



ON TEST



Coachman Vision 580/5

CANDY EVANS has a closer look at one of Coachman's new-for-2014 Vision models of caravan

HOT ON the heels of testing the Coachman Pastiche 520/4 (see August's issue, page 62) I found myself looking at its newest sibling - the Vision 580/5 - at a preview event near Coachman's factory in Hull.

Coachman is known for its well-built and high-spec caravans so although the Vision is the company's entry-level range, there's nothing basic about these camping units.

The Vision replaces the Amara range that has been popular, particularly with families, for many years. The exterior follows the changes introduced in the other Coachman ranges for the 2012 season but it has its own twist, with smoother lines, mainly because it doesn't have any bulky roof rails.

Inside, the styling shares much with the Pastiche, with light-ash coloured furniture and stylish neutral furnishings. Even though the Vision doesn't have the large front roof window of the more expensive Coachman ranges, there's still plenty of light inside.

The kitchen area is in the centre of the caravan and the work surface is slightly raised compared with previous models. The result is a touch more food storage space because the cutlery drawer is above the fridge - a

useful change in a layout where storage and workspace are



at a premium, especially when there's a full complement of five on board.

At the rear of the caravan is a corner washroom with a separate circular shower cubicle. There's some



useful storage space here too, with a cupboard above the toilet and another beneath the basin (pictured left), along with some shelving.

Lighting is provided by a couple of LED downlights.

Next to the washroom are the two bunk beds, each with its own window, reading light and privacy curtain.

The main living area at the front of the caravan is spacious and comfortable. The end cushions on the sofas are cleverly designed, with the fabric on one side matching the main furnishings and the other side contrasting with it, so you can mix and match as you see fit.

The large front double bed is simple to make up, with a sturdy frame pulling out from under the side sofas. Lighting is good, with four reading lights and LED lamps in the ceiling.

The fifth bed is formed from the small dinette in the centre of the caravan. It doesn't have a privacy curtain and I imagine many will use this as a four-berth 'van, with the dinette kept as a seating area throughout the holiday.

Heating is provided by a Truma combination, dual-fuel boiler that can be programmed and there's a Pioneer CD/MP3 player and microwave as standard, adding up to a caravan that might be an entry-level Coachman but is far from being a basic camping unit.

at a glance

Price as tested £18,770

Club Care insurance £289

Berths Five

Bed sizes Double 2.03m x 1.39m; dinette single 1.83m x 0.72m; rear bunks 1.74m x 0.62m

Kitchen Three-burner hob with electric hotplate; grill; oven; microwave

Electrics Five 230V sockets; 12V socket with TV aerial point

Gas Mountings for two 6kg cylinders

Length x width x height 7.38m x 2.26m x 2.58m

Mass in Running

Order 1,395kg

Maximum Technically

Permissible Laden

Mass 1,560kg

User payload 165kg

BE licence required Yes

Warranty Five

years parts and

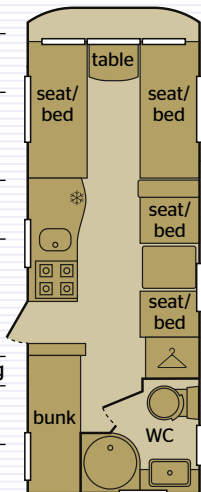
labour; six years

water ingress

Supplier Coachman

Web coachman.co.uk

Tel 01482 839737



verdict

A classy caravan that belies its 'entry-level' label.

