

PRE-LOVED CARAVANS



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Three family caravans and seven tourers ideal for couples – all great examples of what your money can buy at Marquis

Caravelair Antarès 496

1 On arrival at Marquis South Yorkshire, we made a beeline for this caravan, for two reasons. Firstly, French-made Caravelairs are beacons of caravan affordability. Secondly, Marquis, the sole importer of this six-caravan range, launched them last year at this particular branch. This six-berth 496, the largest in the range, has come home as a part-exchange – but, we'd venture to suggest, not for long. For this ultra-light, ingenious layout has strong appeal.

The 496 has a double bed at the front, a side dining area and three fixed bunks in an alcove at the rear. The lowest bunk is at floor level and this area can be converted to a storage zone by raising the centre section of the bunk base. Perfect, then,

for a lightweight awning, perhaps – and also ideal for the dog's bed! It's a clever design.

The washing facilities are cleverly designed, too. Although the shower and toilet share a compartment, it's quite spacious. The washbasin-vanity area is separate – and there's a mains power point near to the mirror; that's something you don't find in British caravans!

New Antarès are exceptional value; the 496 is just £14,995 – and this one, at less than a year old and £1500 cheaper, is even more tempting.

Condition

In a word: perfect! No signs of use anywhere. A smart bargain waiting for a very lucky family to snap up.

MARQUIS MOTORHOMES AND CARAVANS

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» Marquis, celebrating its 45th year in business this year, has 11 branches across England, making it the UK's largest dealer network.

New and used caravans feature at eight of the branches, including the South Yorkshire branch, at Dinnington, near Sheffield, which we visited to select this month's 10 sparkling used caravans.

Whichever branch you buy from, you can have your caravan serviced at any of the others. All used caravans carry Marquis's three-year Caramarq guarantee.

Marquis also sells new caravan ranges from Swift, Sterling and Coachman, plus the group's own exclusive special edition Swift Lifestyle range and the French-built Caravelair Antarès models, which start at just £11,995.



FACT FILE

- Price £13,495 ● Year 2016 ● Berths 6
- Length: Body 5.2m Overall 6.9m
- MIRO 1135kg ● MTPLM 1300kg

LAYOUT

Three bunks, double bed, side dining area

FROM £9995

Swift Challenger Hi-Style 480



2 Special edition caravans are always appealing buys because they have exclusive fabrics and extra specification; even more so when you find one that's less than a year old with a saving of £2300 compared with the new price of £20,295.

The Hi-Style is specially made for Lowdhams. This version has Alde heating, so it's a great choice for a couple planning on year-round caravanning. Equipment includes an extractor fan, another pointer to this caravan's suitability for use when window ventilation during cooking is made less appealing by cold weather outdoors.

Condition

The delightful, fine-weave seating fabric, that almost looks like suede, is totally pristine. There is little sign that the hob has been used; just a little, inevitable, heat discolouration around the base of the hotplate. We are sure that the oven and grill have never been used. This is as near to new as you can find. And at an enticing price!

FACT FILE

- Price £17,995 ● Year 2017 ● Berths 2
- Length: Body 4.4m Overall 6.1m
- MIRO 1181kg ● MTPLM 1303kg

LAYOUT

End shower room



Lunar Clubman SI

3 Caravan layouts evolve, sometimes from daring experiments. The SI layout of 2009 is an example. In essence, it's the concept that is now so popular among new ranges, with a rear island bed and the shower-washing arrangements forward of it. Only this one is unlike today's versions: the shower is in the bedroom. The washbasin and loo are in a separate compartment on the nearside; when you open the door, it closes across the caravan, enabling you to divide the caravan into two rooms. Enticingly light in weight and with spec including an extractor fan, this Truma-heated model has lots of appeal, especially when you consider that a new SI, albeit of a different layout, with a transverse bed and rear shower room, costs £24,395.

Condition

The rather retro, bold-patterned seating fabric has been superseded by plainer fashions, but it's still attractive and the tactile, three-tone curtains are lovely. Everything is in beautiful condition. The metal sink has survived eight years without scratches, and the cooker still shines.



