

Swift Rio

Compact on the outside, Tardis-like on the inside, the new **Rio** has already been selling like hot cakes - and we can see why!

By Andy Jenkinson



Most service points are on the offside. Graphics are bold and add to the styling.

Model:	Swift Rio 340 Lowline
Price:	£46,280 OTR
Base vehicle:	Fiat
Engine:	2.3 litre diesel, 6-speed manual
BHP:	130
Length:	6.40 m (21')
Width:	2.26 m (7'5")
Height:	2.78 m (9'1")
MTPLM:	3500 kg
Payload:	535 kg
Berths:	4
Fresh water:	90 litres
Waste water:	68 litres

We like: Compact coach-built model, excellent interior space, good spec, great looks, well built.

We don't like: Shower room has no window; only two scatter cushions; wardrobe is a little small.



The front sunroof was loosely fitted on our test model. A Status TV aerial is included. The sides are built using wood-free construction.



The Swift Rio 340 is easy to park up, offering a flexible motorhome that can go off the beaten track.

OVER the last year Swift has been busy developing its motorhome ranges and we were impressed with the new Rio that was launched for 2015. This coach-built motorhome is neatly designed to suit the dimensions of a panel van, and it has a back panel that lifts up.

Getting a Rio to test has been a hard job, because it has taken off beyond Swift's expectations! Luckily we managed to grab one for a couple of days to see how good it really was.



The rear panel lifts up for storing larger items or just to let air through on a hot day.

Exterior ★★★★★

We were immediately taken with the classy looks of the Rio. Based on the latest Fiat, this coach-built looks so good with its classic smooth profile and Swift decals. There is a sunroof, of course, which on our test 'van whistled in the wind while we were on the move - we think this was a fault with the unit itself.

An LPG locker is placed on the nearside while a water outlet, mains socket and cassette loo access are on the offside. Tough aluminium sides are used, and Seitz windows are fitted. The back panel lifts up and a fold-down step allows access through the rear. A useful feature on sunny days!

Lounge ★★★★★

The Rio is almost Tardis-like! Our test team made several surprised comments about the space. The lounge will seat four with ease, and it's comfortable.

Good daylight is provided by two large side windows and the one at the rear. Night lighting is well taken care of, with LED corner spotlights and LED strips under the overhead side lockers.

Rear mounted speakers for the radio/CD player allow lounge users to listen to music. We liked the nice touch of the upholstered side window surrounds, which make the lounge feel that bit cosier. With the free-standing table placed here, four can eat in perfect ease. A full five stars for the lounge!



The super-sized kitchen has great storage and worktop. The splashback lights up with the kitchen LED lights.

Kitchen ★★★★★

Just when you thought it couldn't get any better, the Rio's kitchen excels in both storage and worktop space. It's so easy to use and all at the right height. The spec is good, too - a Thetford fridge, microwave, full oven and dual-fuel hob are fitted.

Again, lighting here is superb and we loved the light-up splashback - another nice touch. The sink is a moulded plastic unit with clip-on drainer. The kitchen scored well with our testers, who gave it a definite thumbs-up!



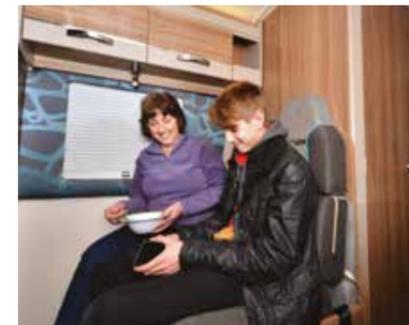
Fittings include a dual-fuel hob, a microwave and a good-sized sink with drainer.



The double bed is a good size and also makes a great place to chill!

Beds and seating ★★★★★

The rear seating offers good cushions to sit and sleep on, but we would have liked four scatter cushions instead of two, for extra comfort. It's easy to make up the dinette as a double bed, but the Rio also has a great trick in the shape of a double bed that is lowered down from the roof (the vehicle's key operates the electrical motor-driven system). Typical of Swift is the use of the Duvalay mattress, which ensures a good night's sleep.



Side front seats could do with being wider, for two to use.

Up front are two belted seats fitted on the offside. Our users felt it wasn't large enough, and you could easily slip off the edge of the seat. An overhead locker is fitted as well as a side window.

Washroom ★★★

We were a little disappointed with the washroom, because it doesn't feel quite as upmarket as the rest of the Rio. There's a roof vent but no side window, and a shower curtain is fitted. The hand basin is a little shallow.



The washroom has no window and is not over-generous in floor space.

The rear dinette offers a relaxing area after a meal, and four can be seated easily. Corner speakers provide radio or CD entertainment.



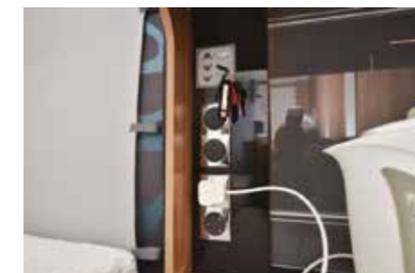
A large mirror and good night lighting in the washroom.

The washroom's floor space isn't over-generous, but it remains practical, with a Thetford cassette electric-flush loo. There's a large mirror and good lighting, so it's not all negative!

Storage ★★★★★

Again, the Rio scores well with overhead lockers in the rear and the dinette. The kitchen offers plenty of storage in three overhead units, and there are also cupboards and drawers - a real bonus in a motorhome of this size.

The wardrobe is quite tight for space, especially if four are travelling - a full-height unit would offer more storage. There's more space under the rear seating.



There are plenty of mains sockets. Keys operate the lowering of the double bed from the ceiling.

Overall impressions ★★★★★

The Rio 340 is a great coach-built motorhome with compact dimensions yet lots of good interior floor space. Driving it was so easy, and we think owners will enjoy exploring back roads, like we did, through small villages and open countryside.

We liked the kitchen - it's well designed and has great storage. Power points are well placed. The Truma heater kept us warm in a cold spell, and overall comfort was first class. We reckon most users will be couples who want the flexibility of sleeping four.

The Rio 340 offers so much! There were a few negatives but overall we think Swift has a winner, and at a good price, too!

Our thanks to Swift Group and to Claire Fordon at Preston Caravans & Motorhomes

www.swiftgroup.co.uk