



motors



a home from home

Glynn Williams tastes luxury living on the move in the latest addition to Marquis Motorhomes' County range – the Hampshire

Hampshire? It looks as big as a county!" my jovial neighbour exclaimed as I loaded provisions into the luxury motorhome.

The next question was "How many does it sleep?" and the answer, "Just two," brought a slightly puzzled look – until he peeped inside the wagon nearly 24ft long, 7ft wide and 10ft tall.

For the Mercedes Sprinter-based Hampshire model in Marquis Motorhomes' County range is a £54,000 flagship with no expense spared.

It is ideal for relaxed touring or participating in sporting pursuits such as motor racing or equestrian events.

There are just two chairs in the cabin leaving the rest of the space to be roomily laid out as accommodation, with a large lounge for entertaining – or race tactics discussions – where at night the settees become two single beds.

For more space there is a wind-out awning neatly recessed along the side of the roof.

In fact flagship is an appropriate description for I've been on a luxury cruise ship with a more compact cabin, and here you've got views all round.

And never mind a tea-maker, here it's all mod cons using the combination of on-board gas and auxiliary battery with plug-in mains electrics.

The sophistication is evident from the moment you open the Seitz entrance door with remote central locking, hinged window and flyscreen with push button to lower the electric step to enter the habitation area

where bound-edged removable carpets give a warm finish over the wood-effect vinyl flooring.

There's hot and cold running water for the bathroom with toilet, basin and roomy shower, as well as for the kitchen with its sink, cooker, microwave and fridge-freezer.

A swivel-mounted flat-screen TV is well placed between the kitchen area and lounge with all the upholstery dressed in luxurious velour – and that includes two rather special beds.

Whether you're young and athletic and wanting to rest tired muscles, or older and needing the best for aching joints, the fully adjustable Frolex orthopaedic electric bed system is the ultimate for a great night's sleep. In fact, it's a sneaky bonus for those who have trouble parking perfectly level, for you can tilt the mattress for comfort regardless of the ground contours!

Perfectly finished wooden cabinetwork adds to the airy feel while brilliantly providing lots of clever storage at all levels.

As to the vehicle, the long-wheelbase Mercedes Sprinter base is rightly held in high regard and perfect for this role with lusty and efficient 150bhp turbo diesel and high-mounted six-speed gearchange.

Added to that is the reassurances of airbags, anti-lock brakes and electronic stability programme – a real boon with vehicle weighing more than three tonnes.

Driving is straightforward so long as you remember your width and beware low railway bridges – and take enough change for all the spaces you need in a car park!



factfile

Model: Marquis Hampshire County

Price: £53,995

Style: Motorhome hand coachbuilt by Auto-Sleeper on Mercedes Sprinter long-wheelbase chassis with two-seat cab and electric step to habitation

Engine/transmission: Mercedes 150bhp CDI diesel with six-speed manual gears

Dimensions: Length: 23ft 11in; width with mirrors: 9ft 1in; height inc TV aerial: 10ft 3in

Accommodation: Lounge/sleeping area with two single orthopaedic electric beds plus optional double over cab, flat screen TV, electric/gas space heater, bathroom with shower, kitchen with cooker, microwave, fridge/freezer, sink with hot and cold water.