

# Benimar

## Mileo 346

A family-friendly Benimar coachbuilt with storage and payload as the priorities



### FACT FILE

**BASE VEHICLE** Fiat Ducato

**PRICE FROM** £54,995

**BERTHS** 6

**TRAVEL SEATS** 6

**LENGTH** 7.12m

**WIDTH** 2.30m

**HEIGHT** 3.05m

**GROSS WEIGHT** 4,400kg

**PAYLOAD** 1,130kg

### ALSO CONSIDER

Chausson Flash C714 GA



**T**HIS model from Spanish manufacturer, Benimar – sold in the UK exclusively by Marquis Leisure and its partners – is aimed squarely at buyers looking for maximum payload and storage capacity.

It's an overcab coachbuilt offering a fixed transverse double bed at the rear, above a large garage. This bed, which is likely to be used as the main berth for two adults, is accessed by a couple of large permanent steps. It has high-level storage across the back wall and a window at each end of the bed.

There is another double bed in the luton, which is perfect for a couple of kids, and has

both a mini-skylight and a window on the offside for ventilation and light.

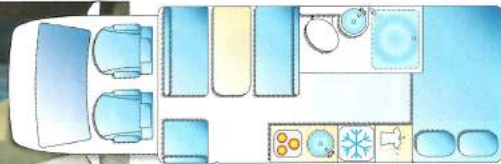
The final two berths are created from the dinette seating, which comprises both forward and rear-facing seats, meaning this model has six travel seats with seatbelts to match its six berths. To make this bed, one lowers the table to create the bed's central base, using the cushions and seat bases for the mattress.

In daytime mode, the lounge provides seating for all. The rear-facing bench can be extended from beside the habitation door right across the full width of the vehicle with the aid of additional slot-in cushions, while there's also the possibility

to widen the forward-facing bench on site. However, the lounge is more dining than relaxing-orientated and will suit four better than the full complement of six folk.

The side kitchen is well-equipped, with a 145-litre fridge with separate freezer, a microwave and a three-burner gas hob with oven below. There is storage both at high and low-level and a circular sink with removable glass cover.

Opposite, one finds the washroom, which boasts a separate shower with a wooden



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The Benimar brand is sold through the Marquis network, with its 12 outlets covering most of England – from Poole and Plymouth in the south to Preston and County Durham in the north.



In Scotland and Ireland Benimar motorhomes are sold through Marquis' partners – The Motorhome Company in Perthshire and Camper Ni in Co Down.

The Benimar range imported by Marquis has specification and layouts that have been developed especially for the UK, including placing the habitation door on the British nearside.

**WHO IS BENIMAR?**

This Spanish maker developed a strong following here in the late 1990s and early 2000s based on great value for money, primarily with its Europe and Europe Top overcab coachbuilts. It then disappeared from the UK scene, before being reintroduced by Marquis in 2014, firstly with Mileo low-profiles on Fiat.



The Mileo range has grown to include a wider choice of layouts as well as overcab coachbuilts, while Tessoro low-profiles added Ford-based models to the line-up. New for 2019 are a more entry-level Primero range of coachbuilts on Fiat and a pair of Benivan van conversions, the latter actually built in the UK by Auto-Trail.

Benimar is owned by the French Trigrano Group, which also encompasses manufacturers including Adria, Auto-Sleepers, Auto-Trail, Chausson, Mobilvetta, Randger and Roller Team, as well as major retailer (and Benimar importer), Marquis.



duckboard, a circular washbasin and a swivel Thetford loo. There is low-level storage below the basin and also high-level storage above the opaque window.

As with the entire Mileo range, this 346 is built using 99% wood-free construction methods and to NCC-Approved standards with a full UK specification; it also has Grade III insulation and a five-year water ingress warranty.

Again, as with all models in the Mileo range, the 346 is based on a Euro 6 Fiat Ducato, this time with the uprated 150bhp output from its 2.3-litre turbo-diesel. As standard, there is a six-

speed manual transmission but, for those who prefer (or require) two-pedal motoring, there is Fiat's Comfort-Matic robotised gearbox option (priced at £2,100).

Unlike many motorhomes in its class, this Benimar comes on the Ducato Maxi 4,400kg chassis, which means you will need a category C1 licence to drive it. Most drivers who passed their driving test prior to 1999 will have this under 'grandfather rights' but do check you are able to drive this weight of vehicle. The advantage of using this heavier chassis is that Benimar is able to provide buyers with a huge 1,130kg of

payload, which will be more than ample to carry a family and their holiday kit.

In the cab, the specification is also high, with air-conditioning and cruise control coming as standard, as is a high-level DAB radio with touchscreen sat-nav and integrated reversing camera. Safety equipment includes ESP, Traction Control and Hill Assist, while other habitation extras that have been included as standard include exterior barbecue and shower points, a solar panel and a GPS Trackstar Leisure category 6 tracker with free one year's subscription.