use	\$453	\$293
Weighted Average Cost/Day	\$365.97	

In addition to the cost of owning the tent camping trailer, owners also must pay for maintenance, insurance, and storage. According to the 2018 RV Market Assessment Study for Go

RVing Canada, owners of class C motorhomes pay an average of approximately \$1,146 per year, or \$55.05 per night of use, for maintenance, insurance, and storage.

III. VACATION COST ANALYSIS

This section presents the findings of the vacation cost analysis for each of the five trips. It presents a summary for each trip that includes a brief overview along with a comparison of the total cost for each trip configuration followed by a chart that presents the trip parameters along with the detailed cost breakdown for each trip.

TRIP I – MONTREAL (QC) TO ALGONQUIN PROVINCIAL PARK

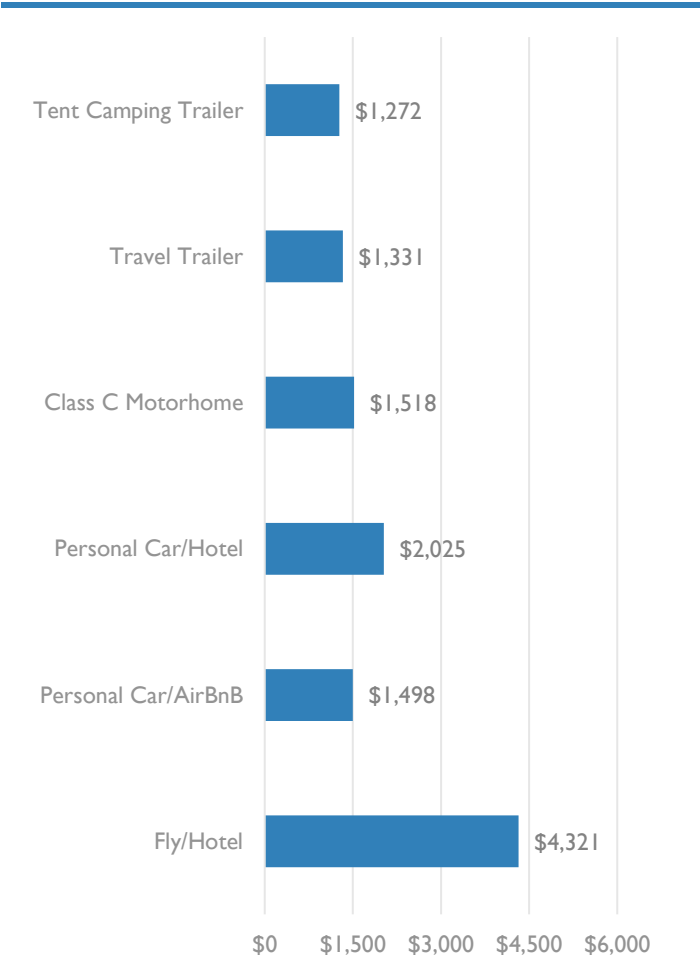
Trip I is a short 3-day vacation from Montreal to Algonquin Provincial Park. With a one-way distance of 472 KM, most travellers would make this drive in a single day. The closest commercial airport is in North Bay, 131 KM away.

For those staying in hotels, most would stay in the town of Huntsville just outside the park’s west gate. Campgrounds can be found both in the park and in the surrounding area.

Among the six travel configurations tested, the lowest cost is for tent camping trailers and travel trailers at approximately \$1,300 (see Exhibit 3-1). For the hypothetical travel party these trip configurations are approximately 13% lower than driving and staying in Airbnbs, 35% lower than driving and staying in hotels and 70% lower than flying and staying in hotels.

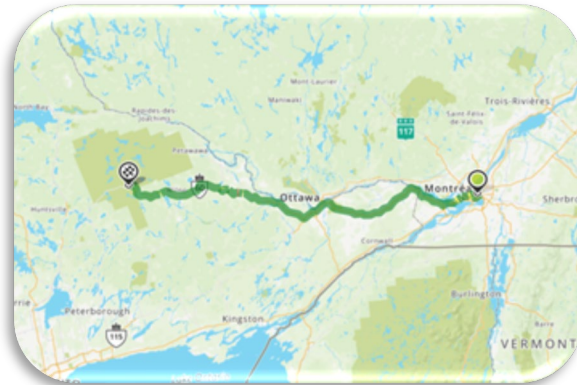
At just over \$1,500, the class C motorhome configuration cost is on par with driving and staying in Airbnbs and 25% lower than driving and staying in hotels and 65% lower than flying and staying in hotels.

Exhibit 3-1 – Vacation Cost Summary - Montreal to Algonquin Provincial Park – 3 Days



Trip parameters and vacation costs by trip configuration are summarized for the Montreal to Algonquin Provincial Park trip in Exhibit 3-2. For details on key assumptions and calculations, please refer to the section titled “II. Study Parameters and Methodology”.

Exhibit 3-2 – Trip I Parameters – Montreal to Algonquin Provincial Park



Source: www.mapquest.ca

Origin	Montreal (QC)
Destination	Algonquin Provincial Park (ON)
Days	3

Driving Distance (KM)		Accommodation Rates Per Night		
Round Trip Distance	944		Destination	Stopover
Activity/Sightseeing Distance	225	Hotel	\$229	N/A
Round Trip Airport Distance	262	Campsite	\$61	N/A
Fuel Prices Per Litre		Airbnb	\$200	N/A
Gasoline	\$1.12	Destination Airport		
Diesel	\$1.15	North Bay (ON – YYB)		

Vacation Cost						
	Tent Camping Trailer	Travel Trailer	Class C Motor-home	Personal Car/ Hotel	Personal Car/ Airbnb	Air Travel
Transportation						
Airfare	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$2,743
Rental Car	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$182
Fuel	\$216	\$279	\$370	\$158	\$158	\$50
Personal vehicle wear & tear	\$521	\$521	N/A	\$521	\$521	N/A
Accommodation						
Hotels	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$458	N/A	\$458
Campsites	\$123	\$123	\$123	N/A	N/A	N/A
Airbnb	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$401	N/A
Food						
Meals	\$183	\$183	\$183	\$887	\$418	\$887
Cost of RV Ownership						
Vehicle Cost	\$147	\$158	\$732	N/A	N/A	N/A
Maintenance/Insurance/Storage	\$82	\$66	\$110	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Cost	\$1,272	\$1,331	\$1,518	\$2,025	\$1,498	\$4,321
Cost per Day	\$424	\$444	\$506	\$675	\$499	\$1,440

TRIP 2 – HALIFAX (NS) TO QUEBEC CITY (QC)

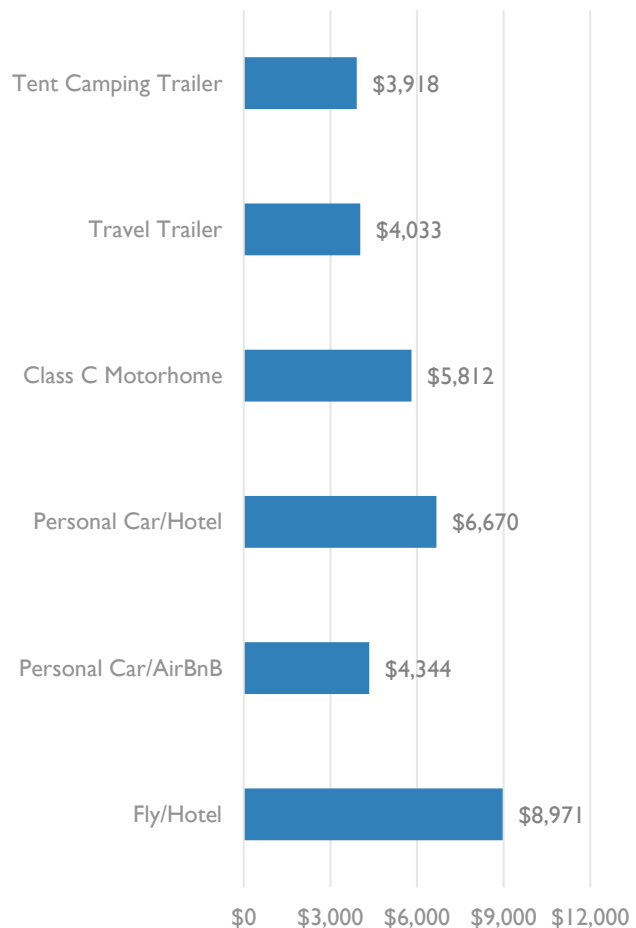
Trip 2 is a lengthy 10-day vacation from Halifax to Quebec City. With a one-way distance of 1,027 KM, for the purpose of this study, it is assumed that travellers would make this drive over two days with a stopover in Fredericton. For those flying, the closest commercial airport is in Quebec City itself, 20 KM away from city centre.

