



A section of kitchen surface hinges down over the bed; when it's up, it partitions off the bedroom

Sprite Quattro EW

It's among the lightest twin-axle caravans you can buy; it has a double bed and a full-width end shower room... the Quattro EW is a first-rate family option

The Quattro EW is a masterpiece of design ingenuity. Maker Swift has managed to shoehorn a double bed, a lounge, a sizeable kitchen, a dining area and a full-width shower room into a caravan with an overall length of 7.92m. How? By making the lounge L-shaped. Clever.

The same layout appears in the Sterling range, as the Eccles SE

Coral, with a higher spec, a price of £23,555 and an MTPLM of 1800kg. With no wish to detract from the gloss of the Coral, when you can get the same layout, albeit with less equipment, and save £6905, the Quattro has to be worthy of your consideration if you're in the market for a six-berth caravan with the bonus of twin-axle stability.

You might also consider the other Quattro, the long-established FB,

TESTED BY

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PHOTOGRAPHY

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which also has a double bed. It has a parallel lounge and a shower-toilet room alongside the bed.

The Quattro EW (end washroom), though, has the edge for buyers who prefer to shower in the caravan rather than use campsite facilities.

SHOWERING

The shower room has a familiar layout, with the shower on the nearside, the basin in the

centre and the toilet situated on the offside.

Floor space is not huge, at 90cm at its deepest point, tapering to 48cm at the entrance to the shower. This space isn't really enough for a parent to conduct the showering routine of small caravanners; but that may not be an issue, depending on the ages, and therefore the degree of independence, of your children.

There's no carpet in the shower room, which may be fine in summer but isn't great in winter, so buyers of Quattros will probably be also buying a bathroom-type rug to prevent cold feet from being a problem.

SLEEPING

This layout gives parents a permanent bed, divisible from the rest of the caravan by a pleated partition plus an extended kitchen

TECHNICAL STUFF

BERTHS 6
BODY 6.27M
OVERALL 7.92M
WIDTH 2.23M
HEADROOM 1.95M
WEIGHT MIRO 1348KG
MTPLM 1600KG



surface which hinges up to become part of a wall.

The offside dining area transforms into bunks that are 1.73m long. The mattresses are created by folding out each section of the seating upholstery, so that they become half the thickness of the seats. That's fine in terms of comfort for small, lightweight caravanners but, it has to be said, less comfortable as they become bigger and heavier.

The lounge makes into a double bed by sliding out a slatted base from under the settee which runs across the front of the caravan. The really useful asset here is that if you need beds for five, rather than six, the lounge creates a ready-made single bed in the form of the front settee, which is just over 2m long. Think teenager, or grandparent, perhaps; the Quattro EW offers lots of family versatility.

STORAGE

If you're using the lounge as a bedroom you'll attach importance to the ease of getting sleeping bags in and out of the spaces under the settees. Full-length, drop-down hatches take care of that.

You get into the spaces under the dining area seats by raising the tops; both the bases and the upholstery are light in weight so this is an easy task.

And, of course, there's a lovely big space under the double bed. It has unrestricted access (no bed-base structure to get in the way). The spare wheel takes up some of the space but that's fine. And you can open an exterior hatch to put stuff in and out if you wish; ideal for outdoor furniture.

With seven top lockers and a wardrobe that gives you 82cm of



The L-shaped dining-lounge area makes a cosy, self-contained corner



Spacious dining for two: the ideal breakfast area for the first early risers



In lounge mode, there's so much space!



Five bright lights close to the sunroof give good lounge illumination



There's enough cabinet and shelf space in the shower room for most families' needs



The sink is large, and has a surface which looks exceptionally durable

hanging width, storage facilities in the EW have to be regarded as excellent and well up to the task of catering for the needs of six people.

DINING

L-shaped lounges are generally regarded as less convenient than parallel configurations when they're in dining mode. But the EW is different in this respect.

In this caravan you can definitely seat four around the table, because there is a seat under the offside window. So, two on the front seat, and one on each end. There's a bit of an issue about plate spacing, though; on test we found the best way is to have the two end place settings as far as possible towards the edge of the table that's nearest to the back of the caravan, so leaving enough space for the plates of the people sitting on the front settee.

That's how you'd cope if there are six aboard, with two eating at the side dining table. If there are four or five, it's easier.

The main table sits on a single, chunky metal pole which inserts into a recess in the floor. The table top is stored with clips against the wall, to the rear of the wardrobe.

LOUNGING

Quattros have the Truma Combi 6 heating system, delivering 6kW when using gas and 1.8kW on electricity. When you use gas and mains together, the output is 5.8kW. The control panel is conveniently above the door and there are five outlets for the warmed air, including one in the lounge, to keep your toes toasty as you relax.

There's a good, deep windowsill to put books and other stuff on, and you'll find TV connections above the mini dresser which juts out to divide the lounge from the dining area. This has the effect of making these two regions feel quite separate.

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WHAT WE LIKE

- ▶ The L-shaped lounge
- ▶ The large kitchen surface
- ▶ The easy access to all lower storage areas
- ▶ The practical dark brown upholstery

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE

- ▶ The half-depth bunk mattress won't suit everyone
- ▶ Lack of carpet in the shower room
- ▶ Lower kitchen storage space is a little tight



Every aspect of this kitchen is big and practical, including the sink

KITCHEN

We've analysed the sleeping, dining, storage and lounging facets of the EW but how about the beating heart of family holidays, the kitchen? Is it up to the task of catering for six hungry holidaymakers without stressing the cook?

Hinge down the section of surface that partitions off the bedroom and take a look... the surface stretches 1.3m backwards from the hob, with only the sink to interrupt it. At its deepest point it's 71cm (it curves slightly). There's a full oven and grill, three burners and a microwave.

Lower storage space is the only aspect of the kitchen that you might question. The cabinet between the oven and the fridge is just 26cm wide with a 14cm-wide shelf running along one side. The small dresser gives you a deep, two-shelf cabinet that's 28cm wide, with two slide-out shelves and plenty of space beneath for tall items. If you think this isn't enough space for your needs, we'd recommend considering getting a couple of plastic boxes to keep under one of the settees, specifically for kitchen stuff. It's an idea we've used previously in a caravan we owned with restricted kitchen storage space, and it works well.

TOWING

If you want something that's easy to tow, buy a Quattro! We've towed

several Quattros over the last year or two and every time their performance has been impressively positive. And you don't need a car as beefy as our Sorento to do the job. This caravan is one of only four twin-axes on the market that are 1600kg or less. The other three are the Quattro FB, the Venus 620/6 and the new Lunar Quasar 646.

ALSO CONSIDER...

Sprite Quattro FB; Lunar Quasar 646; Venus 620/6; all are lightweight twin-axle six-berths

OPTIONS TO GO FOR...

Panoramic sunroof at £335; AL-KO ATC stability control system at £285

OUR VERDICT

Sometimes six-berth caravans have areas which seem compromised in terms of space in order to achieve so much sleeping accommodation. Commonly, this is the kitchen or the showering facilities. The Quattro EW, though, has no such compromises. Each area has enough space for great functionality. Especially the kitchen. The only element for which you might have to think outside the box is lower kitchen storage space. But there is so much space elsewhere that it's just a question of organisation. This is one brilliant caravan. Even when you factor in the £575 Diamond Pack with which every Sprite is equipped (that includes a hitch-head stabiliser, microwave and two wheel locks), the EW is still good value.

THE QUATTRO EW HAS NO SPACE COMPROMISES. EACH AREA HAS ENOUGH SPACE FOR GREAT FUNCTIONALITY

