



REVIEW

LUNAR Quasar 525

The latest Quasar is one of the lightest family caravans you can buy. It's also one of the most versatile. We love it!

Lunar's Quasar range has built its reputation chiefly on one factor: light weight. This range is the lightest in the Lunar brand. Quasars provide buyers with layouts ranging from two to six berths. And with the arrival of the new addition, launched this spring, there is now a Quasar that caters for families looking for a five-berth with two lounges.

The 525 has a layout that was regarded as standard not many years ago. Most manufacturers provided at least one variant and many made several, at differing spec levels and sizes. This is the traditional twin-lounge layout, with beds for three making up in the rear lounge-dining area, and a shower room positioned amidships on the offside.

Its versatility is widely acknowledged; the rear lounge-dining area can be the play room, a permanent dining room, or you can leave the beds made up here and live in the lounge, which is long enough for all five occupants to sit. This versatility has been enhanced in the 525 by the inclusion of a television bracket on the forward wall of the rear room. Both 12-volt and mains sockets are here,

together with the aerial and – a nice refinement – satellite connectors.

Showering

In the era when this double-lounge layout first appeared, the central offside washroom had the shower and toilet sharing floor space. Now, though, step-in showers are the norm and this Quasar adheres to that fashion. The shower measures 63cm x 73cm at its maximum width. The wheelarch reduces the size of the base by 21cm but that's not a negative, for the ledge it creates a shelf for shampoo paraphernalia. It's also a small seat where an equally small child could sit while a parent wields the shower rose and shampoo.

Towel provision is a loop plus a double hook. The outlet for the Truma Combi blown air central heating is perfectly placed to send warm air upwards towards the loop and hooks. More towel drying opportunity is provided by a rail across the shower compartment.

Sleeping

It's on the subject of sleeping that the 525 offers its greatest versatility.

TESTED BY

Val Chapman

PHOTOGRAPHY

Richard Chapman

TEST LOCATION

Little Orchard Caravan Park, Weeton, Lancashire



Plenty of kitchen space and a long lounge ahead

THE TOTAL PRICE
£17,440
The retailer delivery fee of £495 is added to the price of the caravan



The shower room is amidships



A bunk can be raised from the rear wall to make this area a bedroom for three



The front lounge is long enough to make single beds



The black glass top hides three gas burners and an electric hotplate



The rear dining-lounge area is a delightful separate room

The rear area makes into a bedroom for three. The double bed base is completed by webbing-linked slats which glide out on runners from a neat casement against the rear wall. The base of the bunk rises from just above it. The front lounge is long enough to make single beds, at 1.86m. That means it's ideal for teenage (adult-height) offspring. Or of course a double bed base rolls out here using the same slat method as in the rear. You could even leave the rear area permanently made up as a bed, and live in the front end. With all these sleeping options in mind, this is a caravan that suits most of the family growing years, as heights increase and needs change.

Storage

With four settees, the 525 has to be regarded as big on storage. Even the front offside locker, which houses the power distribution unit

and the Truma Combi space and water heater, gives good space. And all four have front drop-down hatches, making the pushing and pulling of duvets and pillows in and out light work.

The double-lounge layout also creates good upper storage; there are three lockers around the rear lounge and six over the front lounge. And amid the current fashion for skylights, sunroofs (call them what you will), it's strangely nice to find a caravan without one. That's because there are two sizeable lockers across the front, a feature that families of five, for whom storage is important, may well place higher than a sunroof on their wish list. And these lockers are deep, reaching 38cm into the front line of the caravan.

Dining

Yet again, the Quasar offers brilliant flexibility, this time on the topic of

WHAT WE LIKE

- ▶ Twin lounges
- ▶ Twin tables
- ▶ Twin TV points and the convenient position of the rear TV bracket
- ▶ Good kitchen space and the matching sink cover
- ▶ The light weight

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE

- ▶ No matter how hard we may try, there are some caravans in which we can't find any negatives and this is one of them

dining. Four can dine at the back and four more at the front. So the rear becomes the dining room and the front is just for lounging. Or kids can have their own dining room and parents can pull out the table for two at the top of the chest of drawers in the lounge. That gives you an 80cm-length of level surface; it's ample in width, too, at 62cm.

