



at a glance

Auto-Sleepers Cotswold

- Price as tested** £57,804
- Prices start at** £54,995
- Club Care insurance** £521
- Base vehicle** Peugeot Boxer LWB
- Engine as tested** 3.0 HDi 160PS six-speed manual gearbox
- Kitchen** Three-burner hob with electric hotplate; grill; oven; microwave oven; electric filter above hob
- Fridge/freezer capacity** 150 litre
- Heating** Diesel and electric with blown air
- Electrics** Four 230V sockets
- Gas** Onboard 20-litre LPG tank

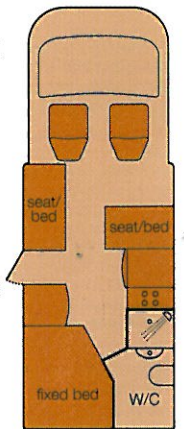
- Freshwater tank** 102 litres
- Wastewater tank** 91 litres
- Length x width x height** 7.17m x 2.69m x 3.02m
- Berths** Four sleeping/four travelling
- Bed sizes** Fixed double 1.95m x 1.27m; front dinette double 2.10m x 1.22m
- Maximum Technically Permissible Laden Mass** 4,005kg
- User payload** 575kg
- Specification includes**

- Reversing camera;
- awning; external barbecue point; smoke and carbon monoxide alarms; flat-screen TV with DVD and satellite facility
- Warranty** Three years base vehicle and conversion; two years water ingress

- Plus points** Easy-to-use cab curtains; variety of table options; over-cab storage area

- Minus points** Can't have both the main front window and the habitation door open at the same time

- Manufacturer** Auto-Sleepers
- Tel** 01386 853338
- Web** auto-sleepers.co.uk



The lap of luxury

The high-end features of the Auto-Sleepers Cotswold ensure a comfortable camping trip for **CANDY EVANS**

WHEN YOU step inside an Auto-Sleepers motorhome from the County range you can be pretty sure it'll feel top quality – and the Cotswold is no exception.

The little touches such as the Auto-Sleepers glasses and crockery in the kitchen cupboards, the sleek fridge freezer and stylish washbasin all add to the feeling of luxury.

One of my criteria for testing a motorhome is to see whether it can accommodate enough towels for all the occupants. It's a small point, but it shows the manufacturer has really thought of the users. The Cotswold is one of the few units that gets top marks – and in style. Not only are there a couple of hooks in the washroom, there's a towel ring on the back of the door and even a heated towel rail. You'll also find a proper shower cubicle and a back-lit mirror above the basin.

The living area of the model we tested had two forward-facing seats, making this a four berth, four travelling unit, though you can buy the same model with two side-facing sofas, if you only want to tour as a couple.

There are no fewer than three

tables – one free-standing, another to go between the cab seats and a third attached to the wall behind the cab. Add this to the well-fitted kitchen, with its large fridge freezer, and you have a pleasant place to prepare and enjoy meals.

The layout works well for a couple, with the fixed double bed at the rear and plenty of space to relax on a wet day.

The fixed bed was supremely comfortable, though it would be good to have a ledge or two for a morning cup of tea. The front double was a little more challenging to get right because you needed to position the cushions carefully to prevent lumps.

There are no fewer than four



Above: The washbasin

rooflights, making it bright and airy inside. They also made it simple to ventilate and cool the unit after it had been shut up all day in the sun on our test weekend.

We did have a few small snags with our first-off-the-production-line test vehicle, such as a cupboard door that was trapped behind an edging panel and a ceiling lamp that only lit intermittently, but otherwise the unit was well built.

The Peugeot base vehicle was easy to drive, the cab air-conditioning coming into its own on the warm drive home, and the reversing camera made manoeuvring quite straightforward. The unit comes with steadies at the rear because of the long overhang, but having the rear axle quite far forward means you don't need to take corners quite as widely as you might expect.

Overall, it was a lovely unit in which to spend a sunny weekend and I imagine it would be a great tourer for extended holidays in the UK or overseas.

Verdict: A good touring motorhome for people who enjoy their creature comforts.