

## LUNAR LEXON 660

The latest Lexon is a spacious, open-plan creation with a long lounge, enormous kitchen capacity and twin-axle tow stability

Words: Val Chapman Photos: Richard Chapman

FACT FILE

Berths 4
Length
Body length 6.34m
Overall length 7.89m
Width 2.33m
Headroom 1.95m
Heating system
Truma Combi
Weight
MIRO 1438kg
MTPLM 1625kg
Minimum towcar weight
Novice 1911kg
Expert 1625kg

### TEST LOCATION

Little Orchard Caravan Park, Weeton, Lancashire There's now a wide choice of caravans with the on-trend central shower-washroom layout. But this high-fashion in layout doesn't diminish the superstar status of the now-classic transverse island-bed, rear shower-room layout, adopted by the latest Lexon. The 660 is one of seven twin-axle transverse island-bed, rear washroom models on the market. There are now also 18 single-axle versions of this layout to choose from.

The big advantage of this layout is that the caravan looks more open-plan than tourers in which the central shower and wash compartments effectively divide the caravan into two rooms. The 660, by contrast, has a wide, open aspect.

This new model isn't the only news in the Lexon range for 2018. A front-line restyle introduces a sleeker gas locker shape, with new grab handles that are more prominent than in previous models. Inside, the theme for this year is cool fawns, white and grey – with caravanning's most interesting and inspiring cushion fabric. In fact, it's safe to say that most people will consider the cushions to be the statement of this year's Lexon décor. That's because the words 'sun', 'seaside' and 'beach' leap out of the cream background, in phrases including 'Home is where the beach is' and 'This way to the beach...' All the affirmations you need to conjure images of summer holidays in a Lexon.

Lunar gives buyers three other fabric scheme options. For an extra £299 you could go for the Joules-inspired floral scheme that's in the Quasar range; the soft blue-greys from the Clubman and Delta ranges; or an Aquaclean scheme that uses purples along with creams and fawns. For our money, though, we'd stick with the standard – and lovely – seaside theme!

The seating fabric is plain fawn, and the curtains mix blocks of fawns and white in a



horizontal pattern. The same pattern upholsters a padded frame around a large mirror on the rear wall of the 660's bedroom. The white top lockers have a satin finish that in some lights takes on a silvery hue (delightfully modern!). The lockers in the kitchen are dark grey. The whole effect is coolly modern, enhanced by the pale grey carpet which leads the eye right down the length of the 660 to the shower room.

### Showering B

There's a chunky, almost industrial style about the big, round base of the shower control. The shower is a respectable  $78 \text{cm} \times 66 \text{cm}$ , and there are two shelves for shampoos. A rail runs across the ceiling for towels or garments to dry.

Belfast-style washbasins arrive in the Lexon range for 2018; the 660's is on the rear wall.

CARAVAN PERFORMANCE GUIDE - OUR A\* to D RATING >>

## >> CARAVAN BUYER



A double towel hook sits high up on the forward wall and there's a loop alongside the basin, which is a good size, at 37cm x 20cm and 16cm deep. Fine strips of white light run along the vertical edges of the big mirror above it.

Some may consider the shower room to be a bit tight on floor space – it's 78cm deep – but we think it's just fine.

### Sleeping A

The double bed is 1.8m long – and if you are taller than that, your feet can overhang the edge. The bed is 1.35m wide, and it's retractable, to create a wider corridor during the day, but we think there is sufficient space without the need to do this.

A wedge-shaped cabinet is in the forward offside corner of the bedroom, with all of the connections you need for a TV, plus a bracket on



the wall. We'd rather like to see a mirror here, too, so that the cabinet could be used as a dressing table. That's because, although the mirror on the rear wall of the bedroom has a socket nearby for hairdryer use, there's nowhere to place your make-up, other than on the bed.

Lighting is above the over-bed lockers – and we love the style of the bright spotlights; they're cuboid in shape, in brushed steel (the same style appears in all four corners of the lounge).

The wardrobes, in typical transverse bed layout style, are unequal in size. The rear one is just 24cm wide; while the width of the front one is a generous 50cm. The caravanner who brings more clothes on holiday nabs the larger wardrobe.

It's a similar story with the drawers and cabinets under each wardrobe, which correspond in width to the size of the wardrobe.

