

Camping & Caravanning

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All the white horses

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INSIDE:

Pitch up with us during National Camping and Caravanning Week





Elddis Xplore 402

Elddis unveiled its latest two-berth Xplore caravan at the Caravan and Camping Show in Birmingham earlier this year.

CANDY EVANS took a look inside

THE Xplore range is designed to be lightweight but Elddis has ensured this doesn't mean Spartan.

In its newest model, the two-berth Xplore 402, you won't find some of the finer touches from other Elddis or Buccaneer caravans. For example, there are only a couple of reading lights over the double bed rather than the four you'll find in other 'vans but you certainly don't lose anything vital.

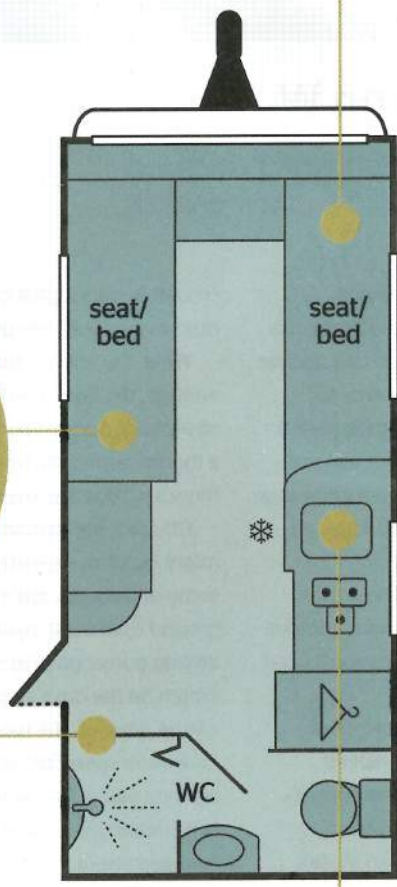
Heating is provided by the Whale gas and electric heater, which is tucked away to leave space for a dresser with plenty of cupboards opposite the kitchen.

Elddis has discontinued its tiny two-berth 302 model, with the 402 a metre longer. The extra internal space makes it significantly more practical and it still weighs in at less than 1,150kg. One point to note, the standard model only allows you to carry a maximum of 146kg of kit. You can ask for this to be increased to 357kg as long as your towcar and driving licence allows you to tow up to 1,350kg.

During the day: The living area is comfortable and bright. Again, it belies its budget origins with smart furnishings, sporting light blue piping on the seat cushions to match the curtain edging. The only pattern is on the two scatter cushions, meaning the overall effect is unfussy and smart.

The washroom: This is another well-designed space in this small caravan. There's a good-size shower with bi-fold door, spacious basin and storage space beneath the basin and above the cassette toilet. I particularly like the extra shelving to the side of the basin unit. It includes space for a toilet roll and two shelves, along with a good flat top to hold toothbrushes and toothpaste far enough away from the basin to stop them falling in.

At night: The front sofas can be used as two single beds or one large double. The slats for the double bed pull out from under the front chest of drawers. There's a neat touch inside the drawers, where the base of each has an attractive Paisley-pattern design, showing an attention to detail you might not expect in a budget caravan.



Preparing food: The hob has three gas burners, one large and two small. The combined grill and oven is beneath it, next to the fridge. Storage is good in this area, and there's even room for a tall cereal packet, though the work surface is quite limited. The free-standing table - stored in its own small cupboard - gives extra space if you need it.



at a glance

Price as tested	£13,869
Prices start at	£13,494
Club Care insurance	£319
Berths	Two
Bed sizes	Double 1.83m x 0.69m or two singles 1.83m x 1.98m
Kitchen	Three-burner hob; combined grill and oven
Electrics	Six 230V sockets; 12V socket with TV aerial point
Gas	Mountings for two 6kg cylinders
Length x width x height	5.96m x 2.18m x 2.74m
Mass in Running Order	993kg
Maximum Technically Permissible Laden Mass	1,139kg
User payload	146kg
BE licence required	No - with suitable vehicle such as VW Golf 1.6 TDI 5dr 105PS
Warranty	Three years parts and labour; ten years water ingress
Supplier	Elddis
Web	www.elddis.co.uk
Tel	0871 964 2113

verdict

A neat two-berth caravan that's well equipped given its budget price tag.