

31
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ENTRY-LEVEL T6
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Eddis

Majestic 254

Not your usual entry-level dealer special but a more upmarket, island bed model with an unusual way of tackling four-up touring

Words Dave Hurrell



FACT FILE

BASE VEHICLE Peugeot Boxer

PRICE FROM £55,859

BERTHS 4

TRAVEL SEATS 4

LENGTH 7.40m

WIDTH 2.35m

HEIGHT 2.82m

GROSS WEIGHT 3,500kg

PAYLOAD 421kg

THE Majestic 254 is billed as a dealer special. And that means it's built to Marquis' specification, adding desirable extras not on the standard Eddis model.

There's an engine upgrade – from 130 to 160bhp – and features such as climate control, a rear view camera and a solar panel – the list goes on.

The 254 is based on Eddis' upmarket Encore of the same model number suffix, so the specification is pretty good from the off – its stand-out item being Alde's wet central heating system. This unit runs on gas and/or mains hook-up, providing hot water and feeding

concealed radiators throughout the interior. The result is near-silent operation and excellent distribution of warmth.

This motorhome combines the luxury of an island double bed with a classic twin-sofa lounge up front – something rarely found in equivalent continental rivals (though the latest Chaussons and some Rapidos do fit this bill).

And there's more, as fold-up belted travel seats appear from beneath the sofas to make the 254 into a practical four-berth – though you do lose under-seat stowage and you have to find a home for the settee cushions when travelling.



The sofas also create berths three and four in a transverse double bed.

The latest 2-litre, Euro VI, Peugeot Boxer engine gives a very useful chunk of extra grunt. And, as an all-new unit, the motor is far superior to its predecessor – smoother,





WHO IS ELDDIS?

Marquis' Majestic models are produced by the company previously known as The Explorer Group, one of the largest producers of caravan and motorhomes in the UK.



In February 2017 the company was bought out by one of Europe's biggest leisure vehicle producers, the Erwin Hymer Group. So Explorer has become Erwin Hymer Group UK.

The history of Elddis goes right back to 1963 when Siddle Cook first produced hand-built caravans at his home. Siddle launched Elddis and the new firm was based just outside Consett in County Durham. It's still there today, although on a different site to the original one. And the name? Elddis is simply Siddle spelt backwards.

Success followed and various other motorhome brands (Autohomes, Buccaneer, Compass) were swallowed up, but these days just one brand of motorhomes (Elddis) is built at Consett.

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Marquis Leisure has been around since 1973 and is proud to offer the biggest dealer network in the UK, so there should be a branch not too far away from you.

11 outlets cover England very well, although there are no branches in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. The most northerly location is the Durham branch at Birtley (near Chester-le-Street), the most southerly not far from Plymouth. Preston, Sheffield, Northampton and Ipswich all have a Marquis site. For customers living south of London, Berkshire, Hampshire, Dorset and Sussex all have branches. All Marquis outlets are open seven days a week.



quieter and more fuel efficient.

Other very welcome base vehicle features include sat-nav, tyre pressure monitors and automatic lights and wipers (the last a feature rarely seen on motorhomes).

Spacious for two, the lounge might seat six for a social evening and there should be good eating for four from a versatile free-standing table that can also be used for *al fresco* dining.

Typically British, the cook's department is fully equipped, if not overly large. A full-sized stove has a separate grill and oven and boasts a gas-saving mains hotplate on its four-pan hob. There's a microwave, too, and a tall 'n' slim

fridge/freezer. Above, a roof-mounted suck-blow fan brings in fresh air and extracts cooking steam and smells – a good thing as the bedroom area is open to the kitchen, unlike many other island bed designs where there is a greater degree of separation.

With its integral shower, the bathroom is a compromise, but it's equipped with a storage cabinet and swivel bowl loo. Designer style is added by the countertop washbasin, while the shower boasts a dedicated mixer valve and Ecocamel water-saving showerhead.

And talking of water, the fresh tank holds a showering-friendly 100 litres, with Majestic

specification including a frost-beating heater to this and the waste tank.

In the rear, the bed is located across the interior – most island beds runs lengthways down the 'van. This allows you to wake up with a lovely view of the great outdoors (as long as the neighbouring 'van is not too close) through a large window at your feet. The bed is equipped to slide forwards for greater sleeping length and back for more room to move around the bedroom during the day.

The Majestic 254 is very well equipped and has the flexibility to be a comfy two-berth or occasional four-person motorhome.