

# To the moon and back

It's mysteriously absent from the latest brochure, so **Doug King** lifts the lid on Lunar's L-shaped single-axle, fixed bed, four-berth Lexon

## SPECIFICATION

**Price:** £14,455  
**Berths:** 4  
**Warranty:** 3 years  
**MRO:** 1200kg (23.60 cwt)  
**Payload:** 214kg (4.20cwt)  
**MTPLM:** 1414kg (27.80cwt)  
**Internal length:** 5.79m (19ft 1in)  
**Overall length:** 7.26m (23ft 10in)  
**Overall width:** 2.28m (7ft 6in)  
**Overall height:** 2.60m (8ft 6in)  
**Headroom:** 1.91m (6ft 3in)  
**Bed sizes:** Double 2.10 x 1.48m (6ft 11in x 4ft 10in), or two singles 1.88m x 0.74m (6ft 2in x 2ft 5in).  
**Rear double:** 1.93m x 1.45m (6ft 5in x 4ft 5in)

## TOWMATCH C

## FOR & AGAINST

### PROS

- Excellent shower cubicle
- Plenty of worktop space
- Tinted windows for privacy

### CONS

- Rear double bed means outboard occupant having to climb over the inboard occupant
- Spare wheel is extra



The generous sized washbasin is set into a corner unit with plenty of space for toiletries



1. L-shaped front lounge for the CSL 2. An impressive amount of worktop space due to the north/south sink 3. Smaller fridge capacity disappoints 4. The wardrobe isn't over-generous 5. Washroom houses a full-sized shower cubicle

**WHEN** I first saw this particular Lunar Lexon I had expected to see the single-axle, fixed bed, four-berth 580 CSL, which wasn't even mentioned in the company's latest brochure. The L stands for L-shaped layout, differentiating the model from the one I had expected to see – the conventional CS with its two bench seats, one down each side in the front lounge area.

Externally, the CSL has nothing to make the caravan stand

out from the crowd. It has all the usual lockers and doors you find on any modern caravan. Yes, the rear light clusters are pleasing to the eye, and I also very much liked the fact that the waste outlets are on the offside, just to the rear of the axle, rather than being sited at the rear of the caravan.

The door is to the rear of the axle and as you enter the caravan, the fixed bed is to your right at the rear. The bed spans the full width of the caravan and is separated from the rest of the living area by

a sliding door. It's a light and airy compartment due to the windows in both the near and offside walls, and a third large window in the rear panel; all the windows in the CSL are black-tinted to ensure privacy. There is also a clear glazed rooflight above the bed which, as far as I could tell, had not been tinted. The bed slats are gas-strut assisted giving access to a vast amount of under-bed storage. However, as the bed is at the rear of the caravan, you'll need to load carefully to prevent the caravan becoming unstable during towing.

Forward of the fixed bed area on the offside, facing the entry door, is the shower compartment. Although not large it is big enough to meet the occupants' needs and has all the usually appointments including a Thetford swivel toilet – although sadly not the latest C250 model which comes with a wheeled waste tank. There is however, a full-sized shower cubicle, a generous-sized washbasin set into a corner unit, plenty of storage space for toiletries, and both a rooflight and a large obscure glazed window to help make the



The fixed bed runs along the rear wall of the caravan and may not be to everyone's liking. At night a sliding door cuts the area off from the rest of the caravan

compartment light and airy. As I said, not a large compartment but nonetheless, perfectly adequate for a family's needs.

To the left of the main door into the caravan, is the centre kitchen which particularly impressed me with its amount of worktop space. Equipment includes a Spinflo MK III Caprice cooker and grill with spark ignition, plus a separate three-burner hob – one of which is large enough to take a wok. Although some people prefer a four-burner hob I actually favour three burners because it's often difficult to use all four burners together.

I was a little disappointed that Lunar hadn't fitted a larger capacity Dometic fridge; the one here having a capacity of 93 litres. However, having said that, it wasn't so many years ago that a 93-litre fridge would have been considered huge, so perhaps I'm being a little unfair. A new feature

for 2008 is the eye-level microwave oven mounted above the hob. I wasn't sure about the term eye-level, which depends on the height of the individual. I felt that the microwave is likely to be too high for many people – and hence could cause problems when hot liquids are being withdrawn. At least one other manufacturer has lowered the microwave in the 2008 caravans and I live in hope that the rest of the industry will follow suit.

In order to maximise the amount of worktop space, the stainless steel sink has been mounted north/south rather than east/west. This didn't worry me although I have heard comments from some caravanners that they prefer the east/west positioning. However, it is a fact that the north/south configuration does result in more worktop space. I was less happy with the size of plastic washing up bowl which all manufacturers – not just Lunar –



The kitchen is well appointed and has plenty of worktop space



The shower cubicle is excellent and one of the best features

are fitting in the caravans. It's so large that it leaves almost no room for tipping dregs down the sink before putting the pots and utensils into the bowl. Things also get worse when you then try to empty the bowl into the sink – particularly when the bowl is full of dirty water.

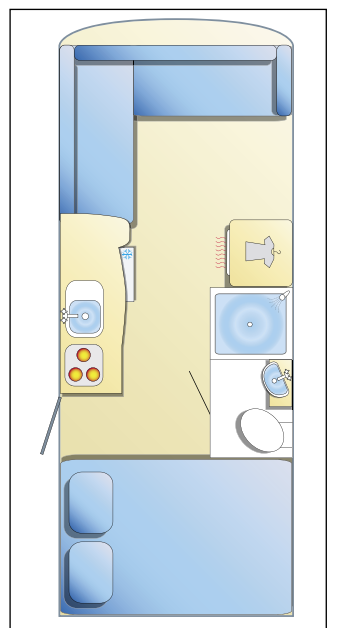
In the unit below the sink are two drawers – one for cutlery – plus a cupboard for food storage. There is a further cupboard with dedicated storage for the free standing table next to the fridge whilst above the kitchen unit are three roof lockers, one having crockery racks fitted.

On the opposite side, facing the kitchen, is the wardrobe; space here is not great but, as always, caravan layouts are a compromise and the CSL is no different to any other four-berth in this respect. The G/E Truma Ultraheat is

## OUR VERDICT



The Lunar Lexon 580 CSL is a well-made caravan which should give its owners many years of service. Having said that, I can't say that it contains anything which isn't found in similar sized caravans from other manufacturers, added to which it only carries a three year warranty compared with the five and six years offered by some other manufacturers. So when it comes to deciding whether or not to buy, the decision may boil down to the company's reputation rather than anything else.



## ALTERNATIVES

- COMPASS OMEGA 540  
£14,995
- ELDDIS ODYSSEY 540  
£14,995

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mounted on the panel below the wardrobe, whilst next to the wardrobe is a small base unit containing the power management system. There's a gap between this unit and the L-shaped seat running across the front of the caravan and along the nearside to the kitchen unit. In the front central locker is a radio/CD/MP3 player whilst the two speakers are positioned above the seat at the front corners of the caravan. ■