For those staying in hotels, most would stay in the city itself. Campgrounds can be found in the surrounding area.

Among the six travel configurations tested, the lowest cost is for tent camping trailers and travel trailers at approximately \$4,000 (see [Exhibit 3-3](#)). For the hypothetical travel party these trip configurations are approximately 8% lower than driving and staying in Airbnbs, 40% lower than driving and staying in hotels and 55% lower than flying and staying in hotels.

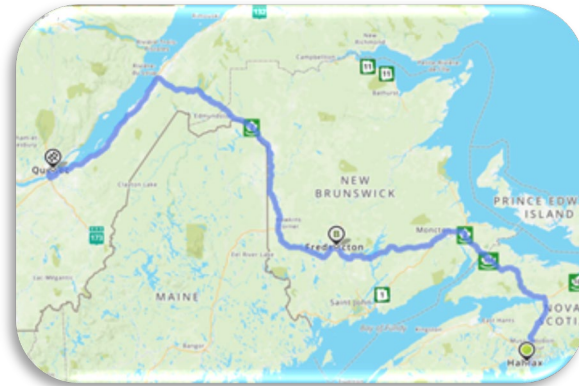
At just over \$5,800, the class C motorhome configuration cost is 25% higher than driving and staying in Airbnbs, but 13% lower than driving and staying in hotels and 35% lower than flying and staying in hotels.

Exhibit 3-3 – Vacation Cost Summary - Halifax to Quebec City – 10 Days



Trip parameters and vacation costs by trip configuration are summarized for the Halifax to Quebec City trip in [Exhibit 3-4](#). For details on key assumptions and calculations, please refer to the section titled “II. Study Parameters and Methodology”.

Exhibit 3-4 – Trip 2 Parameters – Halifax to Quebec City



Origin	Halifax (NS)
Destination	Quebec City (QC)
Stopover	Fredericton (NB)
Days	10

Source: www.mapquest.ca

Driving Distance (KM)		Accommodation Rates Per Night		
Round Trip Distance	2,054		Destination	Stopover
Activity/Sightseeing Distance	750	Hotel	\$247	\$183
Round Trip Airport Distance	40	Campsite	\$62	\$53
Fuel Prices Per Litre		Airbnb	\$149	N/A
Gasoline	\$1.09	Destination Airport		
Diesel	\$1.15	Quebec City (QC – YQB)		

