



Jonathan Osborne, Tiffin's national sales manager for Type B motorhomes, led the product development team building the GH1 adventure van.

Tiffin's Many Adventures Realized

The company's new Type B van will debut at the Florida RV SuperShow. The motorhome is unlike any the manufacturer previously made.

By Kristen Fiore | Photos by Armosa Studio

Tiffin Motorhomes' vision is "many adventures, one dream," according to Jonathan Osborne, Tiffin's national sales manager for Type B motorhomes. This year, the manufacturer fulfilled that dream by building a Type B adventure van.

Tiffin will unveil its GH1 adventure van at the Florida RV SuperShow in Tampa, Florida.

Osborne said the company's GH1 plans focused on building a sharp-looking, well-engineered van, which it tested over off-road environments and conditions.

"We saw through a lot of research and use and testing that there is a really big need for the high-quality standards and the customer experience in the van marketplace, and we believe Tiffin can deliver on the expectations for those customers," Osborne said. "It is a growing part of the market."

He said creating GH1 provided Tiffin an opportunity to extend the company's love of camping into a new camping environment. Designing the

adventure van gave the design team's outdoor enthusiasts an exciting challenge to meet, he said.

"It is an exciting space that broadens our customer base," Osborne said. "We are a very attentive company when it comes to producing and engineering features that will produce some highly capable and functional adventure vans."

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— Jonathan Osborne

First of Many

GH1—the first in a planned Type B motorhome line—will be built in Red Bay, Alabama, where Tiffin is headquartered.

The manufacturer's dedicated Type A, B and C facilities ensure focused operations. Osborne said the motorhome types have different manufacturing

requirements. Salespeople, engineers, operation managers and manufacturing line workers will work solely on Type B motorhomes.

"We wanted to ensure we had the space and everything required," Osborne said. "Red Bay was the ideal place. We want to be world class in everything we build at Tiffin, and we recognize it takes world-class-level focus, training and attention to the details to be excellent and meet Tiffin-brand expectations."

Extensive design tweaks were made along the way as Tiffin consulted nationwide experts to review design concepts and prototypes.

"I spent a lot of time at off-road adventure exhibitions," Osborne said, "working with suspension specialists and really understanding the best products that do it well in the B van space."

Dealers and consumers provided feedback about features and benefits they sought and could not get in other RVs, a big design process factor, Osborne said.

GH1 provides several customizable amenities consumers can adapt to fit their intended use, such as for mountain biking, skiing, off-roading or engaging in other activities.

“We left the back doors empty so (consumers) could pick the types of equipment boxes and racks they would want. We have a fixed side mount ladder to allow for that,” Osborne said. “We went with a high-end custom and unique low-profile roof rack that allows people to adapt equipment on the roof of the vehicle as they see fit.”

Consumers requested:

- A quiet ride
- A well-insulated coach
- An on-demand hot water system
- Adequate electrical power
- An onboard air compressor
- A robust water conservation system

Tiffin included each one. GH1 has a 22-gallon gray water tank and a 26-gallon freshwater tank, which is

among the vehicle segment’s largest, according to Osborne.

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Additionally, the design team retained features consumers desired, such as customizable, dimmable, colored interior lighting; high-end tank monitoring; USB receptacles; and a

method to keep exhaust toward the vehicle’s rear, away from the campsite.

“We are really proud of the end product that’s going to be debuted,” Osborne said, “and we think customers are going to be really excited about it as well.”

Features and Benefits

GH1 runs on a Mercedes-Benz 2500 twin-turbo 211 horsepower diesel engine. The van is about 19.5 feet long and 8 feet wide. Tiffin offers four GH1 exterior colors—Arctic White, Blue Grey, Pebble Grey and Selenite Grey.

Osborne said the RV would be powered by a robust lithium-ion battery system and a dedicated second alternator. A 200-watt solar panel is standard, along with a 30-amp charge controller and a 15,000 BTU “whisper quiet” air conditioner.

The motorhome seats up to four people and sleeps two in the flip-down, 49-by-79-inch bed. An adult-sized

jump seat with three-point safety seatbelts is located behind the driver and passenger seat. Gear storage is accessible below the bed at the rear.

