



REVIEW



# COACHMAN

## Pastiche 565/4

Coachman has joined the race for business among caravanners looking for twin beds

**t**he great quest to save weight gathers pace every year, with every mainstream caravan manufacturer now obsessing over grams and kilos.

Even caravan builders with a reputation for making solid tourers which sell on build quality have joined the race to save weight and reduce running costs.

Coachman has a deserved reputation for building some of the most well-screwed-together caravans on the market. But, as fuel prices show no sign of coming down, even this long-established upmarket manufacturer is adapting its products to changing needs.

Launching arguably the best-looking tourers on the UK market last year certainly helped Coachman and, rather than resting on its laurels, the company has continued to innovate. The new addition to the Pastiche range is the result – it's a four-berth tourer with fixed twin beds and an end shower

room on a single-axle chassis.

Some might say that a caravan with a 1640kg MTPLM should be on two axles for extra stability. But there are heavier single axles on the UK market. Going to single axle rather than twin saves weight – if this means owners can save on fuel by running a standard saloon rather than a more expensive 4x4, then the new 565/4 represents an attractive proposition.

### Showering 7/10

Compared with longer caravans, the 565's shower room is a rather narrow affair. There's a reasonable amount of space for towelling yourself dry, but it's not the palatial sort of end shower room you'd expect in a couples' caravan.

The shower is entirely separate from the rest of the shower room, housed in a square cabinet with a clear glass door.

There's a good-sized vanity unit

with a deep Belfast-style sink, and shelves for shampoo containers. Two shallow cabinets take care of storage needs. Three downlighters overhead and a separate light in the shower provide plenty of illumination.

### Sleeping 8/10

Twin beds have suddenly grown in popularity, finding favour with folk who might keep different bedtime hours or get up during the night without disturbing their partner. They are, however, a bit of a 'Marmite' feature – you either love them or hate them.

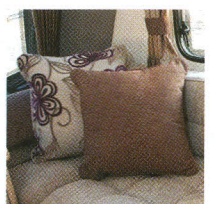
The front double bed is a doddle to make up, thanks to Coachman's super smooth slat system which slides out effortlessly from under the offside settee. But why would couples who plan to use the double bed sacrifice all that space on those oversize settees amidstships? And if you want twin singles, there are two-berth tourers with roomy end shower rooms which do the job just as well in a much shorter and lighter body. With this in mind, the 565 layout makes sense for couples who intend to entertain guests for the occasional sleepover, but it doesn't really make a fantastic four-berth. As a two-berth, though, the sleeping arrangements in the 565 are first rate.

### WHAT WE LIKE

- ▶ Stunning exterior
- ▶ Beautifully finished interior
- ▶ Great storage

### WHAT WE DON'T LIKE

- ▶ Doesn't really work as a four-berth
- ▶ Truma heating can't match Alde system for even-ness of warmth distribution



*The Pastiche's exterior styling leads the field and the interior finish is unimpeachable*

**IDEAL FOR** A couple wanting twin beds and good storage

for your caravan

### THE REAL COST

# £21,690

Coachman charges £545 for delivery. All the equipment you need is included as standard, including the ATC stability control system

#### Super sunroof...

Coachman's stunning new sunroof looks great from both inside and out. It lets lots of natural light into the lounge, making it really bright and airy, but can be screened off if it gets too intense.

#### Cosy front lounge...

The Pastiche's front lounge is ideal for a couple to chill out in front of the TV, but will only just seat four adults in comfort and there is no other seating option for entertaining guests.

#### Programmable heat...

In Pastiche's, Truma's combi heating is fully programmable, so you can set the blown air to come on half an hour before getting out of bed or before you return from a walk on a winter's day.

#### Ample storage...

The twin beds have easy-to-lift slatted bases providing convenient access to the storage space beneath. In transit, items can be safely stowed at the ends of the beds that are nearest to the axle.

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## TOW MATCH

Caravan weight  
MTPLM: 1640kg

To tow this caravan at 85% you need a car kerbweight of: 1929kg

Never tow a caravan heavier than your car's kerbweight. We recommend towing a caravan no more than 85% of the kerbweight



AUDI A3  
1378KG



FORD FOCUS  
1501KG

At 100% → 1640KG



MONDEO ESTATE  
1654KG



FREELANDER 2  
1785KG



HONDA CRV  
1890KG

At 85% → 1929KG



KIA SORENTO  
2008KG



LAND ROVER  
2230KG



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: The wardrobe provides a natural divide between the bed area and lounge. The washbasin is Belfast-style, and wide and deep. The bed base draws out from under the offside settee. Curved corner lights are alongside the sunroof. Four deep shelves sit next to the mirror in the washroom. Unique to Coachman, a drawer set into a bed base. Lighting's a strong feature of Pastiche. This full-width sunroof lets in so much light! Style in the shower, too.



### Storage 15/20

One advantage of those single beds is the huge storage compartments underneath them. Over the beds, there are two runs of eye-level lockers plus some shelf storage, and the lounge offers a further four lockers.

Shower-room storage is quite restricted, with just a couple of cabinets, but the kitchen fares marginally better, with two cupboards above the worktop and a fairly modest cabinet and drawer below. Further underseat storage is easily accessible in the lounge.

### Dining 7/10

Dining options are limited in the 565. The pull-out table at the front is fine for two to sit down for coffee or lunch. And of course there's the larger freestanding table for more elaborate meals or when there are four eating. Space for four big adults to sit to eat is quite pinched. But then this layout's chief appeal is to couples – and the dining area underlines that.

### Lounging 7/10

Again, the 565's layout is fine for

two, but less than ideal for four as the lounge is just too cramped. The decor and level of finish are superb. The big, wide sunroof lets in extra light. The lighting is comprehensive, with LED strips above the lockers, reading lights and downlights.

### Kitchen 14/20

The Pastiche's kitchen is comprehensively equipped, but space is at a premium. Worktop space is restricted to narrow strips on either side of the sink and hob. Storage is reasonable, but it falls short of a genuine cook's kitchen capable of elaborate culinary escapades.

### Build 9/10

Coachman's build quality is widely seen as setting a benchmark in the industry and, while the Pastiche has shed a few pounds in recent years, quality hasn't been compromised.

The exterior styling leads the field and the interior finish is unimpeachable.

### Towing 7/10

It may be built on a single axle, but the 565/4 is still a pretty beefy piece

of kit that needs a hefty car to tow it. We'd recommend a muscular estate car like a Volvo V70 or Mercedes E-class with a torquey turbodiesel to tow this Pastiche with ease. That said, it behaved impeccably behind our Kia Sorento. The inclusion of AL-KO ATC trailer stability control as standard is a welcome aid to keeping the 565 on the straight and narrow. **MS**

## TECHNICAL STUFF

### BERTHS

4

### LENGTH

BODY 5.80M  
OVERALL 7.45M

### WIDTH

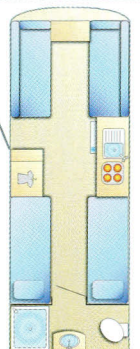
2.32M

### HEADROOM

1.96M

### WEIGHT

MIRO 1480KG  
MTPLM 1640KG



## GRAND VERDICT: 74/100

A great couples' caravan, but falls short of being practical for four.

We scored this on practicality as a couples' caravan