

Benimar Benivan 122

This Spanish brand's high-spec approach comes to campervans



FACT FILE

BASE VEHICLE Fiat Ducato

PRICE FROM £46,495

BERTHS 2

TRAVEL SEATS 4

LENGTH 6.36m

WIDTH 2.05m

HEIGHT 2.65m

GROSS WEIGHT 3,500kg

PAYLOAD TBC



JUST about every manufacturer of note – from Adria to Westfalia (we couldn't think of one beginning with X, Y or Z!) – offers a Fiat/Peugeot-based van conversion these days and most from the Continent come with a fixed bed or beds. Now, Spanish brand, Benimar, is joining the fray – but with a couple of more Anglophile rear lounge-based designs.

Like its fellow Trigano Group marques, Chausson and Roller Team, Benimar has turned to sister company, Auto-Trail, of Grimsby, to produce its campervans. Of course, with a recently expanded production facility and plenty of experience building Tributes and V-Lines, it's

more than just a marriage of convenience.

Anyone who has examined those Auto-Trails will find much that is familiar, from the shapely, automotive-style rear seat (in the 122) to the bathroom with its concealed tip-up washbasin.

In fact, Benimar will be offering two models, each taking a proven layout that is a best-seller. The Benivan 120 is a two-berth with a large rear lounge, while the longer 122 (featured here) adds a half-dinette for extra travel seats.

The floorplans, then, hold no surprises but you'll find just a touch more shock factor in the specification and pricing. Benimar has built its resurgence here on offering a comprehensive kit

list without scary pricing, and it's the same approach with the new Benivans.

Primarily, you'll find the extra kit on the base vehicle, though it's worth noting that the galley comes with a microwave. More importantly, the standard engine is the gutsy 150bhp unit, which offers 31% more torque than the 115bhp motor. In the cab you also get height adjustment on both cab seats, air-conditioning, cruise control, a passenger airbag, leather steering wheel, chrome-ringed dials, ESP with Traction Plus, as well as the rarely seen automatic headlights and windscreen wipers. It also comes with an Xzent DAB radio with sat-nav and reversing camera.