



Venus 620/6

It's almost 8m long, yet it's light in weight. And it packs in a double bed and two living areas. The new Venus 620/6 is a fantastic family caravan

Our review day started cold and damp. A chill wind spurred speed as we tackled the pitching routine. Mains cable connected, Truma heating on, corner steadies lowered, then kettle for coffee... The only twin-axle family caravan to be made in the Lunar factory was up and running in five minutes and we were inside.

This dull, chilly day brought into sharp focus the thinking behind the

latest Venus. This caravan is big. It has a long lounge, separate dining area, a bedroom and a large kitchen. Plenty of space, therefore, for a family to spend time inside, when weather frustrates outdoor activities and all you want is to be toasty warm and cosy.

We imagined parents and four children in the 620, finding space for their own pursuits, and it didn't take us long to appreciate the

TESTED BY

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PHOTOGRAPHY

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TEST LOCATION

Little Orchard Caravan Park, Weeton, close to the Fylde coast

merits of going for a large caravan in the interests of family contentment in inclement weather. This is one caravan for which an awning is not necessary, brilliant as they are for the extra space created. But, on a brief break, you don't always want to spend time building one.

It's also a caravan to prove a really important point: twin axles don't always mean heavy weight. At just 1530kg MTPLM, the 620 is



The open-plan aspect in the centre of the layout is a key element of the 620's appeal

easily within the tow scope of many mid-range vehicles.

It doesn't have a lot of competition, though, so there's not much choice if you opt to go down the route of big-is-best when you're choosing your next family caravan. The new six-berth Venus, made in the Lunar factory, is one of only three lightweight, twin-axle, long family caravans on the market (the other two are in the Sprite range: the Quattro FB and EW).

By now the Truma heating is doing its stuff nicely and there are mugs of coffee beside the laptop. Our shivering arrival half an hour ago at Little Orchard Caravan Park has faded into unimportance. But the tow here, from the Lunar factory in Lancashire, where Venus caravans are made, has not diminished in our minds, for the

TECHNICAL STUFF

BERTHS 6
LENGTH BODY 6.4m
OVERALL 7.93m
WIDTH 2.2m
HEADROOM 1.9m
WEIGHT MIRO 1318kg
MTPLM 1530kg



620's road characteristics are in themselves a reason to consider big caravans. That's because four chunks of rubber making contact with the Tarmac create greater stability than two. The onset of a swaying motion is far less likely. And if it does occur, twin axles snap back into line quicker than single axles, so the whole towing process is more relaxing. We've commented on twin-axle advantages many times but the Venus 620/6's credentials as a spacious and capacious, lightweight family option underline the importance of considering twin-axle models.

So, spaciousness? At first glance, storage is ample, sleeping options impressive, and the kitchen's size renders it suitable for gourmet creations as well as simply keeping hunger at bay. Now for the details...

SHOWERING

There's just one element of the 620 that won't meet with universal approval. It's the showering arrangements. The shower and toilet share a room. There's a curtain (rather than a plastic door) to curtail cascades of water from drenching the loo and the area behind it. So, the whole shower room will have to be dried after each shower, to avoid wet feet as you step through the shower tray to the loo.

On the plus side, there's a rail for hanging towels or garments across the roof of the shower area. And there's plenty of space around the wide, deep washbasin that sits up stylishly on a cabinet in the outside forward corner of the bedroom. There's a good-sized mirror, a light above it and a mains socket within





White lockers all around make the 620 look even bigger than it is



The lounge is amply long enough to provide seating for six



The washbasin is large, and sits on the cabinet top; ultra stylish!



Kitchen storage is amazing, with double cabinets top and bottom, and space under the oven-grill



A curtain tracks around the shower tray area to help keep water away from the toilet area behind it



A cosy dining area for two



hairdryer-cable distance, at the foot of the bed. This caravan seems far above its budget status...

SLEEPING

That's especially true of the sleeping arrangements. A double bed with a deep, sprung, comfortable mattress for mum and dad; two bunks, 1.7m long and 58cm wide for the children. And two more single beds, fully adult-sized, at 1.87m long, in the lounge. Is this a three-generation caravan? We think it's one of only a few that could fall into this category.

STORAGE

The double bed base rises on gas-filled struts. The aperture isn't enormous, so reaching stuff at the far side would necessitate crawling inside (a job the kids will enjoy!). Put up with that, though, because there's a good reason why the bed doesn't rise up further. It's the generous (20cm) depth of the comfortable mattress, which makes contact with the nearside wall and stops the bed base rising further.

Full-length doors give you front access to the lounge bedding boxes. Top lockers are all around the lounge, above the dining area and on two sides of the bedroom. Keeping stuff tidied away would never be a problem in a 620. That's another reason to consider a big caravan.

DINING

And dining is yet another. The lounge is long enough for all six to dine together. Or two can grab the smaller dining 'room'. Or you can leave that area made up as bunk beds. Or keep it set up with gadgets and other entertainment paraphernalia, as the 'play room'. The more we analysed the 620, the more we became impressed by the options it offers.

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WHAT WE LIKE

- ▶ The enormous kitchen
- ▶ The huge storage space
- ▶ The well-designed vanity area
- ▶ The single-piece front window

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE

- ▶ The shared shower-toilet room can be inconvenient
- ▶ Only a curtain, rather than a plastic door, to confine shower water



Time for chocolate muffins...

LOUNGING

The amount of space in this caravan is perhaps best appreciated in the lounge. We love it. And we love its looks, too, with the full-width single-unit window letting in so much light that even on our dull test day the lounge feels light and airy. The sprung seating is deep and comfortable, and there are bolster armrests and big cushions to nestle into.

KITCHEN

The 620 is a star performer in so many ways, especially in the kitchen. At 1.77m long, the amount of surface space is phenomenal. The design helps, too; the triple-burner hob occupies a triangle of space, leaving more surface available than a square hob would.

The oven and grill is a combined unit, which means there's cabinet space below it. A second, double-doored cabinet containing a good-sized cutlery tray, is on the fore end of the kitchen, alongside the fridge. Two large top cabinets are at head height, flanking the microwave. That's a component of the Plus Pack which adds £449 to the price of all Venus models. The pack also gives you alloy wheels, a hitch-head stabiliser, an underslung spare wheel, a radio and AL-KO Secure wheel lock receivers.

TOWING

With such excellent towing manners, the twin-axle 620 is

ALSO CONSIDER...

Sprite Quattro EW or FB; also on twin axles, both £16,300

OPTIONS TO GO FOR...

ATC stability control, at £499

OUR VERDICT

We'd been excited about getting the 620/6 for review, ever since we saw it briefly when it first emerged in September last year and had loved it. Now, given detailed scrutiny, this new arrival is even better than our first impressions had indicated.

Its size, its twin-axle towing ease, its light weight for its length, its awesomely large kitchen and its pleasingly pale cream and grey décor all add up to one fantastic family caravan.

a caravan to go for if you're planning lengthy cross-continental tours. It's a caravan that makes towing as easy as it gets. Anything lacking? For our money we'd want an extra piece of kit, purely for peace of mind. That's the ATC electronic stability control system. On a caravan that's nicely in the budget bracket, at £15,999, you wouldn't expect ATC to arrive as standard. And, for sure, with twin-axle geometry it's widely not

regarded as necessary. But we'd buy it all the same, just for added security.

THE 620 IS A STAR PERFORMER IN SO MANY WAYS, ESPECIALLY IN THE KITCHEN ...SURFACE SPACE IS PHENOMENAL