



A Home for the Road

In 2014, Maria and Leander saw an online listing for an old Mercedes-Benz truck, a former military vehicle used to monitor Germany's borders. It seemed like a twist of fate that what had once served to patrol borders was now destined to carry the travelers across them. On first inspection, it was clear the existing living cabin was mostly rust. After much deliberation, the couple detached the old cabin and installed a completely new one onto the frame. Thus began a long process, one that involved countless hours of research and endless budgeting. When one set of questions was answered, a whole new set of questions arose. Finally, the truck—lovingly named “Akela”—was ready to hit the road. The truck's compact, wood-paneled cabin features a double bed (that transitions to a table and seating area); a separate bunk above; a woodstove; steps separating the living areas; solar panels and a boiler; clever storage; and a sink and toilet. In this space measuring only 129 square feet (12 square meters), the family ate, slept, wrote, did laundry and chores, and made meals. It was their home.