“A lot of customers use these as daily drivers,” Osborne said. “It is not just a two-person van when you go skiing. You might have other people in the coach, and you want them to ride comfortably when you are going on a four-, five- or six-hour drive.”

The European lightweight cabinetry’s construction features aluminum-framed, powder-coated material. The felt lining inside quiets cabinet rattling sounds.

The galley includes a portable induction cooktop plus a 3.1-cubic-foot refrigerator. The refrigerator’s front also functions as a whiteboard.

The 24-by-36-inch wet bath contains a cassette toilet consumers can swivel to their desired position. The toilet sits atop a platform, so it

feels and looks like a normal-sized toilet, Osborne said.

The bathroom has removable shelving with storage behind the jump seats and a drywall toilet paper dispenser.

“Space is at a premium in a van,” he said, “so you need to be able to utilize the shower to store larger gear, as well as be comfortable using the restroom and shower once you are at the location.”

A Showermi\$er water conservation system and an Aqua-Hot 125D on-demand heating system round out the bathroom amenities.

“If you have 26 precious gallons of water,” Osborne said, “you want to make sure you are not wasting it getting your shower to the temperature you want.”

Off-road highlights include Vision off-road aluminum wheels, Goodrich 245/70R all-terrain KO2 tires, an onboard air compressor and step rails with undermount lighting.



(L to R) Tiffin’s Type B team includes Production Manager Shea Barnes, Type B General Manager Jamie Myrick and Engineering Manager Fred Nethery.

TIFFIN Many Adventures. One Dream.™



YOU’LL BE GLAD YOU WENT

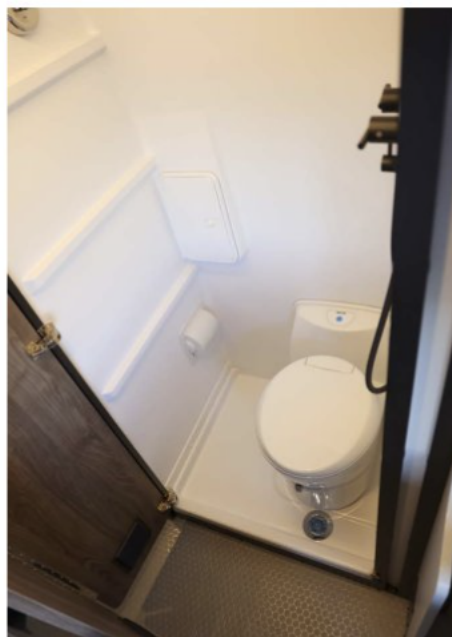




(L to R) Myrick, Nethery and Barnes perform a quality check on a GH1 van at the end of the manufacturing line.



The GH1's galley has a 3.1-cubic-foot refrigerator and a portable induction cooktop.



The wet bath has a cassette toilet that swivels.



(L to R) Myrick, Nethery and Barnes examine the van's grey tank drain to ensure a proper connection.

“These are the features that customers asked about and desire,” Osborne said. “It is what highlights their ability to use the coach in various conditions, both interior and exterior.”

GH1 includes powered, heated seats and numerous safety features, such as collision mitigation, adaptive cruise control, tire pressure monitoring, active lane-keeping assist, traffic sign assist, attention assist, hill start assist and high beam assist.

Starlink Pro's high-speed satellite internet is optional. Consumers can use the service completely off-grid as long as the vehicle is exposed to open sky.

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— Jonathan Osborne

“We prewire for Starlink to make it easy to add the feature, or add it later,” Osborne said. “It goes back to the design methodology of trying to have the things that are drastic to do as simple as possible in the aftermarket.”

A Girard side-mounted powered patio awning has integrated LED lights and wind sensors.

The main thing Osborne said he hopes GH1 customers enjoy is the freedom the van provides.

“People use our products in many different ways, but everyone has a dream they are trying to achieve by sharing time with their loved ones, getting into beautiful outdoor spaces and making the most of their recreation and leisure,” he said. “That is what I hope we deliver—a vehicle that allows them to do that in an exciting and dynamic way.” **RVN**