The 525 has two identical freestanding tables, one is stored on the forward wall of the wardrobe and the other within the kitchen cabinet. Both are easy to slide in and out. And both have one end which is straight and the other slightly curved. This means that you could use both tables in an awning or outside, for major family-and-friends dining, with the flat ends abutting, making one long table.

Lounging

You can bring two televisions on holiday in a 525 if you wish, one for

the rear end and one for the lounge. Connections are on the offside corner of the front window area, ideally placed so that you can put your television on the windowsill; at 17m it's deep enough, so the TV doesn't have to take up space on the top of the chest of drawers.

Cool greys and deep purples place this year's Quasars high up among the most attractively modern and stunning fabric schemes of 2014's caravans. And in the 525 the fabric scheme is a prominent feature because there is a lot of fabric, there being two lounges! The windows in the rear area have upholstered pelmets, which make this lounge look so very refined and plush.

Kitchen

With up to five to feed, the kitchen's size and ease of use is a crucial element to consider when you're picking the right caravan for you.

The amount of surface and cabinet space are features that will sway you to or away from different models, especially as barbecuing weather can't be guaranteed. The 525 answers both surface and storage needs amply. The kitchen stretches a metre forward of the hob. We love the practicality of Quasar sink cover design. It's the same (pale cream rock-effect) substance as the surface around it.

And storage? The cabinet forward of the fridge contains a four-compartment cutlery drawer plus a shelf and a space below it that is deep enough for tall items such as fizzy drinks bottles. The two top cabinets give you shelf space plus racks for plates and mugs and space around them for other tableware. And just in case you want more storage for kitchen items, with a total of 10 top lockers, there's plenty of opportunity to use at least one of them for cooking kit.

TECHNICAL STUFF

- BERTHS** 5
- LENGTH BODY** 5.41M
- OVERALL** 7.06M
- WIDTH** 2.2M
- HEADROOM** 1.9M
- WEIGHT MIRO** 1209KG
- MTPLM** 1380KG



BUY THIS IF...

You are looking for the lightest weight in five-berth caravans

ALSO CONSIDER...

Elddis Avanté 515 at £16,999, similar layout; 1468kg MTPLM

OPTIONS TO GO FOR...

AL-KO Secure wheel lock at £229; ATC stability control system at £499

OUR VERDICT

Awesomely adaptable to many family needs and capable of still being suitable as your family grows up, the new 525 ticks more boxes than most. The biggest, boldest ticks go in the boxes marked "light in weight", "coolest fabric shades around" and "lots of living space". We also love the little things like plenty of towel hanging provision and two television points. And having two identical tables (with very substantial, new-style leg structures) is amazingly impressive. The Quasar 525 is exceptionally efficient at its family holiday target task, and any way you can think of using it, its versatility is amazing.

TOW MATCH

Caravan weight MTPLM: 1380kg
To tow this caravan at 85% you need a car kerbweight of: 1624kg

We recommend towing a caravan no more than 85% of the kerbweight

Not sure what your car's kerbweight is? Check it out at

CaravanTOWMATCH
 outandaboutlive.co.uk

Towing

A bonus of twin-lounge layouts is that, if you have a tall car, the large rear window gives the driver a view of the road behind, which was the case with our Kia Sorento.

Half an hour of M6 and narrow lanes between the Lunar factory and Little Orchard Caravan Park is plenty of journey in which to assess a caravan's characteristics, albeit with our Sorento that is far in excess of the 525's weight requirements.

The 525's relatively short length makes it nimble on corners and its narrower-than-many width, of 2.2m, means that you get a really good view to the rear, both from the car's mirrors and the towing mirrors. When we arrived, we unhitched and two of us pushed it into position with relative ease, even on stony ground, demonstrating that this is a caravan to consider if you want to be able to do that.