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WASHROOM
So often washrooms feel cramped or shoehorned in to provide space elsewhere. The triumph of this layout means the shower, basin and toilet all have their own distinct space. The shower, with an Ecocamel head, is large enough to move around in comfortably, while the basin fits between the sliding doors, so manoeuvring around the fittings becomes a thing of the past. The area is divided from the living space by a solid hinged door.



EATING
The kitchen space is a highlight of this 'van. The scratch-resistant worktop, stainless steel sink and fittings all ooze quality. There's a three-burner hob with a hotplate, grill and oven, while the real treat is the towering 134-litre Dometic fridge freezer situated opposite. The microwave is positioned between food lockers, so as not to be directly above the hob. A flip-up section of worktop adds space when needed and an extractor fan sits overhead.

Swift Conqueror 560

STUART KIDMAN gives his verdict on a Swift caravan with a new layout that's growing in popularity

WITH A BED AT EITHER END and the washroom planted squarely across the middle of the 'van, Swift's Conqueror 560 is finding quite a few admirers thanks to its unusual layout.

It's an idea that's been introduced by a few manufacturers recently and Swift has followed suit on this caravan, the Sterling Elite 560 and the larger twin-axle Conqueror 650.

The homely feel and ability to separate the sleeping area from the living area has been met with plenty of appreciation from buyers and reviewers. I think it works brilliantly.

The effect is to turn the caravan into three 'rooms', so the washroom can be accessed from both sides without disturbing any of the other slumbering occupants.

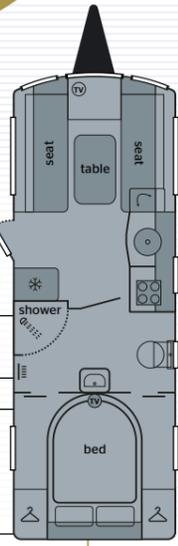
Parallel bench seats at the front are paired with a fixed island bed at the rear, providing ample space for four.

There's also external gas and electric points and a high specification including a Bluetooth stereo system and smartphone control of the heating and lighting thanks to Swift's Command system and its associated app.

There's a plush feel and the materials used add to the pleasant ambience.

But the plaudits are mainly reserved for the layout. It's a very clever use of space, though there are a few small compromises, as you might expect.

STORAGE
Copious locker space and under bed storage at the back is helped out by decent space beneath the seating area and above it in the overhead cabinets. The rear wardrobes are a helpful inclusion, one housing the freestanding table, the other the Alde wet heat system.



at a glance

- Price as tested £26,040
- Club Care insurance £520
- Berths Four
- Length x width x height 7.49m x 2.26m x 2.61m
- Mass in Running Order 1,515kg
- Maximum Technically Permissible Laden Mass 1,671kg
- User payload 156kg
- BE licence required Yes
- Manufacturer Swift
- Tel 01482 875740
- Web www.swiftgroup.co.uk

SLEEPING

The first and most obvious issue Swift has had to address is the length of the rear fixed bed. The luxurious Duvalay memory-foam mattress makes it wonderfully comfortable but for my 5ft 10in frame it was just a couple of inches too short. There's plenty of room beneath the bed for storage though, as well as on either side in the upright and overhead storage lockers.

The bed's island design makes it possible for either occupant of the double bed to access the washroom, thanks to the two sliding doors leading to this space. There's also a TV point and a socket at the foot end. In front the daytime seating converts easily into another double bed.

verdict

A great layout that's practical and results in a true home-from-home feel.