FACT FILE

- Price £10,995 ● Year 2009 ● Berths 4
- Length: Body 5.79m Overall 7.32m
- MIRO 1241kg ● MTPLM 1445kg

LAYOUT

Rear island bed, shower in bedroom, nearside toilet room

Coachman Pastiche 560/4



4 Until the advent of the transverse island bed, this layout, with a bed on the nearside, was Britain's most popular choice for couples. And it's still very appealing. This Pastiche version is high on spec (with an alarm system and extractor fan), high on style and with a lovely fabric scheme of palest creams enhanced by rich red-brown plus a leaf and berry design on two of the cushions.

White kitchen top lockers and drawer fronts, with a prominent horizontal grain, create an ultra-modern look, teamed with the cappuccino-shade cabinetry elsewhere. The kitchen surface is darkest grey with sparkly, very slightly raised bits – again, very on-trend. And this is a really practical kitchen, with extra surface space opposite, above the fridge.



We love the luxuriously large shower room with its big, Belfast-style washbasin. We also love the condition of this Pastiche.

Condition

The black enamel sink sparkles. The grill pan is still in its plastic wrapper. The mattress still has its factory wrapping in place. There's not even heat burnish around the hotplate. A pristine caravan – an awesome find!



FACT FILE

- Price £18,995 ● Year 2015 ● Berths 4
- Length: Body 5.65m Overall 7.28m
- MIRO 1401kg ● MTPLM 1555kg

LAYOUT

End shower room, side fixed bed

Coachman VIP 565/4



5 If you fancy Coachman quality, but you'd like to restrict your outlay to less than the price of the two-year-old Pastiche we found (above), try this caravan for size. And for versatility. While twin beds can be ideal for a couple, this layout also works well for a family with teenagers; they get the twin beds and mum and dad make a double bed from the lounge.

Like the Pastiche, this VIP has Truma heating. It has ample storage space under the twin beds – and the offside bed space has a storage feature

which we really admire: a drawer, perfect for socks and the like; we wish other manufacturers would introduce this splendidly practical storage element! This model shares with the Pastiche the wonderfully large Belfast-style washbasin. It also has a full-width sunroof.

Condition

Here is a five-year-old caravan in almost as-new condition, save for hotplate base heat burnish and a tiny bit of scuffing in the sink (both of which are inevitable consequences of even slight use). It's another example that demonstrates Marquis is a place to search for used tourers in awesome condition for their year. Only caravans which would tempt us to part with our own cash make it to these pages – and we could have spent a lot of money during our day at Dinnington!



FACT FILE

- Price £15,495 ● Year 2012 ● Berths 4
- Length: Body 5.8m Overall 7m
- MIRO 1500kg ● MTPLM 1655kg

LAYOUT

Twin beds



Buccaneer Fluyt

6 We couldn't resist picking a second twin-bed caravan, not just because they're popular, but because this one represents a chance to buy into what is widely regarded as the ultimate marque in terms of spec. This Alde-heated Buccaneer has a surprise feature: a rain-sensing rooflight over the lounge; it closes automatically when its sensors detect rain! The Fluyt's spec extends to a ceramic loo and a pull-out towel rail in the shower.

There's an air of elegance about this caravan; its ambience is rather traditional, with rich, dark woodwork and seating fabric that mixes tactile plain cream with a subtle floral pattern on the backrests. The side curtains hang on chrome café rods; very smart and very refined.

Buccaneer Fluyts were only made for a year. Today's range of Buccaneers are all longer and on twin axles, so it's difficult to make a price comparison; suffice to say, they all carry price tags in excess of £30,000 and here is a beautiful Buccaneer for less than £18,000!

Condition

The smart black hob base and sink gleam like new. There is no heat burnish above the oven burners so we are sure it has never been used. Everything about this caravan screams 'buy me'; if you aspire to Buccaneer spec, this is a fabulous chance to get it.