Vacation Cost						
	Tent Camping Trailer	Travel Trailer	Class C Motor-home	Personal Car/ Hotel	Personal Car/ Airbnb	Air Travel
Transportation						
Airfare	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$2,741
Rental Car	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$972
Fuel	\$490	\$626	\$875	\$367	\$367	\$78
Personal vehicle wear & tear	\$1,251	\$1,251	N/A	\$1,251	\$1,251	N/A
Accommodation						
Hotels	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$2,095	\$367	\$2,222
Campsites	\$536	\$536	\$536	N/A	N/A	N/A
Airbnb	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,044	N/A
Food						
Meals	\$612	\$612	\$612	\$2,958	\$1,315	\$2,958
Cost of RV Ownership						
Vehicle Cost	\$662	\$713	\$3,294	N/A	N/A	N/A
Maintenance/Insurance/Storage	\$368	\$296	\$495	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Cost	\$3,918	\$4,033	\$5,812	\$6,670	\$4,344	\$8,971
Cost per Day	\$392	\$403	\$581	\$667	\$434	\$897

TRIP 3 – TORONTO (ON) TO STURGEON FALLS (ON)

Trip 3 is a short 3-day vacation from Toronto to Sturgeon Falls. With a one-way distance of 382 KM, most travellers would make this drive in a single day. The closest commercial airport is in North Bay. However, at the time of the study, flights were not offered from Toronto to North Bay. The next closest airport is Sudbury at 88 KM away.

For those staying in hotels, there are limited options in Sturgeon Falls. Accordingly, some may stay in North Bay (39 KM away). Campgrounds can be found at nearby Lake Nipissing.

Among the six travel configurations tested, the lowest cost is for tent camping trailers and travel trailers at approximately \$1,150 (see [Exhibit 3-5](#)). For the hypothetical travel party these trip configurations are approximately 21% lower than driving and staying in Airbnbs, 33% lower than driving and staying in hotels and 56% lower than flying and staying in hotels.

At just over \$1,400, the class C motorhome configuration cost is on par with driving and staying in Airbnbs and 17% lower than driving and staying in hotels and 46% lower than flying and staying in hotels.

Trip parameters and vacation costs by trip configuration are summarized for the Toronto to Sturgeon Falls trip in [Exhibit 3-6](#). For details on key assumptions and calculations, please refer to the section titled “II. Study Parameters and Methodology”.

Exhibit 3-5 – Vacation Cost Summary - Toronto to Sturgeon Falls – 3 Days

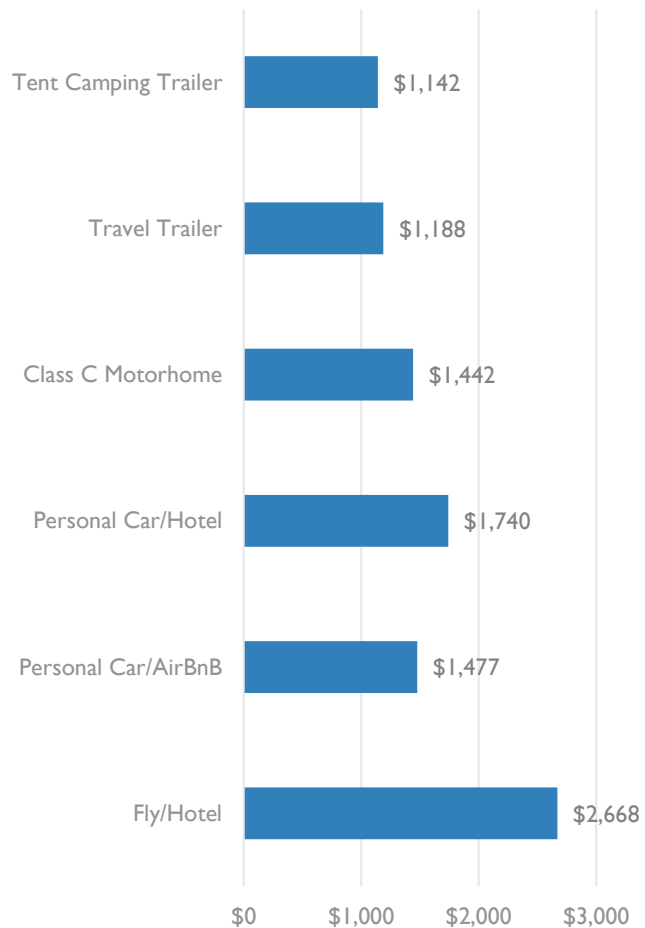
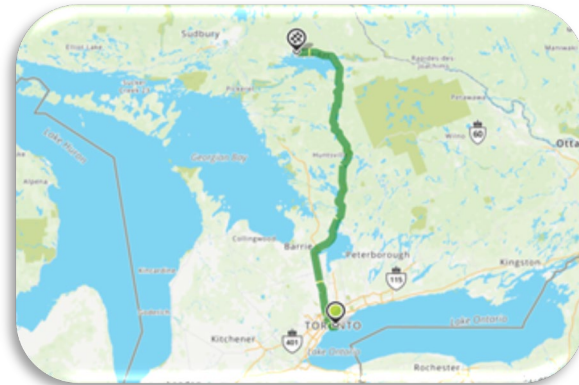


