

MOBILVETTA

KEA KOMPAKT 55

Mobilvetta's new Kompakt is perfect for smaller roads and there are few compromises, writes Peter Baber



The Kompakt 55 is Mobilvetta's first attempt at a compact motorhome, one designed for those who perhaps like exploring city streets and country lanes, and don't mind living with a slightly narrower interior.

As with most other compact models, the word 'Kompakt' here refers to the width, not the length. At 6.39m, this motorhome is still relatively short.

That extra length does mean that you get a large garage with a mains socket, heating and an external shower as well as an external barbecue point and an extra external locker that is a little shallow. The cassette loo access is on the door side.

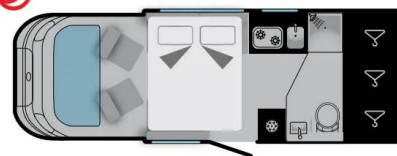
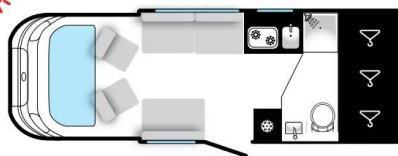
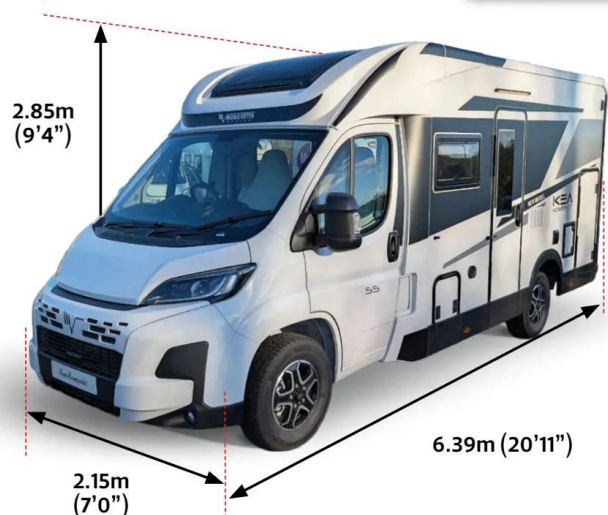
Automatic transmission comes as standard, and the two travel seats behind are some of the easiest I have ever had to put together, mainly because support for them comes in panels that swing out, so you just have to turn the cushions 90 degrees.

But there is quite a step between cab and lounge, which could restrict legroom for whoever sits here.

Once you have folded the travel seats back again you get a pleasant, airy lounge with parallel settees, made even brighter thanks to the white upholstery. It's well lit with LEDs under the drop-down bed and two different spotlights. The table folds in two and can be lowered electronically, although the switch is right up next to the bed. I also found that, while the table can move in all directions, in some positions it felt just a little flimsy.

In a compact 'van there are bound to be compromises, and that's evident in the square kitchen which is short

Price £79,995
Sleeps 4 **Belts** 4
Base vehicle Fiat Ducato
Engine 2.2-litre, 140bhp turbodiesel with automatic transmission
Length/width/height 6.39/2.15/2.85m (20'11"/7'0"/9'4")
MTPLM 3500kg
MiRO 2888kg **Payload** 612kg
Water (fresh/waste) 120/90 litres
Leisure battery 100Ah
Gas 2 x 6kg



Contact Marquis Leisure **Seen at** The Causeway, Great Billing, Northampton NN3 9EX
Web marquisleisure.co.uk **Tel** 0800 026 7777

on workspace, especially once you remove the split sink cover. There is more space behind the two-burner hob (the only use of gas in the 'van, because it has diesel heating), where you can fit purpose-made little baskets, but some of this area is partly obscured by the glass hob cover.

One big plus point, however, on the other side of the aisle is a half-height fridge with a separate freezer that is positioned at eye height. UK models also get a Thetford Duplex combined oven and grill.

Having stepped down to the lounge there is another step up to the washroom, whose door slides open on a track and is held in place by a strap. Mirrors on two of the walls here, good ambient lighting and a huge Heki make the room feel much bigger than it is.

There's a solid basin and great access to the shower cubicle thanks to two concertina doors that fold away. You even get two drainage holes and a solid shelf to hold toiletries.

The downstairs bed is relatively easy to put together, because the central

up close



Fiat cab will be familiar to many and is well-laid out and comfortable



LEFT Garage is a good size with access from the interior, too

RIGHT There's an external locker, but it's very shallow



Excellent travel seats are easy to assemble and fold away

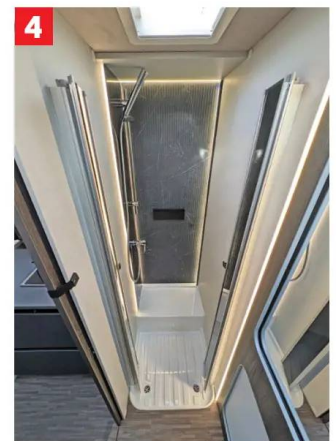


1 Light upholstery brightens up the living space

2 Compact layout is most evident in the smaller kitchen

3 The washroom feels spacious and well-lit thanks to big mirrors and a large Heki

4 Shower is easy to access and has two handy drainage holes



section, once you have lowered the table, is all filled in with cushions and an extra panel, all stored in the garage. There is no need to rearrange seating. And if you know that there will only be two of you, the extra bits can be left behind at home.

The bed is also so large that two people could sleep lengthways, thus avoiding the need for anyone to climb over their partner if they need to get out of bed.

Like the table, the drop-down bed lowers electronically, although this time the switch for it is by the kitchen

strip-light. When lowered, it does slightly obstruct the door (especially if you use the ladder), but you can just about squeeze through.

The drop-down bed, travel seat mechanisms and compactness mean you don't get any overhead lockers or underseat storage areas in the lounge. But behind the washroom mirrors there is a huge cupboard with two large shelves, four drawers, and a hanging rail. There is also access to the garage – unusual in a 'van this size.

There is an overhead locker in the

kitchen, although its two sections are partly taken up with the aerial fitting and the solar panel controls. The two drawers down below are large enough for storing standard-sized pans.

PRACTICAL MOTORHOME SAYS...

The Kea Kompakt could house an adult couple very comfortably, and even take another adult couple without anyone feeling unduly compromised. The kitchen is a little basic, but that huge washroom and internally accessible garage really make up for that.



The lounge bed goes together quite easily and the infill cushions are stowed in the garage



Drop-down bed is big enough for a couple to sleep lengthways

Pan drawers are just about big enough, but there's not much extra storage space for dry goods



Useful extra space can be found in a shallow locker by the loo