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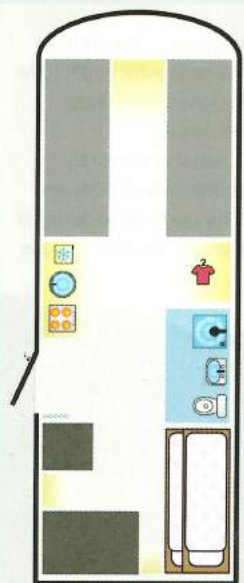
COACHMAN VIP 570

The manufacturer steps into the high-spec family caravan arena for the first time with its only new model for 2018

Words: Val Chapman
Photos: Richard Chapman

FACT FILE

- Berths 5
- Length
 - Body length 5.8m
 - Overall length 7.43m
- Width 2.31m
- Headroom 1.96m
- Heating system Alde
- Weight
 - MIRO 1479kg
 - MTPLM 1645kg
- Minimum towcar weight
 - Novice 1935kg
 - Expert 1645kg



» Until now, Coachman's top-spec, eight-model VIP range has been aimed squarely at couples. Now, though, the VIP range has a model specifically designed for families. The VIP 570 is a five-berth, with a layout that gives the younger caravanners their own 'room'.

It has two bunks plus a single bed to make up in the dining area alongside it. This arrangement is a tried-and-trusted configuration that has appeared in various other manufacturers' portfolios for some years. That's because it works well and sells well. Now, full marks to Coachman for grabbing a slice of that market sector – with a caravan that has an appealingly high level of specification as befits a flagship range.

VIPs have Alde heating, ATC stability control, extractor fans, deep-pile carpets, floor-level lighting and PIR alarm systems with tilt sensors.

For 2018, Coachman introduced a unique front-end storage system to the VIP range. There are now two compartments at the front: one for gas, the other for storage. Each is 70cm tall, 64cm wide and 43cm at its deepest point, tapering slightly as the body line curves.

The nearside locker is fitted for two 6kg or 7kg gas cylinders. The offside one gives you ample space for outdoor essentials including your mains cable, chocks, waste water piping and loo chemicals. All of these items will stay in place much better when you tow in a smaller locker, than scattered around gas cylinders in a compartment that spans the width of the caravan. The doors of both compartments open very wide, so lifting gas cylinders in and out is easy.

The 570's layout features a shower room on the offside, with the kitchen on the nearside.

Showering B

There are lots of plus-points about the 570's shower room. The almost-circular shower is of ample size. The shower room is beautifully



appointed, with a high-quality splashback of the sort you'd equate with a domestic bathroom, a neat little toothbrush holder that slides into a circular mount, and a wide shelf for shampoos in the shower cubicle.

There's a heated towel rail – part of the Alde system – and a very large mirror, bordered by bright lights. There are two bright spotlights set into the ceiling above the mirror. There's only one towel loop, though. For five occupants, more would be needed – and there's plenty of space to fix them, especially, and ideally, above the heated rail.

Sleeping B

The bunks are 1.7m long; the single bed made up in the dining area is 1.8m long. The single beds in the lounge are 1.7m long and 74cm wide.

The double bed is a massive 2.05m long. So, if

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The children's area feels a long way from the lounge

parents aren't particularly tall, they have the option to use the lounge as single beds – or enjoy the luxury of a large double bed.

Storage B

Lots of beds and settees equals lots of storage boxes, of course. The under-bunk box and the lounge storage areas have tops which self-support on gas-filled struts. The storage areas under the rear seating area have slide-back slatted tops.

There are two slim (19cm deep) lockers above the rear seating areas; one contains a shelf. The lounge top locker arrangement gives you a total of six shelf spaces, plus two small lockers that reach into the front line of the caravan.

In the kids' zone, a 35cm-wide cabinet creates all sorts of storage options – for shoes, books and media equipment. The wardrobe offers 50cm of

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hanging width, plus two drawers beneath. Overall, the 570's storage credentials meet the needs of five nicely.

Dining A

Caravans with two dining areas usually earn our A-rating and the 570 is no exception. The freestanding table stows away easily in its own cabinet at the fore end of the wardrobe.