Exhibit 3-6 – Trip 3 Parameters – Toronto to Sturgeon Falls



Source: www.mapquest.ca

Origin	Toronto (ON)					
Destination	Sturgeon Falls (ON)					
Stopover	N/A					
Days	3					
Driving Distance (KM)			Accommodation Rates Per Night			
Round Trip Distance	764		Destination	Stopover		
Activity/Sightseeing Distance	225	Hotel	\$141	N/A		
Round Trip Airport Distance	176	Campsite	\$56	N/A		
Fuel Prices Per Litre		Airbnb	\$243	N/A		
Gasoline	\$1.10	Destination Airport				
Diesel	\$1.11	Sudbury (ON – YSB)				
Vacation Cost						
	Tent Camping Trailer	Travel Trailer	Class C Motor-home	Personal Car/ Hotel	Personal Car/ Airbnb	Air Travel
Transportation						
Airfare	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,257
Rental Car	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$203
Fuel	\$177	\$227	\$305	\$131	\$131	\$40
Personal vehicle wear & tear	\$441	\$441	N/A	\$441	\$441	N/A
Accommodation						
Hotels	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$281	\$0	\$281
Campsites	\$111	\$111	\$111	N/A	N/A	N/A
Airbnb	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$487	N/A
Food						
Meals	\$183	\$183	\$183	\$887	\$418	\$887
Cost of RV Ownership						
Vehicle Cost	\$147	\$158	\$732	N/A	N/A	N/A
Maintenance/Insurance/Storage	\$82	\$66	\$110	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Cost	\$1,142	\$1,188	\$1,442	\$1,740	\$1,477	\$2,668
Cost per Day	\$381	\$396	\$481	\$580	\$492	\$889

TRIP 4 – BRANDON (MB) TO DRUMHELLER (AB)

Trip 4 is a length 10-day vacation from Brandon to Drumheller. With a one-way distance of 1,077 KM, for the purpose of this study, it is assumed that travellers would make this drive over two days with a stopover in Moose Jaw Saskatchewan. The closest commercial airport is in Calgary, 120 KM away. Those flying could fly from Brandon, though some may opt to fly from Winnipeg (213 KM) given the limited flight option from Brandon.

For those staying in hotels, there are plenty of options in the town of Drumheller. There are also many campground options scattered throughout the area.

Among the six travel configurations tested, the lowest cost is for tent camping trailers and travel trailers at approximately \$3,900 (see [Exhibit 3-7](#)). For the hypothetical travel party these trip configurations are approximately 11% lower than driving and staying in Airbnbs, 35% lower than driving and staying in hotels and 49% lower than flying and staying in hotels.

At just over \$5,700, the class C motorhome configuration cost is 30% more than driving and staying in Airbnbs, 6% lower than driving and staying in hotels and 25% lower than flying and staying in hotels.

Trip parameters and vacation costs by trip configuration are summarized for the Brandon to Drumheller trip in [Exhibit 3-8](#). For details on key assumptions and calculations, please refer to the section titled “II. Study Parameters and Methodology”.

