

Elddis Crusader
Tempest
£19,995



Elddis Crusader Tempest

Andrew Ditton checks out a brand-new six-berth layout from Elddis, offering triple bunks and a semi-permanent front bed for the parents

Price	£19,995
Berths	6
MIRO	1622kg
MTPLM	1880kg
Length	7.96m
Width	2.23m
Contact	Elddis Caravans
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w	elddis.co.uk

EXTERIOR

Possibly the coolest mainstream caravan on the market today, the Crusader certainly stacks on the pizzazz with some funky graphics on its outer walls, plus

those über-cool black tinted windows all round.

All the accessories you would expect are provided, from an awning warmer to a Winterhoff stabiliser hitch.

Mind you, IDC electronic stability is a £550 cost option. Exterior access to the area under the front seat is a good touch, although we hope that Elddis will be re-routing the heating duct within production vans as this sits in a place where it could easily be damaged by objects moving around or being shoved into the locker. The only other thing to note is that it's obviously quite a big van, so make sure your towcar is up to the job.

Larger-than-average side dinette can comfortably host four people



INTERIOR

Style is a personal thing, but we think that Elddis has really hit the nail on the head when it comes to combining relaxing tones with a hint of colour. Purple accents give the oatmeal furnishings a real lift, making for a contemporary feel to the Crusader's interior.

We invited along new caravanners Ed and Lynsey Wade, together with their daughters Emily (6) and Charley (3), to ask their opinion. Lynsey agreed that the colour scheme and material used struck an excellent balance between

style and practicality.

Up-front is a spacious and comfortable lounge, large enough for our family and, interestingly, featuring a partition door. Therefore, the front bed may be left made up all day and screened off.

This arrangement would press the side dinette into action and our four testers found this large enough for all of them to sit together and eat a meal comfortably.

Opposite the side dinette is the extensive galley. Despite initial favourable impressions, we feel it could do with a few tweaks. Diagonally opposite the kitchen is a massive

Exterior looks very modern with its black tinted windows



Ideal for

Families wanting a deluxe tourer with triple bunks and a semi-permanent front bed for the parents



Plenty of room for six in the forward lounge, which may be left made up as a bed if desired

Superb kitchen offers good work space, but the storage is currently a little fragmented



family-friendly fridge freezer, above which is a deep cupboard. This makes space for the microwave oven over the main cooker, and, as a result, we found ourselves forever reaching across the way for cups and glasses. Storage is good, but do be aware that the roof lockers are on the narrow side. At least the wardrobe is a generous size, and the lower two bunks may be folded up to make room for cycles, etc.

Overall, our impression of the Tempest is a very positive one indeed. This new model is a superb, versatile family van.

We like

Versatile layout, contemporary styling inside and out, very good LED lighting, comfortable seats and beds, enormous fridge-freezer

We dislike

Fussy and fragmented storage in kitchen, narrow washroom, Omnivent nowhere near cooker, fiddly cooker controls

Washroom is on the compact size, but the shower cubicle is generous



We would like to thank the helpful wardens at The Grange Caravan Club Site in Durham; an ideal site for a city break.

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Elddis Crusader Tempest £19,995
£395.31 per annum
(All New for Old cover quotes are based on 4-years claim free caravanning, with the van secured on a CaSSOA Silver Award site)

STOP PRESS!

Following the feedback from this test, Elddis is considering making some revisions to production models, such as switching the position of the microwave and making the roof lockers a little deeper. Check with your local dealer for final specification details.

Our verdict

EXTERIOR 8/10

Ice-cool superstar looks and a specification to match. Needs a hefty towcar to pull it

LOUNGING 9/10

Seats are supremely comfortable, lighting is superb, plus there's a choice of TV position

DINING 9/10

Two can pull out the chest top, four can use the side dinette, six will use the main table. Versatile to a tee!

SLEEPING 9/10

Triple bunks are a matter of personal choice. Side dinette makes a huge single or compact double. Front bed may be left made up if desired

KITCHEN 7/10

Plenty of storage but this needs to be laid out better. Fiddly cooker controls

STORAGE 8/10

Some great storage solutions like the fold-down doors to the side dinette seat lockers

WASHROOM 8/10

Does the job, but it's too cramped to comfortably use the basin, and lacks niceties such as a towel-drying rail

BUILD QUALITY 8/10

Impressive, given that this was a prototype model, but drawers are flimsy and a few niggles need ironing out

PRACTICALITY 8/10

Like most six-berth vans, works best with four occupants. Heater may struggle on cold days

VALUE FOR MONEY 8/10

Good price, given the level of luxury on offer. Small touches such as the neat LED lighting add to the appeal

Caravan **82/100**
our rating