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

## >> CARAVAN BUYER







ABOVE The settees are a generous 1.85m long, and have cushions that conjure thoughts of beach holidays!

ABOVE RIGHT Grey top lockers, outlined with a rim of light, are a strong style feature of the kitchen

BOTTOM LEFT Power points and a TV bracket in the corner of the bedroom make nighttime viewing easy

**BOTTOM RIGHT** The fridgefreezer has a gigantic 190-litre capacity

### WHAT WE LIKE

- The open-plan aspect
- The spacious and lengthy kitchen work surface
- The 190-litre fridge-freezer
- The towel rail across the shower cubicle

### WHAT WE DON'T LIKE

- We'd want a mirror by the dressing table
- The microwave is positioned too high for short people

# With an MTPLM of 1625kg, the 660 is on a par with a large number of single-axle caravans, yet it's longer than them all

Whoever takes more shoes on holiday needs to bag the bigger cabinet!

To make a bed in the lounge, you draw out base sections from under each settee.

### Storage A

Bedroom storage is fine – provided you can agree on who gets which wardrobe, of course, as is the case with all caravans of this layout.

Under-bed storage is predictably good, even though the metal mechanism that enables you to retract the bed inevitably gets in the way a bit if you want to put sizeable items under the mattress. There is, though, an exterior hatch to this space, which solves this problem to a large extent.

Under-lounge storage is accessed by full-length drop-down hatches. Because the settees are 1.85m long, the locker space is huge, especially on the nearside. There is also plenty of space on the offside, between the Truma Combi heater unit at the front and the power distribution unit at the rear.

Top lockers reach into the corners, making use of every available space. Overall, the 660's storage capability easily earns an A-rating.

### Dining A

The dining table lives in its own slot, conveniently at the forward end of the kitchen cabinet, and it's easy to get in and out. When lesser eating space is required, the 79cm x 60cm pull-out table in the middle at the front will easily suffice.

### Lounging A

Photographer, Richard, stretches out in the lounge as I write this review and pronounces the 660's lounge well fit for his purpose – he comments that he's precisely 1.82m tall and the settees provide perfect kick-back comfort for caravanners of his stature. He draws my attention to a refined lounge lighting feature: a strip of 'brushed steel' (it's actually plastic but you can't tell that until you touch it), backlit with warm white LEDs.

### Kitchen B

The kitchen is 1.31m long with the 35cm-wide extension in place. That's generous space in which to enjoy meal prep. Three top lockers amply take care of small and lightweight stuff. Two lower cabinets, 26cm wide and 51cm wide, each have two shelf spaces and a drawer. That amounts to enormous kitchen storage space.







The fridge-freezer is enormous, too. It's the Dometic 190-litre capacity model, sited opposite the kitchen, with the microwave above it.

The height of the microwave is the only element of the kitchen that could draw adverse comment from some potential buyers; if you're short in stature, it might be too high. Not for us, though – this kitchen is top class. But the microwave's height forces us to lower the kitchen rating to a B rather than A.

### Towing A

We were hardly aware of the 660's presence behind our SsangYong Rexton on its 20-mile journeys between the Lunar factory and Little Orchard Caravan Park for our review. At 1625kg MTPLM, the 660 is among the lightest twin-axle caravans you can buy, so it's suitable for a good range of cars. And it's equipped with ATC stability control. Lots of boxes ticked, then.

LEFT The shower is a respectable 78cm x 66cm, with two shelves for shampoos

TOP The bed is retractable to create a wider corridor during the day

ABOVE The double bed is 1.8m long – if you are taller than that, your feet can overhang the end of the bed

### VERDICT

Twin-axle luxury for single-axle weight – that's one of the keynotes of the 660. With an MTPLM of 1625kg, it's on a par with a large number of single-axle caravans, yet it's longer than them all. We love its open-plan layout and the fact that the bedroom feels a long way from the lounge. We love the length of the lounge, the big-capacity fridge-freezer, the amount of kitchen cabinet and surface space – and the sun, sea and sand themed cushions! Only two things might be perceived as negatives: the height of the microwave, above the fridge-freezer, could worry short people; and those, like us, who love the facility of a little dressing table, would want a mirror on the wall there, although buying and fitting a mirror would be very easy!

## **INSURANCE**

Annual quote based on new-for-old cover with maximum discount.

T 0800 980 6846

W shieldtotalinsurance.co.uk





