

Comparing the Winnebago 2007 View to the 2014 Trend

I am now struggling with how and when to replace our 2007 View 23B (bunk beds and no slide out). At the Grand Marais Rally in 2013 the Winnebago rep showed us photos of the Viva-Trend. I was not impressed since it didn't have a diesel engine. I figured that Winnebago would have to bring out a diesel version. However, after a test drive last week in a 23L I am not so sure there will be a diesel version. On a short test drive I got really excited at how easy it is to drive the Trend. I even went over a curb at an angle to test for sway and there was no more than my car. An 18 wheeler passed on the freeway, and I barely felt it. The Trend chassis is wider and lower resulting in a lower center of gravity than the Sprinter. It has lots of pep with the 280 HP V6 engine and merged on a freeway without difficulty. It is quieter than the View at highway speeds.

The Trend GVWR is rated at 9,350 lb. vs the View at 10,200 lb. This is a difference of 850 lb. However, the Trend allowance for fuel, water, propane, passengers, and stuff is 1,437 lb. which seems enough for us. I estimate we would have 720 lbs for our stuff. The fuel tank is 24 gallons vs 26.4 gallons. The propane tank is 13 gallons vs 18 gallons for the view. The generator uses gas so there is less use of propane. The water tank holds 26 gallons vs the 28 + 5 that the View has. However, the Trend has no hot water tank but rather an inline heater of some kind. The Trend can only tow 2,000 lb. compared to the View 3,500 lb. We don't tow a car so this makes no difference to us.

We have liked the View because it has bunk beds which free up a lot of floor space. As result there is no need for a slideout. This means no slideout failures. The Trend 23L floor plan is like the View J model with a partially enclosed bedroom on the street side. It also has the powered drop down or loft bed which appears more comfortable to the owner that had to sleep on the top bunk of the View. However, with the loft bed down you have to crawl on the floor or go outside to get to the driver seat. The Trend even has the deep bin we used for water and wine on the front street side but it doesn't have a lid and doesn't slide out. The Trend is the same width as the View but 9" longer and 8" lower.

Interior height is the same. The bathroom is on the rear wall and about the same size as our View. The galley is an L shape and has the same size fridge. The sink is smaller but comes with a dish pan and drain board that fits inside. That means there is little room to keep dirty dishes in the sink . . . but then they don't rattle around when you are underway. Unfortunately the Trend does not have the convection microwave, but only a microwave. Research is required to see if there is a convection unit that would fit into the space available. The dinette table is 3.5" narrower and the same length as the View. The big difference is the 23L model uses the two swivel front seats as the facing seats at the dinette. There is a leaf in the table that swings out for use by either the couch or driver's seat. The Trend has a street side couch with storage under it but the storage space is only accessible from the outside. The Trend 23L has two TVs when one will do for us. The second one may let you watch TV in the loft bed or it, just for people sitting on the forward facing dinette seats. I would rather have the cabinet space behind the TV. The Trend has the Fantastic fan in the coach ceiling with a second small fan in the bathroom. There is a rear view mirror that lets the driver see what is going on inside and also contains a color outside rear view camera. The mirrors on the Trend are vastly better than the 2007 View. There are no wheel covers any more to lose since the wheels are aluminum. There is also no problem reading tire pressure on the rear tires because it doesn't have dual rear wheels. It has a built in tire pressure monitoring system but according to posts on the Viva-Trend Yahoo Group that system is buggy and needs a software fix.

The Trend gets 15 mpg according to actual experience from a delivery to our dealer. It uses regular gas. Our View got 16.1 mpg on a 6,000 mile trip in August/September. If gas sells for \$3.00 per gallon and diesel for \$3.22 per gallon the cost per mile will be the same. If gas is \$4.00 per gallon and diesel \$4.29 per gallon the cost per mile will be the same. Most of the time the difference is much higher so gas will be more economical. You will have to refuel more frequently with the Trend.

The ProMaster Chassis on the trend is new to this country but Fiat Ducato sells nearly 50,000 motorhomes per year in Europe. The Chassis is made in Monterey Mexico. In the US it is service by Chrysler dealers. There are many more Chrysler dealers than Mercedes or Freightliner so finding service should not be as difficult as it is with Sprinters.

I put my head down underneath and made a few discoveries. The generator is mounted underneath in the middle and you could not change the oil without being on a lift or ramp. The holding tanks are both on the road side rear under the bathroom and both drain into a single dump pipe. This is a huge advantage over the View 23B which has separate dumps for each holding tank requiring the

unit to be moved during a dump. There is no spare tire on the Trend. Some owners are using the trailer hitch to support a spare tire. I can live without the spare as long as I have CoachNet to call. We rarely ever go off paved highways. The chassis battery is under the floor between the driver seat and the console. I never did find where the two coach batteries are hidden.

In conclusion, there will not be a diesel engine dropped into the Trend for a long time. It would take a major redesign of the whole unit to accommodate diesel. Winnebago will stick with the Sprinter chassis for owners that want diesel, slideouts, and toads. If it's time to trade-in your View/Navion take a good look at the Itasca Viva/Winnnebago Trend.

Comparison of Trend 23L vs 2007 View 23B

Bunk beds	View Better
Convection microwave	View
Engine torque	View
High elevation engine performance	View
Generator access	View
Overall Storage	View
Fueling stops	View
Carrying capacity	Little Difference
Fantastic fan	Equal
Bathroom	Equal
Galley	Equal
Swivel seats in cab	Trend Better
Dinette	Trend
Rear view mirrors	Trend
Rear view camera	Trend
Tire pressure monitoring	Trend
Wheel covers	Trend
Fuel cost per mile	Trend
Holding tank dumps	Trend