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# Elddis Majestic 285

The Majestic is Marquis' take on the Encore, and although this is already the most highly specified of Elddis' motorhomes, they've managed to add plenty of extras. You get the power of a 160bhp engine; camping-friendly features like an external barbecue point and a solar panel; and sleek Majestic graphics that stand out from the crowd.



**Exterior** If I'm honest, the traditional coachbuilt ★★★★★ motorhome doesn't rank high on my list of things of beauty in the automotive world, but the Majestic 285 is as good-looking as they come. The silver cab blends almost seamlessly into the habitation part of the vehicle, linked by the bold silver and black graphics. The reversing camera is also a great accessory in a motorhome of this size, making manoeuvring a doddle.

**Lounge** The front lounge layout is fairly conventional, perhaps owing something to ★★★★★

Above: The mid-positioned kitchen is comprehensively equipped for meal times

Right: Silver graphics emphasise the way the side panels integrate the Peugeot Boxer cab

Elddis's caravan heritage. There are sofas on each side, and with the cab seats swivelled you can seat four occupants comfortably. The sofas are compact, though, so they're a bit restricted for lounging unless you discard a bulky armrest or two. Underneath you'll find a couple of forward-facing travelling seats tucked away, with three-point seatbelts. It's a neat way to combine a conventional, comfy seating layout while on site with decent safety-critical travelling seats when they're needed.



PICTURES CANDY EVANS

Above: A motorhome is never going to be confused with a Lamborghini, but the Majestic manages to look chunkily attractive

Opposite, left to right: The satnav is useful, but keep in mind it doesn't know it's in a 7.4m van, not a car; the all-important bedside cup-of-tea shelf; the rear washroom wouldn't disgrace a caravan; there's room to move around between the twin beds near the back of the van





For luxury dining, there's a free-standing table stored in a cupboard by the entrance door. Unfortunately, on my test unit the clips holding this in place weren't big enough, and the table banged around scarily on the road. In fact, furniture rattles were a bit of a problem all around, though I guess you could fix these if this were your own unit. There's a useful space for a television between the living and sleeping areas, on top of the table's cabinet, along with a couple of USB charging sockets for all those extra gadgets that most of us can no longer travel without.

**Kitchen** The kitchen has everything you need to ★★★★★ cook up a storm, and more. A full cooker, the Thetford Aspire 2, comes with three gas burners, an electric hotplate, grill and properly regulated oven, alongside a good-size fridge and a sink with a decent depth. I wouldn't choose to have

the microwave directly above the hob, as I'd be in danger of putting my hands through the steam from a pan of boiling water when reaching up to get something out, but the 230V sockets are well positioned for an electric kettle and the drawers are well designed, including a compact one for your cutlery. There's a section of work space in the main kitchen area, and you can always use the lid of the cooker too, if necessary, for food preparation.

**Beds and seating** ★★★★★ Pitching at the Oxford Camping and Caravanning Club site can be a bit of a challenge in damper conditions, as there aren't any defined hard-standing pitches. So I ended up carefully positioned on the side of a roadway and didn't notice the slight camber until I was tucked up in bed. Fortunately, I still enjoyed a good night's sleep →

<b>Price</b>	from £54,495
<b>Length</b>	7.40m
<b>Width</b>	2.35m
<b>MIRO</b>	3,076kg
<b>MTPLM</b>	3,500kg
<b>Berths</b>	4
<b>Engine</b>	2.0 diesel
<b>Power</b>	160 bhp

**We like**  
Spacious feel, side seating hiding travelling seats

**We dislike**  
Rattles on the road, slightly restricted space on the sofas



I'm a fan of this basin, which looks smart and, unlike the glass ones, stays that way after five minutes

### Overall impression



This Elddis has a very caravan-like feel inside, which could be a good or bad thing, depending on your point of view. I like it, but if I were buying I'd be tempted to have a chassis plate upgrade to give a more practical payload, especially if travelling with four on board. As it is, though, the van will suit those with a plain B-class driving licence.

### More information

[marquisleisure.co.uk](http://marquisleisure.co.uk)

→ in one of the twin fixed beds at the heart of the Majestic. The Alde heating has radiators by the sides of these beds, making them really cosy on a chilly night. And I always love it when I find a small shelf for that all-important early morning cup of tea. As I was travelling alone, I didn't try the double bed at the front, which makes up from the two sofas, but it's available if you need it. I'd say most users will be couples, so the extra travelling seats will only be pressed into service occasionally.

Above: The two front sofas are quite small, but conceal front-facing seats too

Right: The door is substantial; the separate shower cubicle features a water-saving head



**Storage** There are loads of cubby-holes and other storage spaces throughout this 285. The Peugeot cab has plenty on its own, including cup holders, over-cab shelving and more. Deep, shelved eye-level cupboards then extend back through the living and sleeping areas, complemented by under-bed spaces, one of which is accessible from the outside as well. There's even an under-floor locker at the front, though I'd have happily lost this in favour of a level floor throughout; I fell down that particular obstacle on several occasions, though I imagine you'd soon learn to avoid this hazard if you owned the van. To complete the storage options there's a good-sized wardrobe in the rear washroom as well as a useful vanity unit below the basin.

**Washroom** And that washroom is very practical and spacious, considering the size of the tourer. Having used the odd transparent basin in recent tests, it's a pleasure to have a fair-sized basin that doesn't show every drop of water after use. There's a cupboard underneath, and a quick reminder of the Majestic styling back here in the form of a small crown etched into the large mirror. Other useful facilities include a soap dish and tooth-mug holder, along with space to keep your toiletries close at hand.

The separate shower cubicle boasts a water-saving shower head, always a positive point when you have to transport all your water, and there are a few places to hold towels. But who decided a carpet was a good idea in the shower cubicle? Or a vertical toilet-roll holder that means your tissue sticks out into the doorway, ready to spin every time you nip inside? Just asking...