Exhibit 3-7 – Vacation Cost Summary - Brandon to Drumheller – 10 Days

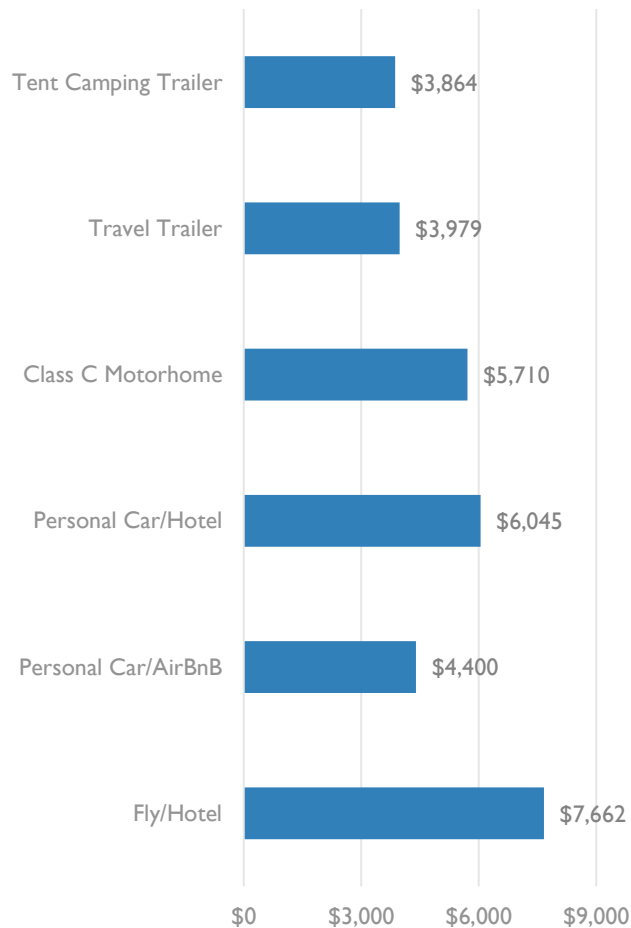
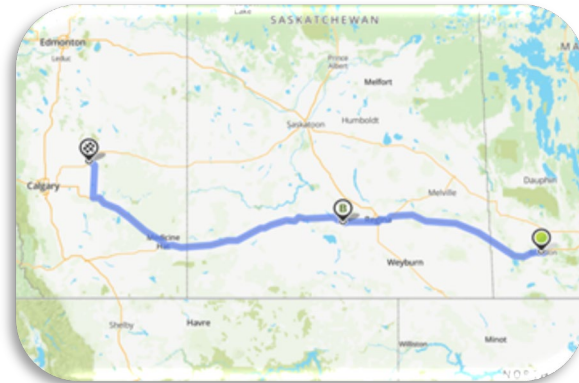


Exhibit 3-8 – Trip 4 Parameters – Brandon to Drumheller



Source: www.mapquest.ca

Origin	Brandon (MB)
Destination	Drumheller (AB)
Stopover	N/A
Days	10

Driving Distance (KM)		Accommodation Rates Per Night		
Round Trip Distance	2,154		Destination	Stopover
Activity/Sightseeing Distance	750	Hotel	\$166	\$132
Round Trip Airport Distance	240	Campsite	\$50	\$47
Fuel Prices Per Litre		Airbnb	\$166	N/A
Gasoline	\$1.04	Destination Airport		
Diesel	\$1.11	Calgary (AB – YYC)		

