

# Swift Autocruise Alto



Easy to pop off the main road, the Alto can be used to park up for a quiet lunch break. Rear doors open to give access to storage space.

Ideal for a couple, this stylish panel van conversion has a fixed bed and great storage packed into a compact space!

By Andy Jenkinson



The Peugeot cab is well appointed for an easy drive.

<b>Model:</b>	<b>Swift Autocruise Alto</b>
<b>Price:</b>	£48,750 OTR
<b>Base vehicle:</b>	Peugeot
<b>Engine:</b>	2.2 litres diesel, six-speed manual
<b>BHP:</b>	110
<b>Length:</b>	6.34 m (20'10")
<b>Width:</b>	2.26 m (7'5")
<b>Height:</b>	2.72 m (8'11")
<b>MTPLM:</b>	3500 kg
<b>Payload:</b>	390 kg
<b>Berths:</b>	3
<b>Fresh water:</b>	66 litres
<b>Waste water:</b>	41 litres

**We like:** Fixed-bed panel van, good storage, ideal for two, easy to use and drive, decent kit.

**We don't like:** Loo set too high; Truma heater wasn't powerful enough in cold conditions; a squeeze for three.



The Alto looks good as it enters the Caravan Club's Strathclyde Country Park site near Glasgow.

IT'S a few years since we looked at an Autocruise motorhome, so when we were offered a new improved Alto for a weekend, we jumped at the chance!

The timing was just right for the Scottish caravan show in Glasgow, so we had the Alto delivered to The Caravan Club's superb, recently refurbished site at Strathclyde Country Park. Ideal as a stop-over site, it's also great for getting into Glasgow and other notable areas of interest. Our weather was sunny but cold, with heavy frosts at night.

A fixed-bed panel van conversion may not appeal to some users because of the tight squeeze, but in this case the designers seem to have pulled it off.



A gas locker is situated by the sliding entrance door.

## Exterior ★★★★★

Our Alto came on a Peugeot conversion but Fiat is also offered as a base.

The rear doors open up to allow access to storage. Main service points are located on the offside, with a 12-volt water pump socket. The gas bottles (2 x 7 kg) are stored on the side, by the sliding entrance door.

The lounge seats two and the driver's chair swivels round for a third person.

Driving the Alto is easy, which will appeal to some owners who want to trade down from a larger coach-built motorhome. With the alloy wheels, decals and silver finish it looks like a decent motorhome and it offers style, too.

## Lounge ★★★★★

The new Alto has captain's chairs which can be turned round to face the interior of the van. The lounge offers two belted seats facing the front and an extending table which is attached to the side wall beneath the window.

It's fine for two, but three may struggle a little bit, as we did. There's great lighting from LEDs and spotlights, and a TV mounting bracket is situated in the lounge.

The front cab is an extension of the lounge, which we used to give us more breathing space.



The kitchen is well fitted out. Storage and worktop are tight, though a swivel-out worktop helps a little.

## Kitchen ★★★★★

It's here that the Alto's designers really had to scratch their heads, because getting so much into such a small space must have been no easy task. There's a microwave, a Dometic fridge (80 litres) and a small oven but only a twin-burner gas hob.

Worktop is at a premium, but an extending flap adds a little bit extra. The deep stainless steel sink comes with a glass top. Night-time illumination is provided by LED lights, and there's a power point for a kettle.

For a couple, the kitchen will prove fine - but you need to be organised!



The rear bedroom has a Heki roof vent and roof mounted speakers.

## Beds and seating ★★★★★

The two front-facing seats in the lounge proved comfortable, as did the seats in the cabin. The side dinette makes up into a single bed, which isn't over-easy the first time you do it - this is really a motorhome for two rather than three.

In the rear bedroom is a side fixed bed - it's not the biggest, nor would we expect it to be. However, it has a Duvalay mattress and after several nights it proved more comfortable than we first thought, and we weren't too short on room. A fixed side bed in a panel van is a big ask, but the Alto pulls it off.

The Truma Combi heater is fitted under the bed, which is OK, but in the winter weather we found it needed to be more powerful to keep the Alto really warm.

## Washroom ★★★

The side washroom is pretty large - possibly a little too large! A few inches skimmed off its width would open up the main body of the living area. It is practical, but the Thetford loo is raised quite a bit higher than normal!

A moulded hand basin and vanity unit are part of the spec, but no side window is fitted. The roof vent will allow ventilation and natural light. We feel it would be a tad better with a side window.



The washroom has limited storage, and the loo is raised quite high, too!



The brilliant dresser unit has a large mirror and excellent lighting plus power points and heater controls.

## Storage ★★★★★

The Alto comes into its own here, and for a motorhome of this size it scores well.

The rear bedroom has brilliant cupboard and drawer storage, and it's all well lit at night. There's great storage space under the fixed bed, and a cupboard is fitted by the back doors. Overhead lockers are fitted in the bedroom. The kitchen has limited storage, but more is provided by overhead lockers in the lounge and under the seat base.

The washroom has some storage for toiletries, and we used it for putting coats out of the way. The wardrobe is surprising - not over-brimming with space, but we managed to put most of our clothes in it for a weekend. We didn't have to leave much behind!



Roof lockers offer good storage and there are plenty of them in the rear bedroom.

## Overall impressions ★★★★★

With a decent spec, the Alto is easy to drive and store, and will appeal to many buyers who want this type of vehicle. The fixed bed will be a big draw, and the storage is first class.

Living with the Alto means you need to be organised, as floor space is limited and you have to move around one at a time. We reckon it makes a good couple's motorhome, and it should prove a popular addition to the Autocruise line-up.

[www.swiftgroup.co.uk](http://www.swiftgroup.co.uk)

Our thanks to Swift Group, Claire Fordon, and the wardens at The Caravan Club's Strathclyde Country Park site