

Eddis Avanté 540



► PRICE £14,195 ► www.explorer-group.co.uk

AT A GLANCE: A key difference for 2010 is that the washbasin has moved from the bedroom into the full-width washroom

TEST VAL CHAPMAN PHOTOGRAPHY JOHN CHAPMAN

TOWMATCH E



IT'S one of the caravan industry's current best-selling layouts. It appeals both to couples and families of four. And in new Eddis Avanté livery, it's clad in cool greys with crisply stunning dark grey and red graphics.

The Avanté 540 gives you a fixed offside double bed, an end washroom and two full-length single beds making into a double at the front.

The layout works so well because it gives you a wide open space in the centre of the caravan. That's because the cabinet opposite the kitchen (intended for a television) has a front angled to give you plenty of floorspace.

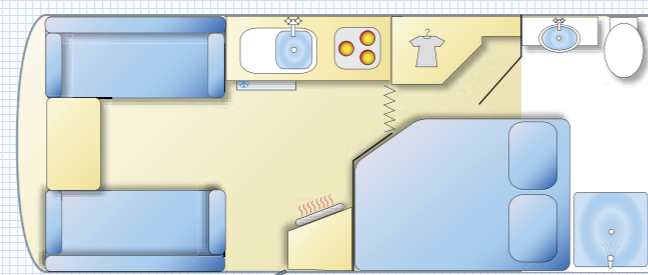
The wow-factor, though, is in the upholstery - and that of course goes for the whole Avanté range. Seat bases are a plain fawn weave. The same material edges the seat backs - and it's here that the wow-factor lies. White bold lines swirl through a grey background with a subtle shadow of a fawn swirl somewhere in the mix. The curtain fabric is at first glance a plain grey until you look closer and realise there's a sheen on the fabric and a weave of pale cream and darker grey that gives it lustre.

It's modern, it's bright and beautifully co-ordinated. And there's more. The carpet is dark grey - at last, a carpet of a practical colour in a caravan!

And in the unlikely event that the Avanté's

LAYOUT IN A NUTSHELL

- Fixed nearside bed
- Rear washroom
- Lounge gives you full-length single beds or a massive double



superb upholstery isn't perfect for your taste, you can choose the soft furnishings of either the Odyssey or the Crusader ranges.

The real clever bit of this layout is that the washroom has been designed with a slight L-shape protruding into the bedroom. That allows for the washbasin to be within the washroom rather than in the bedroom area, as in many caravans of this layout.

The (square) shower is on the nearside, the toilet on the offside and, in between, a large dressing space. It's a well designed and practical washroom that's also a true dressing room.

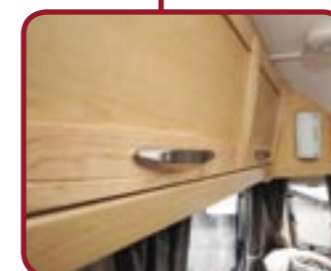
The kitchen gives you a three-burner hob, Spinflo grill and oven plus microwave above. There's a fixed drainer - something

throughout the Eddis model range that many will regard as a plus-point over removable drainers.

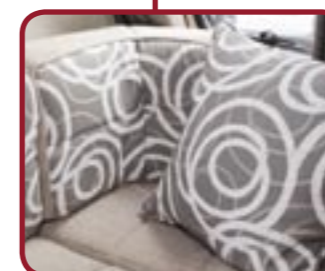
Surface space, though, is rather tight, so you'd have to prepare the food with either the hob or sink top closed. There's a small hinge-out extension over the settee to help but, even with this in its horizontal position, space is small. Storage space in the kitchen is also rather tight; you have three slim drawers in a central cupboard.

Lounging comfort is a delight, with firm curved end-pieces that support you far better than loose, squashy bolsters.

The cover and cushions you see in our pictures are an option and if you pay an extra £90 you can get a memory foam mattress. ■



Lockers get recessed panelling for the new model year - a quality look



Seat backs are the wow-factor here - palest cream swirls on cool grey



The shower head has a new-style riser bar for 2010



Fixed drainer, sink and hob top chopping-board-grade covers

FOR & AGAINST

PROS:

- Washbasin now in the washroom
- Soft furnishings that are stunningly simple and cool in colour

CONS:

- Small kitchen workspace and storage
- The shape of the wardrobe limits usable hanging space

SPECIFICATION

Axes: 1
Berths: 4
MRO: 1347kg
MTPLM: 1500kg
Width: 2.24m
Overall length: 6.42m
Headroom: 1.90m



A lovely, light and cosy bedroom; these superb covers are an optional extra, though

OUR VERDICT

Moving the wash basin into the full width rear washroom has put the 540 layout into the bracket of top-luxury cohesive end-washroom caravans. This has enhanced both washroom convenience and bedroom aesthetics. Add that delightfully appealing soft furnishing scheme and you have one great caravan. Only one thing to question: can you happily confine your kitchen activities to the small amount of work surface? We think most can.