

Eddis Crusader Shamal

By Andy Jenkinson

Since its launch over 35 years ago, the **Eddis Crusader** has achieved almost legendary status... and now there's a newcomer to its elite ranks

THE Eddis Crusader can be traced back to 1976, when the first two-model line-up was launched. Its GRP roof, front and end panels gave the luxury Eddis a very smart, distinctive look, and since then it has become a legend among discerning caravanners. Although competitors have tried to copy it, few have achieved the Crusader's following.



The Shamal is a class act with one-piece sides and smart graphics.

Model:	Eddis Crusader Shamal
Price:	£20,299
Length:	7.43 m
Width:	2.30 m
MIRO:	1482 kg
MTPLM:	1650 kg
Berths:	4

We like: Distinctive looks, solid build, one-piece sides, good specification, excellent storage, kitchen worktop, ideal for two.

We don't like: No bonded roof, restricted wardrobe hanging height, plastic 'chrome' grab handles.



The Crusader Shamal has distinctive looks and a modern profile. We like the deep front windows, too.

The new-season Crusader models are impressive beasts, and a brand new model has just been added. This is the single-axled Shamal, with twin fixed beds and an end washroom.

Lately, Eddis have been chipping away at the weights of all their tourers. Their efforts are beginning to pay off, but the Shamal is still no lightweight.

Exterior

We like the distinctive looks of the Shamal. It has a solid appeal, and it retains some of the Crusader's looks from previous years. Some may feel the gas locker lid looks a little at odds, but our gripe is about the plastic chrome-effect handles - they spoil an otherwise good-looking tourer.



Good quality upholstery offers plenty of support.

Lounge

The interior of the Shamal harks back to Eddis' traditional light oak effect furniture. Chrome handles add class, while the soft furnishings are generally sumptuous. The Shamal layout offers a super front lounge area. Four can use it, while a couple

would find it very spacious. Good lighting levels are provided by LED corner spots, overhead roof locker lighting and corner lights.

Kitchen

The side kitchen comes with generous worktop and downlighters for concentrated light. We like the black sink and draining



The front lounge offers good, comfortable seating for four, and deep lockers.



The side kitchen is well equipped, with plenty of worktop.

board, and the matching dual-fuel hob with full oven. A microwave oven is built into the top locker, while next to it is a cocktail cabinet. Twin mains sockets are fitted here, plus the fridge. Storage is provided by a side cupboard, and there's a drawer for utensils. Alde heating controls are placed here, for access on entry.

Beds and seating

The twin beds are the main feature, with side roof lockers above and storage below. LED spotlights are placed above each bed for night reading, along with a small shelf. The beds seem comfortable, making for a good night's sleep.



Comfortable twin single beds have storage beneath.



The fancy drinks cabinet is a must-have in a tourer of this ilk.

Storage

In the front lounge, roof locker storage is very good with plenty of depth for large items. The wardrobe has twin doors for good access, and there are drawers beneath, but you don't have much hanging height. By the entrance door is a small cupboard with a shelf for the standard-fit TV.



There's plenty of drawer storage in the wardrobe, but hanging height is restricted.



The washroom's compact size doesn't detract from its practicality. We like the modern hand basin.

Washroom

The rear washroom is not the biggest for this class of tourer. It's quite narrow, but Eddis have made the best possible use of the space. Opposite the side shower room is a centrally-placed hand basin with a cupboard below and a mirror above. A side swivel electric flush loo is placed on the left. Vents bring warm air from the Alde heating system to heat the washroom.

Overall impressions

With a very good interior fit and finish and an overall solid feel, the new Crusader Shamal is ideal if you're looking for an upmarket tourer with sharp looks and a host of spec.

This is the must-have layout for 2012, with manufacturers offering it in almost all their ranges (Eddis have added it to the Avanté range as we go to press). The layout works well in Crusader format, and the new Shamal looks as though it will win friends.

Designed with four in mind, the Shamal will be equally favoured by couples, who should find it a very comfortable tourer.

More information: www.eddis.co.uk