

Before you bring a vehicle to Panama

Written by T. Rob Brown (aka Roberto Chocolate)

Thursday, 29 April 2010 14:54 - Last Updated Tuesday, 11 May 2010 21:02

Here is a question about bringing a North American vehicle to Panama - it was answered by Nasira of Paperwork Panama - a new service that helps people with any paperwork they need done in Panama - a godsend!!! Roberto

QUESTION:

Hello Roberto,

We are going to look at a 1986 Dodge Roadtrek camper van this weekend. We are considering buying something like it to drive from Alberta to Panama next winter. Do you think there would be a resale market for it down there? I realize that motor homes and campers are not that common. Wondered if that would work for or against us for selling it when we got there. Hope to drive around Panama and decide if we want to become pensionados and live there at least 6 months of the year and possibly more. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

*Thank you,
Debra*

ANSWER:

Dear Roberto,

Dodge is not a brand that the Panamanian market knows or handles for sale.

I wouldn't recommend her buying the camper van for resale in Panama for the following reasons:

1) Locals prefer Japanese, Korean, and European cars.

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2) None of the mechanics know how to fix those cars.

3) The parts are very difficult to find. Panama is not the target market for those cars.

Regards,

Nasira

Roberto's Note: Yes, you could sell it to another expat, but they know you are limited in your resale options, and they know they will have problems finding parts or mechanics who can work on it too - and their offer, if you get one - will reflect that.

An option is don't sell it - keep it and rent it out as housing during peak times or use it yourself. There is one RV park in Panama that I know of - XS Memories in Santa Clara (xsmemories@yahoo.com). See my article on RV's In Panama in the Panama Destination section.