



WE LOVE:
The extra space afforded by the Xcel body

Coachman Acadia Xcel 830

Coachman Caravans has been back at work, producing caravans, since June. **Ian Hewlett** visited the factory to have a look at a large family caravan that has been added to the Acadia range for the 2021 season

The Acadia range was introduced last year, providing an entry level caravan range for Coachman. The Xcel is the new, wider version added for 2021. All models now have AAA Automatic Adjustment brakes from AL-KO (see p69 for more details) and are built using Coachman's Advanced Bonding Construction (ABC) technique with a ten-year water ingress warranty. Alde wet heating is also standard across the range - this domestic-style heating helps avoid cold spots.

This 830 model is designed for five people, and has a good amount of storage but you'll need to be careful how much weight you add. Apart from the new Coachman badge and extra width, there isn't a lot of

difference from the exterior look of the 2020 models. The front locker is split in two, one for gas and the other for storage. External barbecue and 230V electrical sockets are provided, as well as external TV aerial points in the battery locker.

Lounging around

It's surprising how much difference that extra 18cm (7in) of body width makes to the interior. The large L-shaped sofa allows everyone to spread out on the two-tone grey plush upholstery, which I feel may be a little too light given the typical wear you would expect from a family using it. There is a long shelf with a large cupboard underneath on one side where



▲▲ The Xcel bodyshell makes for a wider caravan
▲ The L-lounge up front, and separate central dinette, is ideal for families who prefer their own space onboard
◀ The TV power and aerial sockets are neatly clustered and well positioned



◀ Clockwise from top left: There's ample storage space in the bathroom; the kitchen has split levels for food preparation; at night, the front double bed and central bed are simple to make up; the rear bunk beds each have their own spotlight; the centre dinette table lowers to become a bed base

the TV power (230V and 12V) and aerial sockets are positioned. There are four LED spot lights and mood lighting, but only one additional mains socket and no 12V connections. You can connect to the radio via USB or auxiliary-in to play music. There is a large sun window and concertina blinds on the majority of windows. The loose lay carpets now have a deep pile and are stain-resistant.

The side dinette has plenty of

space for five adults and you can adjust the height of the table. It has two spotlights but no USB sockets for plugging in devices, which to me is an oversight in a family caravan.

Dinner time

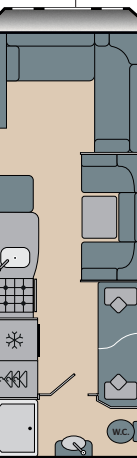
The kitchen area is ample for a family, with loads of storage, three gas burners, one electric hot plate, oven and grill. Glass lids cover the hob and sink and there is some work space to the side. The lighting is also LED

and adjustable. The microwave is at a good height and there's another working area that the chef can use below it. A tall Dometic fridge freezer is towards the rear. It's raised up a little from the floor, making it easy to access all shelves and a portable folding table is stored nearby for extra dining space.

All clean

The rear washroom has a proper door, obscured window and roof vent. There is a

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cupboard above the cassette toilet and another below the stylish sink and tap with a large mirror behind. A towel radiator, clothes hook and towel holder are all standard. The shower has a one-piece clear door and is fully lined. The shower has a water-saving head and neat monobloc mixer control. There's even a fold-down hook to hang wet clothing up and a couple of shelves for your shampoo.

Night-night

The sleeping arrangement comprises two fixed rear bunk beds with a ladder, each having its own spot light, privacy curtain and window. The lower bunk has a 230V socket nearby and storage space underneath. Opposite is a wardrobe with two drawers beneath. The central dinette converts to a bed by lowering the table and rearranging the cushions to form a large single or very cosy double. The large front seating has storage space underneath and a pull-out bed frame to make up the bed using the seating cushions. This is pretty large thanks to the extra width in the Xcel models.

Verdict

A premium twin-axle caravan with loads of space and features for a family of five. **9.5**