

The compact Sussex let Kate get up close to Ireland's best sights

- +** **LIKES**
Good shower; plenty of locker space, impressive list of goodies
- **DISLIKES**
Short bed for anyone 6' or taller; flimsy washroom door catch

Special Sussex conquers Ireland

Since we got our hands on the brand new Marquis County Sussex EB, its wheels have just kept rolling. First, our Sarah took it to France and then I used it for my nine-day Grand Tour of Ireland (see page 22).

It's a great looking 'van, created for Marquis by Auto-Sleepers using the popular Peugeot Boxer LWB panel van

and shares its layout with the brand new Auto-Sleeper Kemerton. As with all Marquis specials, plenty of free goodies come as standard. It comes with a TV, which lives in its own dedicated cupboard, and there's also a microwave, a reversing camera and the distinctive Auto-Sleepers' melamine crockery set.

The washroom is excellent for a van conversion, with a good-sized shower, a drop-

down sink and a flushing loo. The kitchen has an oven/grill and three burners and there are also five power points and plenty of locker space.

However, the bed's a little short for a six-footer and there's no twin-single bed option. We also had to visit Marquis in Northampton en-route to Ireland so that they could replace a broken plastic washroom door catch. During the tour we found that one

bed leg was a bit bent and the adjustable foot fell off on our first night, too.

I would also like to see grab handles added to aid access to the cab and a buffer on the bulkhead to prevent it getting scuffed by the single seat when you slide it forwards to make up the bed.

Apart from these quibbles, we loved this 'van. Its 2.2-litre engine had the torque to climb the steep mountain roads of Co Sligo with ease and its narrow width allowed us to explore at will.

Marquis County Sussex EB
Price £48,195
Mileage 1379
Economy 19.3mpg
Faults Door catch, bed foot
Expenses NONE

Marquis County Sussex EB

• **Price** from £48,195 (at launch) • **Sleeps** 2 • **Belts** 2 • **Base vehicle** Peugeot Boxer • **Engine** 2.2-litre 120bhp HDi • **L/W/H** 5.99/2.26/2.6m (19'6"/7'4"/8'5") • **MTPLM** 3500kg • **Payload** 458kg
CONTACT www.marquismotorhomes.co.uk; 0800 026 7777

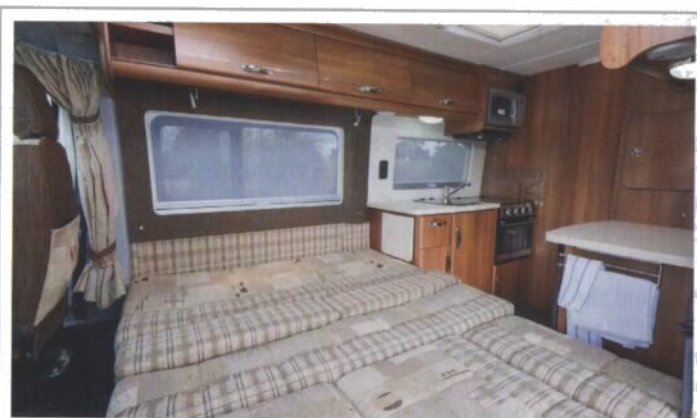
The EB is the third incarnation of Marquis's popular Sussex range; it's built for the dealership by its sister company, Auto-Sleepers. The latest version - like its Kemerton sister model - has an impressive and spacious washroom right across the rear of the 'van, making this space very useable and practical: great if you prefer to stay on low-facility sites. There's a full-size shower cubicle, too.

Small 'vans with good-sized washrooms are often compromised elsewhere, but the Sussex EB is cleverly designed to make the most of the space available, with a decent-sized lounge area and reasonable kitchen. It's got

a high level of standard kit, too, including a flatscreen TV/DVD player, external barbecue point, microwave, over-shower extractor fan and much more.

In addition to this kit - also fitted to the Kemerton - the Sussex EB receives a full-length awning and a Dometic Freshlight (the latter combining both a roof-light and air-con unit) as well as Marquis-specific fabrics and graphics.

Storage throughout the Sussex EB is impressive, with a large wardrobe and numerous drawers, but we were disappointed that there's no dedicated place to store bedding when you're on the road.



Above The lounge converts into a spacious double bed **Right** The roomy washroom spans across the 'van's rear **Below, right** A decent-sized lounge area