FACT FILE

- Price £17,495 ● Year 2013 ● Berths 4
- Length: Body 5.8m Overall 7.55m
- MIRO 1596kg ● MTPLM 1750kg

LAYOUT

Twin beds

Lunar Delta RS

7 Big kitchen, big dresser, big shower room, twin-axle stability, on-board water tank – this Delta has it all. For less than £10,000! It's a mighty length but its weight is a mere 1665kg MTPLM, which means that it's within the scope of many mid-sized cars. What a find!

The heating system is Truma; this Delta was built before Alde heating became the norm in high-spec caravans but, other than that, it's easily comparable with the nearest-equivalent Delta, the TI, which has its bed aligned across, rather than down, the caravan. The TI costs £27,799, which makes this RS great value. It has a distinctive style; mellow-shade woodwork creates a cosy, almost cottage look, and pretty ruching along the top of the bedhead, plus a valance above the offside bedroom window, add to the homely image. We love the grey marble-effect surfaces in the kitchen, on the huge dresser, the free-standing table, the dressing table and the centre-front chest of drawers. This caravan has a brilliant amount of storage, with 14 top lockers plus two more over the kitchen.

Condition

For nine years old, this caravan is amazing. A little tea staining in the metal sink is the only evidence of use that our critical eyes could find. Another sparkling buy!



FACT FILE

- Price £9995 ● Year 2008 ● Berths 4
- Length: Body 6.37m Overall 7.93m
- MIRO 1395kg ● MTPLM 1665kg

LAYOUT

Rear shower room, side bed

Compass Corona 566



8 More proof that there is something for every budget and every layout desire here at Marquis South

Yorkshire arrives in the form of this Corona, with twin lounges. It's a layout seldom seen today, yet it's a fabulous choice for a family seeking twin-lounge/dining accommodation.

This layout disappeared when the Compass brand was relaunched last year and the Corona range disappeared. Its shower room is on the offside, opposite a generously-sized kitchen. The rear lounge is a mirror image of the front one, complete with a chest of drawers. A long, rectangular rooflight ensures the lovely, turquoise-accent fabric looks light and bright. Added to all that, it has Alde heating.

Condition

Fabulous! Totally as-new. Another caravan that would surely tempt us to buy.



FACT FILE

- Price £17,995 ● Year 2016 ● Berths 6
- Length: Body 5.7m Overall 7.3m
- MIRO 1341kg ● MTPLM 1514kg

LAYOUT

Twin lounges, offside shower room

Elddis Odyssey 656

9 Another six-berth caravan, this time with a layout that provides a double bed plus bunks to make from a dining area – and with a U-shaped lounge.



We love the kitchen, with its hinged extra surface area that lowers over the foot of the bed – perfect for breakfast coffee and toast! We love the lounge, again with a hinged surface, this time for drinks or lunch; when it's out of the way, you have an extra seat. And we love the extra stability factor of twin axles. This caravan has a lot going for it.



Condition

By now we'd become accustomed to finding caravans in amazing condition for their year and here is another shining example of Marquis excellence, with only slight dulling of the hob surface to show that this caravan has been on some holidays. Brilliant value for just £11,995.

FACT FILE

- Price £11,995 ● Year 2011 ● Berths 6
- Length: Body 6.26m Overall 7.96m
- MIRO 1560kg ● MTPLM 1750kg

LAYOUT

Nearside bed, offside dining area

Sterling Europa 550



10 Europas of this era were defined by gorgeously pale woodwork, creating an exceptionally light, airy aspect. This model's dark kitchen and table surfaces, plus matching banding below the top lockers, rolls back the design-trend years, making it look very up-to-date. The layout is straightforwardly appealing, and with an ingenious method of accommodating a television: a bracket descends when you click two buttons in the part-partition between the bed and the dresser. The bracket can be angled to face the bed or the lounge. Brilliant!



Condition

Sterling's white, granite-effect sinks of this era are very resilient and this example shows no sign of use. Only heat marks around the hotplate show that the kitchen has been used. It's yet one more stellar example of the superb secondhand caravans available at Marquis.



FACT FILE

- Price £10,995 ● Year 2010 ● Berths 4
- Length: Body 5.6m Overall 7.29m
- MIRO 1283kg ● MTPLM 1495kg

LAYOUT

Rear shower room, nearside bed

