

Buying a Touring Caravan Checklist

Make & Model	
How old is it?	
The asking price?	
Who's selling it?	
Weight & size	Caravan's MTPLM: Your car's kerbweight:

Check	Details	
Who owns it?	Call CRIS on 01722 411430 to check	
ID	Is the caravan as described by the dealer or private seller?	
Paperwork	The caravan's handbook	
	The service history records	
	The caravan's CRIS registration detail	
	If there are any valid warranties and guarantees - <i>check expiry dates, the terms & conditions</i>	
Chassis	Is there rust on the galvanised chassis? <i>Look for rust-prone holes drilled into it</i>	
	Are there any cracks in it? <i>E.g. around the A-frame at the front or on the axle mounts</i>	
	Are there any obvious bends, dents or bulges in it? <i>They are signs of grounding</i>	
	Do the corner steadies work smoothly? Are they damaged?	
	Does the jockey wheel work smoothly? <i>If not, its thread might be damaged.</i>	
Wheels & tyres	Check the age of the tyres. <i>You can see the date on the tyre walls</i>	
	Does the spare wheel match the others? Check its age too.	
	Does the wheel look dented, damaged or in poor condition?	
Brakes	Release and apply the handbrake to see if it works. Check when it was last serviced	
Hitch coupling	Push the hitch towards the caravan. <i>If it's firm it is in good condition.</i>	
	Check coupling action on the hitch to see if it is lubricated and smooth	
Road lights	Look at the 7-pin cable and the plugs for cleanliness and condition. <i>Do they look damaged?</i>	

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Road lights cont.	Connect the cable to your car's electrics and check the lights work. E.g. indicators, brake light	
	Are the lights and casings in good condition? E.g. no water in them	
External panels	Look for damage and mismatches - Step back to look and look close-up.	
	Look from front to back and side to side to spot bulges or bowing in the panels	
	Check for major cracks on plastic panels.	
	Check the joins and seals between each panel. <i>Do they look dry or cracked?</i>	
	Grip the 'grab handles'. Do they feel loose?	
	Inspect the roof if you can. <i>Look for signs of standing water, especially near skylights.</i>	
Gas checks	Check the LPG hose for signs of aging. <i>Have it replaced before you use the caravan</i>	
	Turn the gas on (if there is a bottle attached). <i>Can you smell gas anywhere?</i>	
	Turn on the hob and/or the oven to check they work.	
	Look at the copper pipes and manifold (often near the oven inside). <i>Is it in good condition?</i>	
	Ask to see when the gas was last inspected.	
Battery	Look at the leisure battery. <i>Is there one? Is it in good condition?</i>	
	Switch the electrics on (if there's no battery, connect your car to it) to see if they work.	
	Ask for the electrics inspection certificate	
Water system	With the electrics on, see if the pumps work by turn a tap on <i>(there might not be any water)</i>	
	Look at incoming water pipes and the external input fitting. <i>Is the condition good?</i>	
	Open cupboards under sinks to check for disconnected drain pipes.	
Internal fittings	Check for signs of damp on the internal panels. <i>Use a damp meter, if you have one.</i>	
	Look for signs of water damage on windows and fittings (e.g. aerals and vents)	
	Check that windows and doors close properly and lock.	

Notes:
