



FEATURE

Adventure Campers Grand Tourer

ADVENTUROUS



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NATURE

Winning acclaim from many the range of Adventure Campers has a new flagship model – the Grand Tourer



STORY AND PICS BY RON MOON



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This camper makes a statement right from the start. It exudes strength, reliability, a sense of being well made and wants for nothing – the main criteria you look for in a top-line camper unit.

The camper is built above a heavy-duty 75 x 50mm chassis underpinned by nine-leaf, eye-to-eye, off-road springs with rebound helpers and greasable rear hangers backed by Monroe shock absorbers. This may appear to be a bit of overkill, but it gives some indication of the lengths to which Adventure Campers has gone to produce the very best long-distance touring camper it can.

The 50 x 50mm solid axle, rated at 1500kg, is fitted with heavy-duty stub axles, the screw caps of which feature

grease nipples for easy maintenance. Three 16-inch alloy wheels are shod with 265/75R16 Mickey Thompson ATZ tyres. Electric brakes, a Treg off-road hitch, three strong recovery points, along with CouplerTec electronic rust protection, are all standard fare.

The zinc-annealed, powder-coated 1.2mm panels that make up the main body of the camper come with high-quality dust seals throughout. The separate bed compartment is actually double sealed for the best possible protection.

The top section of the camper is divided down the centre with a kitchen area on one side and a large storage area on the driver's side. The kitchen area is readily accessible whether the canvas is up or

not. Simply flick the two clips on the side of the camper box, lift the lid door (aided by gas struts) and drop the side wall to expose the complete kitchen bench area. The big, four-burner stainless steel stove and grill swings out on its own arm and drops down to an ideal working level, while a set of legs can be quickly dropped into place for added stability.

The 2.3m bench area, much of which is immediately accessible without deploying the stove, is bigger than some home kitchens with lots of work space available. At the far end of the bench area is a stainless steel sink with hot and cold running water on tap. A 90-litre pantry, along with four storage hoppers, are all readily accessible.

Below left: Storage bin carpet protects your gear
Below right: Solar panels allow long, remote tours



1. Battery and charger system
2. Gas bottle has a swing-away protective cover
3. Monitors for water level and battery on kitchen wall
4. Double stitching on seams
5. 60-litre Engel is standard



In addition, the kitchen features LED strip lighting, two 12-volt and two 240-volt power outlets and gauges to monitor the two 60-litre under-body water tanks and the 120Ah AGM battery.

Above the kitchen area, in its own separate storage box, is a quick-to-erect awning that covers the entire kitchen and takes less than a minute to deploy.

On the driver's side, there is a cavernous 1100-litre storage area enclosed with dust-proof doors and fitted with LED lighting. Here, tucked out of the way, you'll find the 120Ah battery, the in-line 12V battery charger and the charging control unit for the twin solar panels.

To feed the camper's sink and shower with continuous hot water, an optional

diesel-powered heater was fitted in our test camper. This \$3000 Webasto unit uses just 250ml of diesel an hour and takes 15 minutes to fully heat the water in the 20-litre holding tank. The heater can also be plugged into 240V power and while part of the unit is tucked into one corner of the storage area most of the workings are located in the lower storage area of the camper.

On top of the camper are a set of boat racks and a roof rack carry basket. The good thing about this design is these items do not have to be removed to deploy the tent or access the kitchen. The pair of tilting 65W solar panels mounted here are well protected from hazards like overhanging branches.

MAGIC BED AND TENT

■ To access the bed, which is located in the lower, enclosed section of the trailer, you first need to drop the spare tyre on its carrier, which is easily and quickly done.

You then slide the bed and tent box out of its storage area on their rollers, and rotate the bed box 90°. Once the bed box is opened, three spring-loaded cables are released locking the internal frames into solid sections.

The whole tent section of the camper opens up from this stage.

After locking the internal tent frame in place, you only need four pegs to secure the tent to the ground. The entire set up takes only a few minutes.

Below left: Very strong suspension; 1500kg axle
Below right: No compromise with kitchen space



1. Trigger operated tap/shower works off a Flojet pump
2. Stainless steel, four-burner stove wouldn't look out of place at home



Check out the bed height in comparison to the usual camper set up

On the A-frame of the camper is a large fridge box for the supplied 60-litre Engel fridge-freezer. The fridge box is fitted with one of the five 240V power outlets the camper features and a 12V socket. A solar-powered fan and a dust filter ensure the fridge is well ventilated. On the near-side of this large fridge box is another storage area that can accommodate a generator, a couple of jerry cans and more.

While most camper trailers have their bed at the top of the body, meaning you need to clamber up a ladder to get to it, the Adventure Camper range offers a unique solution that brings the bed down to a more accessible level (see pics, p67). Once the tent is up a large free-standing awning can be erected independently, while walls can be added to make a separate enclosure or another bedroom.

The bed is a king-size unit complete with underlay. The whole sleeping area is very well ventilated with five windows and a door, all fitted with fine screen mesh to

keep the bugs out. The roof is made from 12oz canvas; the walls are made from 8oz material, while the sewn-in floor is made from tough, vinyl-like Canvacon 5000E. The sewing all round is first class, all seams and pressure points are reinforced and all zips are top quality.

This unit's overall length is 4200mm and weighs in around 950kg empty, with a gross weight up to 1.5 tonnes.

We've used these campers in the past on trips up to the Flinders Ranges. Their bulk belies their agility and we splashed across creeks and rattled down corrugated tracks without a worry. Dust proofing was great and while we never got a chance to prove it with this particular unit we wouldn't expect any different. On road they towed very well, the suspension keeping everything under control.

As you might expect with such a long list of standard features and equipment this Grand Tourer camper is not cheap, but what you get for the \$43,450 asking price is one hell of a unit. **4x4**

HIRE BEFORE YOU BUY

Adventure OFFROAD CAMPERS

■ Probably the best way to decide if you'd like a particular camper and its features is to hire one before you buy. Adventure Campers offer this service and apart from its campers you can also hire fridges, kitchen accessories and jerry cans for a complete package.

Give these units a try – you're sure to be impressed, like we always are.

For more information contact Adventure Camping and Offroad Campers, Edwardstown, SA.

Freecall 1800 353 561, phone (08) 8276 5666 or check the website at adventureoffroadtrailers.com.au.

Below left: Frugal Webasto diesel heater is an option
Below right: Plenty of ventilation for those hot nights

