



*Rooms on wheels meet seasonal accommodation needs.* Photo by Lorie A. Tuma

perspective, government-funded as well as privately developed campgrounds have essentially shifted capital investment needs to campers who bring along their tents, camper trailers, trailers (also called caravans), and RVs. Rather than investing in expensive buildings that could remain empty for a large part of the year, limited investments can be made in support facilities when travelers bring along their own accommodations.

In response to the growing popularity of RVs, many lodging facilities, especially when associated with casinos, are providing parking spaces for these vehicles. Nowhere is the mutually beneficial relationship between traditional lodging facilities and RVs more evident than at Walt Disney World or in Laughlin, Nevada. Specifically designed campgrounds and parking spaces with full RV hookups are adding to the accommodations base. In addition, whole communities of travelers can be found springing up on a “temporary” basis in Arizona, Florida, and south Texas during the winter months or in the mountains of Alberta, British Columbia, Colorado, New Mexico, Montana, Washington, and Wyoming during the summer months.

## Rooms, Rooms, and More

From some of the more specialized and unique types of accommodations, we now move to hotels and motels that meet the majority of travelers’ lodging needs. The history of hotel development centers largely in the United States, as this is where the hotel concept originated.<sup>1</sup> The construction of the 170-room Tremont House in Boston in 1829 technically marked the beginning of the hotel segment of the tourism industry in the United States. Services and conveniences such as a “rotunda man” (bellhop) to carry guest bags because there was no elevator, a restaurant featuring French cuisine, private rooms with locks, soap and pitchers of water in each room, and indoor toilets made the Tremont a special place to stay. The opening of the Brown Palace Hotel in Denver, Colorado, in 1892, with its distinctive atrium design, marked another significant milestone in lodging history.

The next major change in the development of modern lodging occurred when Ellsworth M. Statler opened the Buffalo (New York) Statler Hotel in 1908. This hotel truly revolutionized the industry because it was designed and operated with guest comfort, convenience, and safety in mind. Each room had an electric light just inside the doorway, a private bath with tub and toilet, and a pitcher of iced water. In addition,