

**30**  
CAMPER &  
MOTORHOMES  
REVIEWED

# What motorhome

HELPING YOU BUY YOUR **PERFECT MOTORHOME**



**MCLOUIS  
RETURNS  
BACK IN THE UK**

DECEMBER 2018/JANUARY 2019 £3.95  
whatmotorhome.co.uk

## NEW FOR 2019



**Top base  
vehicles**

**Mercedes  
& MAN**

**Best layouts**



**Latest features**

**Campervans  
with sunroofs**



**New brands**



- **Campster**
- **Compass**
- **McLouis**
- **Etrusco**



# Benimar

## Benivan 120

With two coachbuilt ranges well established and a third just launched, this Spanish maker enters the campervan market



### FACT FILE

**BASE VEHICLE** Fiat Ducato

**PRICE FROM** £43,995

**BERTHS** 2

**TRAVEL SEATS** 2

**LENGTH** 5.99m

**WIDTH** 2.05m

**HEIGHT** 2.54m

**GROSS WEIGHT** 3,500kg

**PAYLOAD** 600kg

**W**ITH Benimar being a Spanish brand, you'd expect its first ever van conversion for the UK to follow a familiar floorplan for imported campers – half-dinette up front, fixed bed to the rear. But, whilst its highly successful coachbuilds – now in three ranges (Primero, Mileo, Tessoro) – are all built in the sunny climes of the Mediterranean, at Peniscola, its new Benivan models hail from the slightly less glamorous location of Grimsby, North Lincolnshire.

So, the two Benivans available here (through the 12 Marquis outlets in England, plus the company's partners in Scotland and Ireland) are

as British as fish and chips. Not only are they built here but they adopt UK layouts borrowed from Auto-Trail. This is the smaller of the two, based on the 5.99m long-wheelbase panel van.

Of course, it's a Fiat Ducato that provides the starting point – one that may no longer be the cutting edge of van design but does offer internal dimensions ideally suited to campervan conversion (including the possibility of transverse sleeping). Here, Benimar has also gone for a surprisingly high standard spec.

For a start, you'd probably expect the 115bhp 2-litre engine, or maybe the 130bhp 2.3-litre. But, no, it's the 150bhp unit as standard – our

favourite Fiat Euro VI motor on account of its generous torque output. A six-speed manual gearbox is fitted but you can have the robotised Comfort-Matic instead for an additional £2,100. That's the only option as the Benivan comes comprehensively equipped.

Despite the enticing £43,995 price tag, this camper also features a DAB radio, cab air-conditioning, cruise control, sat-nav, reversing camera, cab chairs with twin armrests and height adjustment, 16in alloy wheels, a colour-coded front bumper, cab blinds, a leather steering wheel with radio/phone switches and even automatic headlights and windscreen





## BUY A BENIMAR FROM...

The Benimar brand is sold throughout the Marquis network, with its 12 outlets covering most of England – from Golden Cross (Sussex), Poole and Plymouth in the south to Preston and County Durham in the north.



In Scotland and Ireland Benimar motorhomes are sold through Marquis' partners – The Motorhome Company in Perthshire and Anchor Point Motorhomes in Co Tipperary.

The Benimar range imported by Marquis has specification and layouts that have been developed especially for the UK, including placing the habitation door on the British nearside.

## WHO IS BENIMAR?

This Spanish maker developed a strong following here in the late 1990s and early 2000s based on great value for money, primarily with its Europe and Europe Top overcab coachbuilds. It then disappeared from the UK scene, before being reintroduced by Marquis in 2014, firstly with Mileo low-profiles on Fiat.

The Mileo range has grown to include a wider choice of layouts as well as overcab coachbuilds, while Tessoro low-profiles added Ford-based models to the line-up. New for 2019 are a more entry-level Primero range of coachbuilds on Fiat and a pair of Benivan van conversions, the latter actually built in the UK by Auto-Trail.

Benimar is owned by the French Trigano Group, which also encompasses manufacturers including Adria, Auto-Sleepers, Auto-Trail, Chausson, Mobilvetta, Randger and Roller Team, as well as major retailers (and Benimar importer), Marquis. Trigano has vowed to take 50% of the UK motorhome market.



wipers – all without paying more. The only economy seems to be the choice of colour – or lack of choice. It only comes in white.

Inside, there's a similar omission of options but the 120's classic two-berth design with a spacious rear lounge remains a top seller amongst couples who have no need of rear travel seats. The conversion has NCC approval and a specification that includes a fitted microwave, an underslung 25-litre gas tank, a 100W solar panel and Truma Combi 4kW gas/electric heating.

Up front, both cab seats swivel, while a convenient low-level cabinet on the offside

makes a useful surface for coffee cups, etc. It's a useful secondary seating area if your partner is a late riser!

The kitchen has a combined hob and sink unit in stainless-steel and the worktop area at the forward end is supplemented by a hinged flap adjacent to the sliding door. The very light cabinetwork colour – called Mole – increases the feeling of space.

Opposite the galley, the washroom includes a swivel cassette toilet, fold-down basin and mirror-fronted storage cabinet. There is a separate wall-mounted shower head, rather than

one that doubles up as the basin's tap, and all the design is familiar from the Tribute range.

It's the rear lounge that is the reason to buy a van conversion like this and moulded plastic trim panels here give a clean, functional appearance. The long settees give room for up to six to sit here for an evening's natter and scatter cushions are supplied for when there are just two of you and you want to stretch out with your feet up.

At night the area converts into a transverse double bed with claimed dimensions of 1.85m by 1.37m.



# benivan

2019

...Seek Adventure

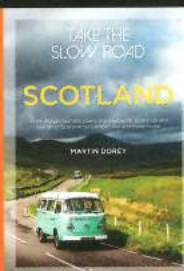


**“...the Benivan outperforms its sister models because it has the 150bhp Multijet motor.”**

Peter Vaughan, Editor, What Motorhome

**BOOK YOUR TEST DRIVE & RECEIVE A FREE COPY OF MARTIN DORY'S NEW BOOK\***  
TAKE THE SLOW ROAD  
SCOTLAND

Visit our website or call the freephone number for more details



[www.benivan.co.uk](http://www.benivan.co.uk)

0800 026 7777



Full Vehicle Specification



View The eBrochure



Find A Centre



Book A Test Drive



Watch The Latest Videos



Find Us On Social Media

\*Terms & Conditions apply. For full Terms and conditions please visit [www.benivan.co.uk/terms-and-conditions](http://www.benivan.co.uk/terms-and-conditions)