Vacation Cost						
	Tent Camping Trailer	Travel Trailer	Class C Motor-home	Personal Car/ Hotel	Personal Car/ Airbnb	Air Travel
Transportation						
Airfare	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$2,234
Rental Car	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$878
Fuel	\$486	\$622	\$868	\$363	\$363	\$94
Personal vehicle wear & tear	\$1,295	\$1,295	N/A	\$1,295	\$1,295	N/A
Accommodation						
Hotels	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,429	\$264	\$1,497
Campsites	\$441	\$441	\$441	N/A	N/A	N/A
Airbnb	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,162	N/A
Food						
Meals	\$612	\$612	\$612	\$2,958	\$1,315	\$2,958
Cost of RV Ownership						
Vehicle Cost	\$662	\$713	\$3,294	N/A	N/A	N/A
Maintenance/Insurance/ Storage	\$368	\$296	\$495	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Cost	\$3,864	\$3,979	\$5,710	\$6,045	\$4,400	\$7,662
Cost per Day	\$386	\$398	\$571	\$605	\$440	\$766

TRIP 5 – VANCOUVER (BC) TO BANFF NATIONAL PARK (AB)

Trip 5 is a weeklong (7 days) vacation from Vancouver to Banff National Park. With a one-way distance of 851 KM, for the purpose of this study, it is assumed that travellers would make this drive over two days with a stopover in Kamloops British Columbia. The closest commercial airport is in Calgary, 143 KM away.

For those staying in hotels, most would stay in the town of Banff. Campgrounds can be found both in the park and in the surrounding area.

Among the six travel configurations tested, the lowest cost is for tent camping trailers and travel trailers at approximately \$2,840 (see [Exhibit 3-9](#)). For the hypothetical travel party these trip configurations are approximately 25% lower than driving and staying in Airbnbs, 41% lower than driving and staying in hotels and 53% lower than flying and staying in hotels.

At just over \$3,900, the class C motorhome configuration cost is about 4% higher than driving and staying in Airbnbs and 21% lower than driving and staying in hotels and 35% lower than flying and staying in hotels.

Trip parameters and vacation costs by trip configuration are summarized for the Vancouver to Banff National Park trip in [Exhibit 3-10](#). For details on key assumptions and calculations, please refer to the section titled “II. Study Parameters and Methodology”.

Exhibit 3-9 – Vacation Cost Summary - Vancouver to Banff National Park – 7 Days

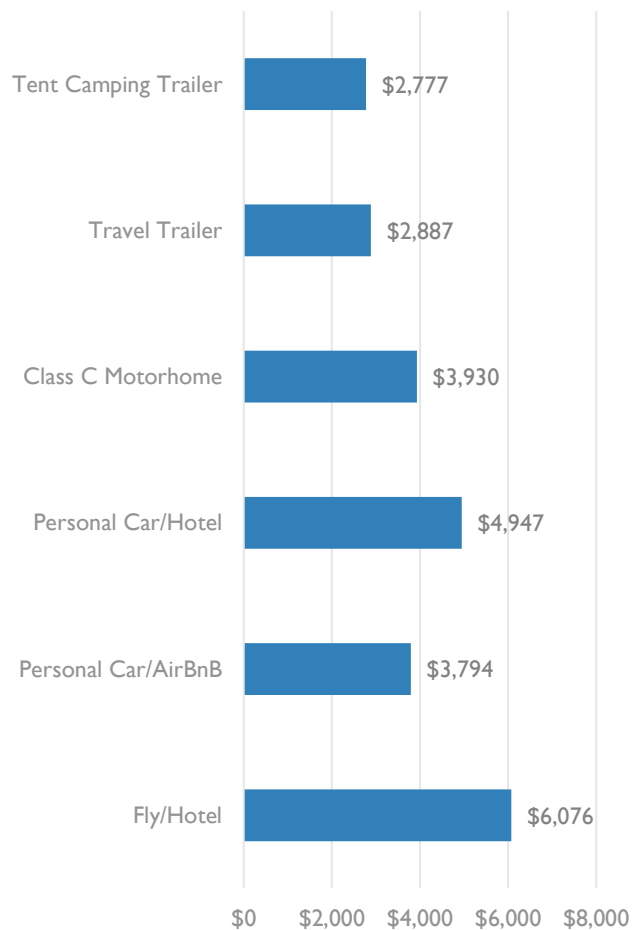


Exhibit 3-10 – Trip 5 Parameters – Vancouver to Banff National Park



Source: www.mapquest.ca

Origin	Vancouver (BC)
Destination	Banff National Park (AB)
Stopover	Kamloops (BC)
Days	7

