

# Xplore: a winning line-up



## The Elddis Xplore is Scottish Caravanner's Tourer Range of the Year 2012

**PRACTICAL** design, impressive finish, competitive prices and light weights are all factors which helped the **Xplore** range gain the title of **Scottish Caravanner's Tourer Range of the Year 2012**.

**Andy Jenkinson** gives us an overview of the **Elddis Xplore** range for 2012, and checks out two family tourers - the 405 and 506 - from the new line-up.

Since the Xplore range was launched in 2008, its no-nonsense value has helped it establish a firm standing in this entry level

sector. Over the last few years new layouts have been added, with niche models such as the 302 and 304.

The 504 is a lightweight fixed-bed model, complete with end washroom, while the 405 offers a traditional multi-berth layout. Top of the tree is the six-berth 506, a superb family tourer with triple fixed bunks.

We took a trip to Elddis' Consett works to look at the two family models - the 405 and 506.



Hitch stabiliser is standard with the SE Pack... ..as are alloy wheels.



A simple profile with modern graphics; this is the five-berth 405.

### The Xplore range

**302**  
**Price:** £10,799  
**Length:** 3.20 m  
**MIRO:** 798 kg  
**MTPLM:** 930 kg  
**Berths:** 2  
**Typical tow car:** VW Polo 1.4

**304**  
**Price:** £11,599  
**Length:** 3.80 m  
**MIRO:** 878 kg  
**MTPLM:** 1030 kg  
**Berths:** 4  
**Typical tow car:** Vauxhall Astra 1.6

**405**  
**Price:** £12,999  
**Length:** 5.13 m  
**MIRO:** 1117 kg  
**MTPLM:** 1299 kg  
**Berths:** 5  
**Typical tow car:** Skoda Octavia TDI

**504**  
**Price:** £13,599  
**Length:** 5.59 m  
**MIRO:** 1137 kg  
**MTPLM:** 1315 kg  
**Berths:** 4  
**Typical tow car:** Honda Accord 2.0

**506**  
**Price:** £13,599  
**Length:** 5.59 m  
**MIRO:** 1167 kg  
**MTPLM:** 1365 kg  
**Berths:** 6  
**Typical tow car:** Citroën C5 1.8

**Options:**  
 SE Pack (£399) includes alloy wheels, stabiliser, loose-run carpet, door fly screen, spare wheel and carrier. Estina fabric option - £199; removable luxury carpet - £99.



Large window in the rear panel of the 405.

### Xplore 405

A good tried and tested layout featuring twin dinettes, the 405 is now a lone ranger in this market sector.

The Xplore profile is quite simple in design, with a GRP front and a one-piece window. A new design for 2012 is the rear moulded panel which incorporates the road lights.

Built on a BPW chassis, the Xplore 405 has firm foundations, and the GRP floor skin adds weather protection. With the SE pack, which was fitted to our two test 'vans, it offers a decent specification, and the Whale underfloor heating has allowed the designers to add more storage space.

The front lounge comes with twin single settees and a central chest of drawers, with a blown-air outlet in the seat base.

Sprung seating offers good comfort levels for an entry level tourer. The roof lockers surrounding the lounge provide plenty of storage, and lighting comes from twin corner lights, twin spots and a ceiling light.

The side kitchen comes with super worktop and a stainless steel sink; fittings include an oven, three-burner hob and 115-litre fridge. There's good storage in overhead roof lockers.

In the end dinette, a fold-up bunk makes into a double bed, and there's storage in the form of a rear shelf and two roof lockers either side. The rear of the 405 could, in fact, be left as a made-up bed if required.

The wardrobe opposite comes with full-length doors, and with the heating under the floor it has full-height hanging space. (Having fitted it first in the 302, Elddis has now equipped the entire Xplore range with the Whale under-floor heating system.)

The side washroom is practical and simple, with a shower, hand basin and swivel loo with electric flush.

Offering families a multi-berth layout in a lightweight tourer, the Xplore 405 would also be ideal for a couple with grandchildren.



The rear dinette makes into a double bed with a bunk above. It's a spacious area for kids to use on a wet day.



Deep side roof lockers in the rear of the 405. Locker finish is excellent at this price level.



Wardrobe storage in the 405 is vastly increased.



The front dinette in the 405; large side and front windows make for an airy interior.



Side kitchen has a three-burner hob and good worktop plus oven and fridge.



The Xplore 506 is a large but lightweight six-berth; a Mondeo can pull it with ease.

The rear window is offset but still a large unit; the same goes for the nearside end window.

### Xplore 506

Another Xplore which makes sound sense for families is the 506. With a triple-bunk layout, this tourer weighs in at less than 1400 kg!

Two bunk windows are fitted on the offside wall, while the back panel window is offset.

The large front lounge will seat six with ease. Storage is provided by all-round roof lockers, and a small side cupboard doubles as a place to stand the TV. You won't be short of power points in any of the Xplore range - there are plenty, and in all the right areas.

In the side kitchen, Elddis' designers have allowed good worktop space, but also loads of storage. There are plenty of drawers, a cupboard with two shelves, and, of course, roof lockers. An oven and three-burner hob with spark ignition complete the fittings.

You'll notice that the fridge has been moved - it's in the wardrobe base, thereby freeing up more kitchen space. However, this means you don't get the clothes hanging space that you get in the 405.

The side washroom matches the 405 in size and fittings. At the rear, the extra length is put to good use, with a side dinette that will seat three.

Opposite, the three bunks each have reading lights, with windows for the top two. A side cupboard offers more storage, and there's a mains socket and a TV aerial socket. Roof lockers above the dinette and corner shelves are handy for storing children's toys.

On the road, the Xplores proved to be stable tourers despite the windy conditions, and were a dream to tow behind our test car, a Skoda Octavia 1.8 with petrol engine.

Both the 405 and the 506 are super family tourers, and they look set to make an impact in this hotly contested market area.



Side fixed bunks have good headroom, with fixed aluminium ladders and individual reading lights.



The front lounge in the 506 will seat six in comfort.



The side kitchen in the 506 has lots of storage, as the fridge has been moved.



Side washrooms in the 405 and 506 are identical.

**More information:** [www.elddis.co.uk](http://www.elddis.co.uk)

Our thanks to Elddis PR for the loan of the Xplore models and to Skoda Press Office for the loan of the Octavia.