

# Elddis Xplore 596 £13,790



It's a bargain! Big on space, light in weight, three bunks in a stack, four-wheel stability on the road – this huge family caravan is great value for your money

» WORDS & STYLING Val Chapman » PHOTOGRAPHY John Chapman

**F** abulously spacious and incredibly light in weight for its enormous length, the big family Xplore 596 is a winner in so many ways. There's price; only £13,790 buys you a lot of caravan and beds for six. There's weight; its 1550kg MTPLM places it well below the weight at which a hefty four-wheel-drive would become a necessity. There's size; with a whisker under six metres of body length you won't need to rush out and buy an awning. Even on a wet day when four kids are confined to the caravan, there's enough space to avoid anyone feeling crowded.

The 596 forms part of the current – and growing – craze for triple-bunk accommodation. This one stands head and shoulders above the main crop, though. Its stature rises in terms of straightforward light weight and big size for your money, and also because it scores points for practicality, which make it one of the

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### Get hooked...

Even though this caravan is in the budget price bracket you get useful refinements like coat hooks – just by the door, where you need them and where garments can hang out of the way

### Light and bright...

Elddis didn't economise on window quantity when the designers created this model – everywhere is light and bright



**It's a long way...**

This is a maximum-length caravan, giving you a lot of living space – from the rear window it looks a long way to the front lounge!

**Showertime...**

The shower shares its compartment with the toilet but that's not a problem; if you have six aboard, most of you are likely to use campsite showers because caravan water heaters don't contain enough water for six consecutive showers



**Shelves for pretty stuff...**  
... Or practical stuff like DVDs, books and toys. The 596 has big, deep corner shelves on three corners – and ample lockers in which to put this stuff when you tow

**Three bunks...**  
... And two of them fold upwards to create a large space suitable for cycles or waste and fresh water containers in transit.

**Versatility...**  
This rear table area makes a sizeable dining room and is also perfect for kids' table-top activities; that's why these triple bunk layouts work so well

**Put up with this...**  
None of the base lockers has front access – but put up with a minor inconvenience of lifting locker bases because locker construction and hinges is one area in which weight has been saved



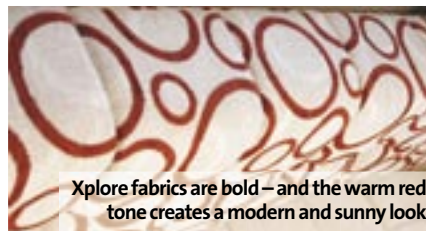
Kitchen surface is ample for catering for six appetites



Simple, stylish in grey and white – and all you need is here



The bunk area is cosy; two of the bunks have their own windows



Xplore fabrics are bold – and the warm red tone creates a modern and sunny look

### Go caravan says ...

Is the huge 596 the perfect family holiday base? In terms of value for your money, it has to come pretty close and this is why: Big space, big storage, lots of beds, lots of day-time family-use flexibility – and the good build quality that runs throughout the Elddis range.

Live with the narrow fridge-door shelf, live with the bedding lockers that don't have front access – and enjoy holiday living in plenty of space with the added bonus of four wheels to enhance tow ease, stability and therefore safety.

#### Elddis Xplore 596

<b>Price</b>	£13,799
<b>Lengths</b>	Body 5.98m Overall 6.92m
<b>Width</b>	2.14m
<b>Headroom</b>	1.91m
<b>Weight</b>	1327kg (MRO) 1550kg (MTPLM)



most appealing budget caravans on offer.

We start, unusually, in the centre of the caravan – in the wardrobe. Double doors hide a superb feature – three cavernous shelves down the right hand side. There's just about enough hanging space for the needs of six (bearing in mind children's clothes almost invariably all go into lockers), and under the shelf section is a vast cupboard that's perfect for shoes.

Storage space elsewhere is also top-class.

Too often we analyse great family accommodation on wheels only to find a lack of kitchen storage space detracts from the total package. Not so in the Xplore 596. A wide, two-shelf cupboard to the left of the oven, grill and three-burner hob gives you places to put large items. A second, slim cupboard between oven and fridge gives you a little more storage space.

There is something in the kitchen that will give a challenge to a family of six, though. The fridge is rather small and its door shelf is only just deep enough for the slimmest of fruit juice cartons. No chance of chilling the wine here! But we come back to the fact that, overall, this caravan's size for its weight for its price is simply superb – and you can't have it all.

The 596 offers great versatility in terms of use. The rear settee is a great place from which to watch television; a hinge-down table is attached to the wall, with power and aerial points directly above it. No trailing wires, no untidiness.

The bunk area is not only a bedroom; it's a fabulous storage area. The two lower bunks can be hinged upwards to create a space large enough for a couple of cycles. And, because this model rides on two axles, putting comparatively heavy items backward of the axles doesn't risk compromising stability and nose weight in the way it would in a single-axle unit.

Which brings to mind another advantage of a big caravan. Anyone who may be daunted by towing and manoeuvring something eight metres in length on four wheels might appreciate a few words from the Go Caravan team to whom such tasks are almost daily work routine. Twin axles are more stable on the road. Therefore the towing is easier and more relaxing. Twin axles are slower in response when you're reversing them onto a pitch. Because of this, it's easy to position them with greater accuracy.

So, the towing's great, the value's great, the weight's great – but what about the styling?

That's simple – and the simplicity is the 2010 Xplore range's appeal. Gigantic terracotta circles on a fawn background take care of backrests. The rest is plain creamy fawn. And the floor? A simple strip of carpet over wood-effect. Easy to remove when you don't want it there, cosy enough in looks when you do.