Snack times are catered for by an ingeniously designed table which pulls out from under the windowsill and then automatically slides upwards, on springs, to become level with the windowsill. The table it creates is a huge 83cm deep.

Lounging A

When Coachman redesigned the front panel of VIPs for 2018 the company introduced a lower



A* EXCEPTIONAL **A** VERY GOOD **B** GOOD **C** AVERAGE **D** BELOW AVERAGE



ABOVE LEFT The almost-circular shower is of ample size

ABOVE RIGHT Plenty of shelving in the shower room and bright, white lighting

ROUNDEL The snack table automatically slides upwards, on springs, to become level with the windowsill

WHAT WE LIKE

- The well-designed rear bunk-lounge
- The Alde heating
- The wide sunroof
- The excellent gas and front storage arrangements

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE

- Only one towel loop
- A kitchen extension would be useful
- The height of the microwave won't suit short people

windowsill and deeper windows – which means a lighter, brighter lounge, helped, of course, by the enormous sunroof. It's a vast 1.57m wide and just over 50cm deep, curving upwards and under a matt grey frame. Spotlights focus down from the frame into the lounge. Along the sides, lighting is set into recesses which define the slope of the front line of the caravan. The design is both elegant and modern.

The kids' lounging area has seating for three, a table for two and a chest of drawers that hides away a power and TV point. This is a young caravanners' lounge that is thoughtfully designed for media activities.

There are more TV sockets in the front lounge, close to a ledge that's ideal for a TV. There are two USB sockets here; one is a one-amp socket, the other 2.1 amps, to cater for different devices.

Kitchen B

We love the VIP level of refinement that includes a light in the oven so that you can easily see if your food is ready. Lighting is set under the edge of the kitchen cabinets and there's also a light at floor level. Even the humble draining board has the

stamp of VIP quality: sturdy, ridged and with a lip to channel water into the sink.

With the hob top down, there is 1.47m of kitchen surface length. When you're making meals for five you are likely to need all of that. In our opinion, a hinged extension would make all the difference; increasing the 59cm of space forward of the sink by another 30cm would transform this kitchen from 'good' to 'excellent' when catering for five caravanners.

Storage comes in the form of three deep drawers between the fridge and the oven, each 37cm wide, plus two upper cabinets. We think most families will need more space for kitchen items but, with storage elsewhere in plentiful supply, for most buyers, using drawers under the wardrobe or a locker above the lounge for culinary stuff isn't going to impinge unduly on other storage.

The sink is generous in size, at 44cm x 33cm and 15cm deep. There's no need to scurry to the caravan site washing-up sinks; pull on your marigolds right here.

The height of the microwave won't suit shorter caravanners, although the Chapman review crew find it's just fine.

The 570's layout is first rate for family practicality and holiday harmony, with a well-designed children's area at the rear



Towing B

The VIP 570 was unveiled nationally at the NEC show in February. When we take advantage of a manufacturer's invitation to review a caravan at the factory prior to its release to the public, there is one disadvantage: we can't take it out for a test tow. Coachman understandably didn't want *Caravan* magazine to unveil the 570 to anyone before the manufacturer's own launch of the new model, which means we could only tow it within Coachman's premises, shielded from sight by high hedging and fencing. Well, the 570 is brilliant at low speeds!

We do, though, have every confidence in its road manners, given our experience with VIPs of a similar size and weight. And, importantly, ATC stability control is standard.

CENTRE A brilliant kids' zone with bunks and a dining-play area

TOP There is lighting under the edge of the cabinets and there's a spotlight at floor level, too

ABOVE The settees are generously proportioned at 1.7m long

VERDICT

A top-quality, deep pile carpet, USB sockets with two power outputs to suit different devices, a light in the oven and one of the best gas bottle and front storage configurations we've ever seen – the new 570 is laden with impressive features.

Its layout is first rate for family practicality and holiday harmony, with a well-designed children's area at the rear. If you want a single-axle, high-spec family tourer, this one is a must for your shortlist.

Coachman only launched one new model for 2018, and it saved the reveal until the spring when, traditionally, the sales accent is firmly on family caravans. A good tactic. And a very good caravan.

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