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ON TEST



Below left: The living area. Below right: The kitchen

Air Opus

IAN HEWLETT has a look at the latest top-of-the-range folding camper from Opus



ON FIRST appearance, this Air Opus looks very similar to previous Opus camper incarnations, though now there is a whole range of colours to choose from. The traditional orange, metallic silver or blue are included in the price with plenty more colours available as cost options.

However the colours aren't the only new thing about this unit. Fold out the strut-assisted aluminium trailer tops, open the door and flick a switch and magically the main body canvas starts to rise. The new folding camper is inflated using an on-board electric pump, powered from a leisure battery, which has its own external locker.

While this is in progress you can wind the steadies down, position the bed supports and go and get your water supply. After about 90 seconds it's up and ready for you to set up the furniture inside.

No pegging is required for the main body under normal conditions, however two small guy lines can be attached if the need arises. The grey, high-quality canvas is a 65 per cent polyester and 35 per cent cotton mix with a weight of 340g/m², giving a modern look and plenty of headroom. Two double beds are outside the main living area and the wrap-around seating gives a comfy lounge that does not compromise on space. If you need to sleep six, converting the sofa will provide two extra beds.

The kitchen area has the basics (a two-burner hob, sink with tap and a good amount of storage), but you will have to use the kettle to heat water as

there isn't an option for a water heater, though you can choose a fridge and microwave. In fact there are so many extra options available Opus pretty much has everything covered. There is a waterproof sound system, a cinema-style projector and large screen, portable toilet and shower and cubicle (though the lack of hot water could make this quite exhilarating). Bikes and boats can be carried on the folded trailer top with the use of carrier systems - another nice touch.

The skylights can be unzipped to aid airiness, although the inside didn't feel too dark to me, even on a dull day. The double beds can be shut off from the lounge area to provide some privacy. Storage under seats is handy in a folding camper as the floor area is taken up with the furniture when folded. A great advantage of the inflatable system is you can pack everything away and then let the air out, so there's no need to climb over the crammed floor to drop a pole, as with a traditional frame.

At the time of our test the air awning wasn't available, but I have been advised it will have fixed bed spaces at both ends with roof and side windows to provide plenty of practical extra space. And it's probably also worth saying there are options available with lower chassis weights, meaning you could buy an Air Opus and tow it with a B-class driving licence, as long as you make sure to choose your tow car carefully. 🚗

at a glance

- Price as tested** £19,493
- Prices start at** £15,495
- Club Care Insurance** £345
- Length x width x towing height** 4.16m x 1.95m x 1.17m
- Berths** Four plus two
- Bed sizes** Two doubles 1.9m x 1.4m
- Mass in Running Order** 800kg
- Maximum Authorised Mass** 1,500kg
- User payload** 700kg
- BE licence required** Yes
- Warranty** One year; two years inflatable tubes
- Manufacturer** Purple Line
- Web** www.opuscamper.co.uk
- Tel** 01473 601200

verdict

A luxury camper that's easy to set up and put down for up to four in comfort and six on occasion, as long as you prefer campsites with facilities.

