



General Manager Brent Froman relaxes at the rear of the fifth wheel. Behind him are two bunk beds.



KZ RV Durango Half-Ton 275BHS

Northern Indiana had plenty of travel trailers aspiring to mimic fifth wheel elements, features or floorplans.

The Durango Half-Ton 275BHS was the rare fifth wheel that looked to emulate a travel trailer.

The 275BHS is smaller and lighter than most fifth wheels, as KZ targets the unit to potential consumers driving 1/2-ton trucks. The 32-foot, 7,870-pound fifth wheel is a single-slide bunkhouse.

One key 2021 change includes new bedroom closet washer/dryer prep. General Manager Brent Froman said hookups are uncommon in the lightweight fifth wheel price point.

The addition of the washer/dryer prep required KZ designers to create a new bedroom configuration, pushing the bed back. As a side benefit, the move opened the bedroom space.

The bunkhouse is set in a raised area at the rear of the coach, behind the tri-fold sofa. For privacy, closing the curtains will hide the stacked bunk beds. With the hide-a-bed sofa and bunks, the unit sleeps six.

The theater dinette is positioned directly across from the TV in the 2021 model. The 275BHS features auto/soft close cabinet drawers and added a larger 24-inch residential microwave oven. Solid hardwood doors and facias are used throughout.

Providing the hide-a-bed, bigger microwave, larger 15,000 BTU AC and TV as standard items separates the Durango Half-Ton from other entry-level fifth wheels units that offer those items only as options.

Other notable amenities include a 40-inch living area fireplace, stainless steel sink and a DVD player.

In addition, Durango is leaning into solar power and lithium batteries.

Each unit in 2021 will be lithium-battery ready, with a dual converter switch on the outside to change from lead-acid to lithium-powered batteries. Because the lithium batteries charge

at different rates than lead, systems might get only an 80 percent charge from a lithium battery without the dual converter.

Solar prep is standard, but an optional upgrade package is available that includes two 110-watt solar panels, a 30-amp MPPT solar charge controller with remote panel and a 2,000-watt pure sine inverter.

The MPPT controller differs from comparable PWM units by drawing an estimated 30 percent power increase from the panels.

Additionally, an optional Xantrex lithium battery is available to stay off-grid longer. One of the criticisms of lithium batteries is that they need jump-starting when completely drained. Xantrex units automatically shut off with 10 percent remaining charge to allow the solar panels to fully recharge the batteries.

What the Editorial Team Liked

The decision to reconfigure the bedroom to open space in the 275BHS really opened up the coach. The unit offers plenty of family/friends sleeping space and the standard quality features will go a long way with budget-conscious individuals upgrading to a price-conscious fifth wheel.

