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Swift Sprite Major 6 TD

ROB GANLEY investigates whether the latest Sprite can still be considered a basic caravan

FOR THE 2018 season, Swift Group consolidated its caravan line up: Sprite became a range rather than a standalone brand and got a complete revamp.

It's still Swift Group's entry-level tourer range, but Sprite doesn't look basic, and some would argue a starting price of more than £18,000 for a family 'van is no longer entry-level.

Take that stylish front panel with three separate windows - it's not something you'd normally see in a caravan brand's lead-in range.

Our test model was fitted with the £365 optional sunroof, as well as the £495 Diamond Pack that brings alloy wheels, a hitch head stabiliser and a few other goodies including a microwave.

Step inside, and it's a well-established, popular family layout, featuring a front lounge, central kitchen and washroom, and rear sleeping quarters for the kids. The latter consists of fixed rear bunk beds on the offside and a secondary dinette on the nearside that also converts to bunk beds.

The white overhead locker doors, two-tone grey padded upholstery and blue curtains are attractive, but we wonder how they'll fare after a couple of seasons stress-tested by a full complement of kids.

All the windows have cassette blinds and flyscreens, and there are LED spotlights beneath the

overhead lockers and within the sunroof surround, which also houses a pair of speakers for the stereo.

For occupants lounging up front, there's a slide out surface, which is handy for resting a light snack or mug of tea, plus a freestanding table for family mealtimes. This stashes in the wardrobe when it's not in use.

The secondary dinette on the near side at the rear has a table that clips neatly to a wall-mounted rail, and when used as a lounge it ensures parents and kids have separate areas to call their own.

Storage in the kitchen is ample - there are two overhead lockers, one of which comes with a built-in crockery rack. A cutlery drawer sits between the oven and three-way fridge, with a large cupboard beneath it, some of which is taken up by the caravan's wheel arch.

The central washroom is a good size for those families with young children who may need help in this department. The shower cubicle is large, although there's no roof vent to release condensation. There's a decent-sized sink with a large shelved cupboard underneath it, and a circular toilet. A large mirror on the forward bulkhead, and an even larger one immediately outside the washroom on the adjacent wardrobe door, should suffice.

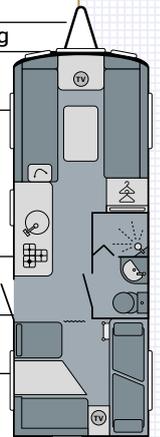
Perhaps the only shortcoming about this kind of layout is that adults still have to make up their bed every night - or use the sofas as twin 6ft single beds.

The fixed bunks at the back also measure 6ft, so are long enough for teenagers, but are rather narrow. Each bunk gets its own light and a cubbyhole for stowing small items.

And as well as external access to the area under the rear bunk, you also get access flaps to both the areas under the front settees. 

at a
 glance

- Price as tested** £19,005
- Prices start at** £18,145
- Club Care insurance** £175
- Berths** Six
- Bed sizes** Front double 2.02m x 1.80m or two singles 1.9m x 0.72m and 1.8m x 0.72m; bunks 1.8m x 0.67m and 1.76m x 0.59; fixed bunks 1.83m x 0.57m
- Kitchen** Three-burner hob; grill; oven; microwave
- Electrics** Five 230V sockets; two 12V socket with TV aerial point
- Gas Mountings** for two 6kg cylinders
- Length x width x height** 7.54m x 2.25m x 2.59m
- Mass in Running Order** 1,297kg
- Maximum Technically Permissible Laden Mass** 1,518kg
- User payload** 221kg
- BE licence required** Yes
- Warranty** Three years parts and labour; ten years water ingress
- Manufacturer** Swift
- Tel** 01482 875740
- Web** www.swiftgroup.co.uk



The Swift Sprite Major 6 TD

verdict

At just over £19,000, the Major 6 TD in this get-up provides a well thought through base for large family holidays.