

# Elddis Crusader Tempest

► PRICE £19,995 ► [www.explorer-group.co.uk](http://www.explorer-group.co.uk)

**AT A GLANCE:** A new six-berth, triple-bunk layout but not as we know it. The big news is what sits in the middle.



TEST PHIL STEPHENS | PHOTOGRAPHY JOHN CHAPMAN



**IT'S** that time of year when much-trumpeted "all new layouts" pop up like daffodils. Except mostly "all new" they ain't. "Slightly tinkered with" is often the more accurate banner to describe the great majority of new offspring. But there's a lot of noise in the North with one heck off a Tempest blowing in. There's a genuine all-new layout on the scene from Elddis, the six-berth Crusader 646 Tempest.

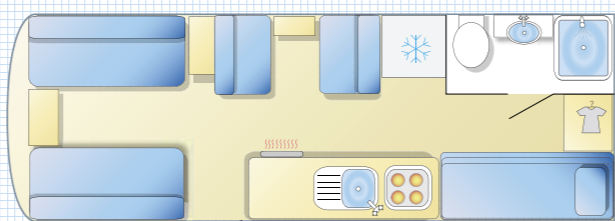
Apart from a superbly practical screen to partition off the front double bed when made up in the lounge, life's pretty much normal here. You'll also find lovely large 1.82m long parallel settees shod with luxuriously rounded back corner bolsters.

Normality dealt with, lets look back down the caravan. With all that space up front, do you imagine a heavily-compartmentalised space cramming in living areas for six but looking like one of those trucks carrying 800 separately-caged chickens? Or maybe we'll see an open space but sporting a woefully small kitchen, washroom and dinette? Fact is, it's neither of the above.

Look towards the back of the caravan and you see just one wide walk space from front to rear. From lounge backwards you'll meet a small offside unit separating lounge from dinette. It's here that things start to get interesting. This dinette is just shy of a metre wide, meaning it seats four adults. A wide dinette in the middle of a caravan must mean it's like an egg timer's squished bit here? Afraid not. Well, the kitchen must be laughably small and virtually unusable then.

## LAYOUT IN A NUTSHELL

- Big lounge (front)
- Big big dinette (middle)
- Big big big kitchen (yep, middle too)
- Rear triple bunks at rear opposite washroom plus separate shower



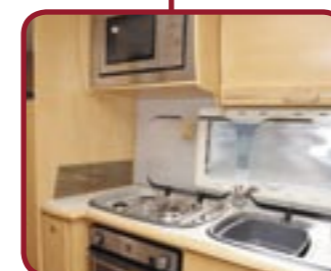
Err, nope. And, after the oversize lounge, oversize dinette, and now oversize kitchen we still haven't yet got to the triple bunks. The size of three shoe boxes? No, a full bunk stack of full-sized bunks - on the nearside.

Storage? This may be a six-berth but there's enough storage for eight. Microwave, 175-litre fridge with separate freezer, big sink and drainer - it's all here and more.

Opening the chunky washroom door reveals an oversized washroom with separate shower. So what about the beating heart of the Tempest: sleeping and those triple bunks? Are they the big news? Excellent, yes, but no longer big news. The news is the way they've been integrated into the layout. They're only used at night, so why make a feature of them? Here, they're out of the way so as not to interfere in daytime living. Perfect. And, with three kids loaded in them, the loo is right opposite, meaning no trek through the caravan. ■



Triple bunks at the rear nearside



Microwave, smart cooker - all you'd expect is here



Rich purple teamed with grey is a daring combination - and it works



Under the front pelmet, speaker, spotlight and light switch



Locker edges are an interesting angular shape

## FOR & AGAINST

- PROS:**
- Wildly big kitchen
  - Huge central dinette
  - Absolute all round practicality
  - Bunks out of the way
- NO CONS:**
- Forthcoming Avanté should be even better.

## SPECIFICATION

**Axes:** 2  
**Berths:** 6  
**MRO:** 1622kg  
**MTPLM:** 1880kg  
**Width:** 2.28m  
**Overall length:** 7.96m  
**Headroom:** 1.91m



One long corridor the entire length of the caravan; the bunks are to the right at the rear

## OUR VERDICT

Not only does the Tempest pass the test of each discipline in how to provide for the six people it's supposed to accommodate, it then goes on to better it again - and by some margin. This is about as far as caravan brilliance will get as long as it's humans that buy the things. And, get this, the forthcoming Avanté equivalent should be even better as long as they can chop something to reduce cost, but not the fridge!