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Practical Motorhome

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AUTO-SLEEPER AIR

Smart and well designed, this surprisingly spacious campervan has a great deal to offer touring couples, says Andrew Jenkinson

With all of the heritage of the Auto-Sleepers brand behind it, the new Auto-Sleeper Air is a campervan with plenty of promise. This is despite the fact that it's entering what is now a very crowded market.

Based on the SWB Ford Transit Custom, the Air's low-key exterior features subtle graphics. Our test model was smartly finished in Diffused Silver, one of a choice of four metallic colours which are a no-cost option; these also include the Chrome Blue of the model shown on the cover of this issue.

The six-speed Select Shift gearbox is a £2000 extra, but park assists, sat nav and adaptive cruise control are all fitted as standard.

The campervan sleeps up to four and comes with a roof that is raised on gas struts, a Thule pull-out awning with integrated awning light and an electric step on the side entrance.

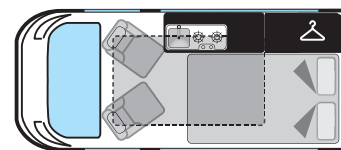
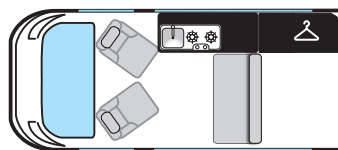
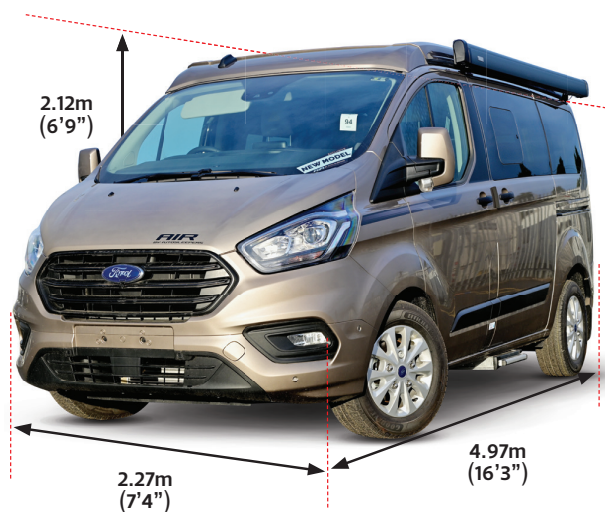
Inside, the bench seat slides via a locking lever at its base, to allow the seats to go back or further forward.

On the side of the front seat is a bracket for placing the steel table leg in position. The cab seats then swivel around to complete the circle. This arrangement should be acceptable for four, but if there are just the two of you touring, the Air would be better still.

The three belted travel seats are comfortable, although sliding the bench seat forward might obscure access to the cupboard, where the toilet is placed beneath the kitchen.

There are two USB and mains sockets in the area by the door, where there is also a blown-air outlet for the Webasto diesel heating system. There's plenty of night-time lighting, too.

Price £66,995
(£68,995 as reviewed)
Sleeps 4 **Belts** 5
Base Ford Transit Custom
Engine 2.0-litre 168bhp turbodiesel with six-speed auto gearbox
Length/width/height 4.97/2.27/2.12m (16'3"/7'4"/6'9")
MTPLM 3200kg
MiRO 2400kg
Payload 800kg
Water (fresh/waste) 40/40 litres
Leisure battery 60Ah
Gas 15 litres, underslung



Contact Auto-Sleepers **Address** Orchard Works, Willersey, Nr Broadway, Worcestershire WR12 7QF **Web** www.air-camper.com **Tel** 01386 853 338

The camper's raising roof, which is straightforward to lift and lower, offers loads of headroom during the day, and a double bed at night. There's a ladder to access the upstairs sleeping area. This area has no night-time lighting, but there are side vents.

The lounge converts easily into a flat, comfortable and generously sized bed that will suit most adults.

The side kitchen comes with a good amount of storage and an opening window with flyscreens and a blind. There is integral lighting for night-time

use of the kitchen area. The area is fitted with a Dometic two-burner hob and there's a grill underneath that, for the essential bacon sandwich breakfast.

The useful worktop is smartly finished in a fashionable charcoal colour. The kitchen cupboard houses the Dometic portable toilet, although when pitched, we would suggest storing this at the rear of the vehicle for easier access.

The kitchen has more mains sockets and USB ports, and a sink deep enough for washing up when needed. Overall, the grey finish combines with chrome

up close



Raising roof lifts on gas struts and offers plenty of headroom



Thule pull-out awning is fitted with an integrated awning light



Park assists, sat nav and adaptive cruise control all come as standard



Lots of space for storing bulkier items of luggage at the rear



- 1** Belted travel seats are comfortable, and bench slides back and forth for optimum flexibility...
- 2** ... or easily converts into a generous double bed, which is roomy enough for most adults
- 3** Kitchen sink can accommodate washing up when required, and is smartly finished to complement charcoal work surface

push handles for added style.

Given the limited space available, the Air's designers have clearly gone to great lengths to provide as much storage capacity as possible.

Lift the tailgate at the rear and you'll see cupboards and a small wardrobe. There are two handy LED spotlights here, too. The cold shower is ideal for cleaning off muddy boots, or your dog.

In addition, there is a neat storage compartment on the rear nearside. The seat base has more storage space, which is deep and easy to access.

Finally, the sliding bench seat moves forward to provide yet more space for bulkier luggage behind.

The camper's rear nearside corner houses the LPG filling point and a gas BBQ point. On the opposite side you'll find the waste water emptying point and the hook-up connection. The water tank filler is placed just inside the footwell of the driver's seat.

The Air comes equipped with a 60W solar panel, a Webasto Air Tap 2000 diesel heating system, and 40-litre fresh and waste water tanks.

PRACTICAL MOTORHOME SAYS...

Auto-Sleepers has a successful camper on its hands with the Air, which comes with a lot of kit and feels very well made.

This neat 'van can be used as a day-to-day drive, then as an escape to freedom at the weekends. It's probably more suited to accommodating two, but if you take the grandchildren along, there's room for them, too. Although the campervan market is quite crowded these days, the Air should do well.



Mains sockets and USBs are well placed adjacent to the kitchen



You also get a 45-litre Dometic compressor fridge in the kitchen



Directional LED spots are well placed for night-time lighting



External shower is handy for rinsing down muddy walking boots, or dogs