

# Randger R499

Looking for a daily-driver campervan at a great price? Start here...



#### 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



**C**AMPERVAN sales are booming. Over 50% more Volkswagen Californias were sold in the UK last year – and that’s despite new competition from the Mercedes Marco Polo. Other manufacturers are getting in on the action, too, with the Ford Terrier looking like a particularly strong contender.

Many camper buyers see a VW roundel on the grille as a must-have mark of excellence but the cheapest diesel-engined California Ocean is now £56,597. If you’re not completely sold on the German brand then this new entrant from Marquis – launched in the summer – looks great value at just £41,995.

Based on a Fiat Talento – in effect, a rebadged Renault Trafic – it is converted in France by Randger, a new brand name with a long established pedigree. Owned by the Trignano Group, it is available through Marquis’ nationwide network of outlets, plugging an obvious gap in the retailer’s portfolio.

As with other Marquis/Trignano imports (from Benimar and Mobilvetta), you get a one-spec-fits-all policy (just choose from three exterior colours). That means plenty of kit – 17in alloy wheels, air-conditioning, cruise control, ESC with Traction+ 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, rear RIB bench seat and swivel cab seats – is exactly as you’d anticipate. Completing the Randger’s spec is Webasto diesel-powered blown-air heating.

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 1.86m by 1.11m.