Driving Distance (KM)		Accommodation Rates Per Night		
Round Trip Distance	1,702		Destination	Stopover
Activity/Sightseeing Distance	525	Hotel	\$314	\$151
Round Trip Airport Distance	286	Campsite	\$35	\$48
Fuel Prices Per Litre		Airbnb	\$261	N/A
Gasoline	\$1.21	Destination Airport		
Diesel	\$1.19	Calgary (AB – YYC)		

Vacation Cost						
	Tent Camping Trailer	Travel Trailer	Class C Motor-home	Personal Car/ Hotel	Personal Car/ Airbnb	Air Travel
Transportation						
Airfare	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,348
Rental Car	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$682
Fuel	\$435	\$559	\$741	\$323	\$323	\$89
Personal vehicle wear & tear	\$993	\$993	N/A	\$993	\$993	N/A
Accommodation						
Hotels	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,561	\$303	\$1,886
Campsites	\$235	\$235	\$235	N/A	N/A	N/A
Airbnb	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,043	N/A
Food						
Meals	\$428	\$428	\$428	\$2,071	\$1,132	\$2,071
Cost of RV Ownership						
Vehicle Cost	\$441	\$475	\$2,196	N/A	N/A	N/A
Maintenance/Insurance/Storage	\$245	\$198	\$330	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Cost	\$2,777	\$2,887	\$3,930	\$4,947	\$3,794	\$6,076
Cost per Day	\$397	\$412	\$561	\$707	\$542	\$868

IV. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the parameters and data samples in this study, RV vacations are generally less expensive than those where the travel party stays in a hotel/motel. However, while towable RVs are more economical than private property rentals, an Airbnb vacation can be more economical than one in a class C motorhome.

The difference in the cost of vacations in tent camping trailers and travel trailers tends to be small despite travel trailers carrying a higher initial price tag. The reasons behind this are twofold. First, the residual percentages tend to be a bit stronger compared to the actual price paid on travel trailers. Second, the average number of nights travel trailer owners use their RV per year is considerably higher than among owners of tent camping trailers. So while the average annual total cost is significantly higher on a travel trailer, the daily cost (based on days used) is only slightly higher.

The lowest cost vacations are those taken in tent camping trailers and travel trailers. For the hypothetical travel party these trip configurations were, on average, 16% lower than driving and staying in Airbnbs, 37% lower than driving and staying in hotels and 57% lower than flying and staying in hotels. The actual cost difference varies significantly depending on the cost of accommodations in a destination, trip length and distance. The savings range was 7% to 27% compared to Airbnb, 32% to 44% compared to drive and hotel and 48% to 71% compared to flying (*please refer to trip profiles in Chapter 3 for details*).

Class C motorhomes represent a more significant investment. This results in this type of vacation being similarly priced to some Airbnb vacations and more expensive than others depending on the cost of the Airbnb. For three of the trips, the different in cost was within 5%. For the other two, Airbnb trips were more economical by 27% and 35% (*please refer to trip profiles in Chapter 3 for details*).

Class C motorhome trips were however more economical than trips where travellers stayed in hotels. For the hypothetical travel party these trip configurations were, on average, 16% lower than driving and staying in hotels and 41% lower than flying and staying in hotels. The cost difference varies significantly depending on the cost of accommodations in a destination, trip length and distance. The savings range was 6% to 25% compared to drive and hotel and 25% to 65% compared to flying (*please refer to trip profiles in Chapter 3 for details*).

The RV cost of ownership per day is based on the number of days the RV is used through the year and is a significant driver of total trip cost. The more often a travel party travels, the lower the daily cost of ownership which would widen the cost gap in favour of RVs. Likewise, holding onto the RV longer will also generally result in a lower daily cost of ownership.