

Randger

R499

New from France and on sale at a Marquis Leisure branch near you, here's a well-priced campervan on an unusual base vehicle



FACT FILE

BASE VEHICLE Fiat Talento

PRICE FROM £41,995

BERTHS 4

TRAVEL SEATS 4

LENGTH 4.99m

WIDTH 1.96m

HEIGHT 2.03m

GROSS WEIGHT 2,960kg

PAYLOAD 531kg

CAMPERVANS like this are nothing new – but they are enjoying a level of popularity not seen since the VW Type 2's heyday in the 1970s.

Volkswagen's own California sales in the UK were up by over 50% last year and other chassis manufacturers, such as Ford, Mercedes-Benz and Renault, seem intent on getting their slice of the action.

But Fiat? Well, previously the Italian giant has seemed to content itself with the lion's share of the market for full-sized motorhomes.

Its Talento – a derivative of the excellent Renault Traffic – could be poised to change all

that, though.

If it's surprising that Fiat hasn't had its sights on the campervan market sooner, it's equally unusual that the UK's largest motorhome retailer, Marquis, has also avoided this sector. Until now.

Here, then, is Randger, a new brand from France that's part of the Trigano Group.

As with other Marquis/Trigano imports, you'll get the same kit in every Randger, in the usual one-spec-fits-all policy (just choose from three exterior colours). That means plenty of kit – 17in alloy wheels, air-con, cruise control, ESC with Traction Plus and Hill

Assist, and a DAB radio with 7in touchscreen, Bluetooth and sat-nav. Power comes from a 1.6-litre twin-turbo diesel offering 125bhp.

With its contrasting black pop-top lid and black alloys, the R499 makes a statement, but, in contrast, the conversion is rather predictable. There's a rear-hinged, manually raised roof and the floorplan – with side kitchen and rear bench seat – is exactly as you'd anticipate.

Like many other campervan makers, Randger turns to RIB for that seat/bed unit, so this is a well-tested design. It comes with height-adjustable headrests and two seatbelts



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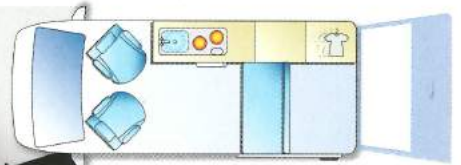
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BUY A RANDGER FROM...

The Randger R499 and R535 campervans are another exclusive-to-Marquis import, following in the wheel tracks of Benimar and Mobilvetta. As such, it will be available through all 12 branches of Marquis Leisure, dotted around England, so that you're never too far from an outlet.



WHO IS RANDGER?

Randger is a new brand, launched in 2017, but its designs are familiar ones already on the French market. The Auto Camp models (from sister marque, Font Vendôme) are all-but-identical to these new Randgers (bar Renault badges and interior décor), but it's great to see the Randger vehicles swapped around for the UK market, with sliding doors on our nearside for easy access.

Part of the Trigano Group, Randger builds campervans and larger van conversions (no coachbuilds) at its new factory at the picturesque touristy town of Brantôme in the Périgord region. Its sister marque claims to be the number one van converter in France.



but not Isofix (for child seats) and its proportions best suit those with longer legs.

Its seat runners give around 200mm of fore/aft movement and, with the seat in its forward position, rear passengers will feel much less remote from the cab and boot space is increased, too.

Up front, you'll find that both cab seats swivel. Then, for dining, the table is retrieved from the boot and clipped to the front of the galley. Four people can all (just) reach, but the table works better for two in conjunction with the rear bench.

Side kitchen campers may all look much the same but it's the details that can make all the difference. Here, those details start with its very automotive trim panel in the rear nearside and plenty of artificial lighting – essential due to the dark tinted windows in the rear.

The galley seems well thought out, too, with practical storage and very solidly constructed furniture. The use of tambour doors also makes for easy access to your stuff whichever position the seat is in, although you can't get to the fridge with the bed down.

The roof bed is the wider of two double beds, with a one-piece mattress and near-6ft length. The lower bed unfolds in the usual RIB fashion, to make a flat double that's a reasonable 1.86m by 1.11m.

Rear boot space is enough for outdoor chairs, wellies, mains lead, etc, below the mattress and bedding (and more) on top, or you can fold this section of bed flat against the rear seat backrest to create full-height storage that's at least 650mm deep.

Completing the Randger's spec is Webasto diesel-powered blown-air heating.



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