



To Awake Each Day with a New View

André Weigelt and Laura Krüger were not initially in search of vanlife. The couple was motivated, rather, by the desire to leave big-city life in Berlin behind. “It wasn’t that we were explicitly looking for vans, we just stumbled across this one and bought it right away, without even doing a test-drive,” they share. Their model of choice was a sandy-colored 1986 Mercedes-Benz 407 D Van, now affectionately called “Oskar the Explorer.” “We love the exterior look of our van a lot—it is just so charming,” they recall. From that moment on, they knew that the van wasn’t just going to be for a weekend getaway. The pair wanted to travel long-term and leave the city for good.

With this intention in mind, the number one priority of the rebuild was livability. “It had to be comfortable for two people to live in it. We wanted a kitchen so we could cook real meals and enough space to also spend bad-weather days inside,” says the couple. The slim kitchen is the real deal, with a dark wooden benchtop to contrast the white cabinetry, tiled splash board, gas burner, magnetic knife strip, and the homiest of touches in the form of a sink, complete with filtered water and built from grandma’s old enamel bowl. The look of the interior recalls a cozy,

Nordic cabin, paneled in wood and whitewashed, giving the illusion of a far greater space. “We wanted to achieve a rustic kind of look but not make the van super dark. I think we achieved that by mixing whites with browns and are super happy with how it turned out,” they share. Indeed, when you stand in the kitchen, flanked by two wooden doors (behind which a toilet and wardrobe can be found), you can turn your head to look out the sizable window, set above a double bed, framing a new picturesque view each day. The van’s original windows were part of the original pull, giving the interior views in every direction. Alongside the charming sink, it’s the view from bed that Weigelt and Krüger cherish the most. “We always park with the prettiest view to the back of our van, so when we wake up, that’s the first thing we see,” they explain. Across from the kitchen, and fitted in behind the driver’s seat, is an L-shaped seating area, with a sliding table that allows for easy access to the much-relied-upon storage contained in the seats. Inside, there is not only space for belongings, but for a refrigerator and their many electricals, which includes a solar-power system.

Hot-air balloons
take flight in
Cappadocia, Turkey
(opposite).