

WINNER

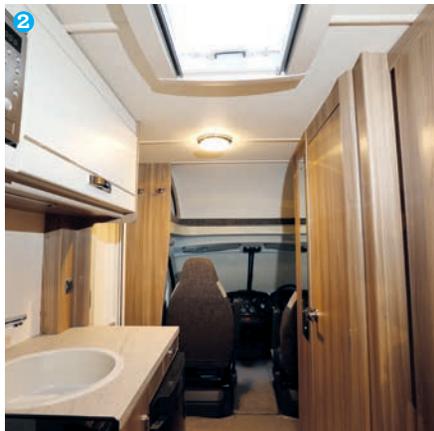
Best budget buy
under £41,000



Swift Escape 622

A perennial favourite among UK buyers – and indeed our judges – the Escape blends impressive affordability with comfort and high levels of specification

- **Price** From £37,700 OTR
- **Sleeps** 2
- **Belts** 2 ➤ **Base vehicle** Fiat Ducato
- **Engine** 2.3-litre turbodiesel, 130bhp
- **L/W/H** 6.3/2.31/2.85m (20'8"/7'7"/9'4")
- **MTPLM** 3300kg
- **Payload** 534kg
- **Water (fresh/waste)** 65/68 litres
- **Leisure battery** 80Ah ➤ **Gas** 2 x 7kg
- CONTACT** www.swiftgroup.co.uk



'You don't want for much kit in an Escape – they come with everything you could need to start touring straight away'

It really isn't surprising that Escape continues to be a best-seller, because it offers a fine combination of affordability and value for money. It was conceived as a budget line to tackle a low-price wave of foreign imports but, following successive seasons of improvements, there's not much that's 'budget' about it. You don't want for much kit in an Escape – they come with pretty much everything you could need to start your touring adventures right away. But if this isn't enough, the optional Comfort Pack (£1295) adds a passenger airbag, cab air-con, an electric entrance step, a windscreen blind, a TV aerial, a heated waste-water tank and insulated pipes.

The end-lounge, two-berth 622 was a recent addition to the range, and breaks the tape at 6.3m. It's an ideal starter 'van, priced well below the psychological £40k barrier, at £37,700. Although it is based on a 3300kg chassis, users still get north of 500kg of payload, making it more than up to the job for twosomes on

tour. But they needn't be romantically linked: the spacious rear lounge can be configured either as twin single beds (both around 6ft long), or a substantial double. Converting this space for mealtimes is a cinch, thanks to a folding leaf table, and the kitchen marries a decent amount of worktop with three gas burners, a combination oven/grill, a dual-fuel fridge and a microwave.

Interior ambience is spot-on, too. The lighting is low-energy LEDs throughout, and the soft furnishings work well with the light-toned woods. It's pleasing to see that, even at this price point, Swift has opted for contrasting overhead lockers in the kitchen: a bit of class to go with the comfort. And it has this in spades, too, with standard kit including a DAB radio plus Bluetooth and USB connectivity, Truma Combi 4 space and water heating, and a spare wheel.

The 622 is a great take on a layout that's a fond favourite of UK buyers.

Niall Hampton

- ➊ **'Simple but stylish' best describes the looks of the Escape range, with slender bodyshells making them easy to drive**
- ➋ **The offside washroom lies opposite a fully equipped galley**
- ➌ **Huge rear lounge is a sociable space, and at night can be turned into two single beds or a large double**