

Bailey Pegasus 624

► PRICE: £17,295 ► www.bailey-caravans.co.uk



AT A GLANCE: The construction is revolutionary, the lounge allows you to change its layout... this is the way forward in caravan building

TEST PHIL STEPHENS | PHOTOGRAPHY JOHN CHAPMAN

TOWMATCH E



IT has a 10-year water ingress warranty, it contains no timber, the walls are a third thicker than conventional caravans and an aluminum structural framework clamps the sides together from the inside.

This is the Pegasus 624, the first example of a revolution in caravan construction pioneered by Bailey.

The twin-axle model of the Pegasus range, the 624, looks pretty normal at first glance.

Closer inspection reveals glitzy LED running lights peppered into the grab handles front and back as well as the unmistakable semi-opaque narrow gas locker. You then start to notice the angular panel extremities which hide the caravan's sturdy frame and then the smooth sides, and then the front panel which is actually the same panel as the roof... It goes on until you realise it is actually not as conventional as might appear at first glance.

Inside the 624 you find a layout that mirrors the Senator Wyoming. But the 624 instantly feels crisper and much fresher in ambiance than its more traditional cousin.

You won't fail to notice there's no chest of drawers dominating the lounge. That's because it's an option. Instead you'll find full-length settees which make single beds. Around the U-shaped seating under the

► LAYOUT IN A NUTSHELL

- Large U-shaped lounge
- Nearside fixed double bed
- Full width washroom
- Options in lounge layout



window are uniquely-shaped low backed cushions that support you firmly.

Here you'll also find a proper shelf/ledge with ample width for plates running the width of the caravan under the triple-opening window.

And here's the really clever bit: The optional chest of drawers fits into any one of three designated slots around the lounge, allowing you to configure this space to a design of personal choice.

And yet more brilliance comes in the form of the 624's seat bases. Here, as in many wide-bodied tourers, putting your feet up on the opposite settee (shoes off, of course!)



Tiger, the site owner's cat, leapt in to test the shelving



Large rectangular sink and ample work surface



Seat bases can be moved forward so that you can put your feet up



More brilliance comes in the shape of the seat bases - they raise on gas-filled struts



A deep shelf runs the width of the front

isn't easy. Bailey's answer is to provide four seat bases that pull out individually to make foot rests. Simple and superb. This same clever system allows the entire seat to be raised on gas-filled struts, meaning drop down flaps and shifting seat cushions to get to the void below is now a thing of a previous caravanning age.

Decoratively, the test caravan has contemporary upholstery called Scorpio; it's one of three options but we think it suits the tone of what the Pegasus represents best. Praise, too, for the flush-fronted overhead lockers with neat chrome pin stripe that signals their colour change to a whitish almost limed lower third. Mixed with subtle LED lighting, the result is undoubtedly pleasing.

And there's more. No wall-boarding - the walls are smooth, light - and look as if they've just had a fresh coat of paint.

Move back along the 624 and you'll find the offside kitchen that now addresses what I always thought of as a Bailey week point on styling. You'll find a microwave that looks more suited to its high-rise home, set further back in its perch than in conventional Baileys. You'll find a large rectangular sink with a stylish but short brushed-chrome spigot tap and hob that matches the sink for style.

Storage is excellent, with three large wire baskets and cutlery drawer which pull out simultaneously on metal runners. The fridge is Dometic's versatile 115-litre model with removable freezer compartment.

Opposite, a decent size low unit houses the heater and usefully large cupboard. Here you'll be able to site your 15-inch television with built-in DVD player that comes as part of the Pegasus package. Above sits a cleverly-designed slide-out unit that pushes back into the overhead lockers. Pushed in, it opens up the 624's interior massively, bringing the bedroom into the rest of the tourer.

The bedroom holds no surprise: A nearside double with fine proportions, sprung mattress and cavern below unobstructed by any bed frame members for ease of loading. Storage alongside is decent, although the wardrobe's shape cuts down its real potential. But the capacity of the adjacent cupboards make up some ground.

Finally, the full-width washroom boasts a shower nearly a metre wide, and a top-spec Thetford loo with so much space around it that reading a broad sheet newspaper is a cinch. Again the plain plastic walls (sounds horrid but it's not) keep this space bright and we liked the high but unusual rear window. ■



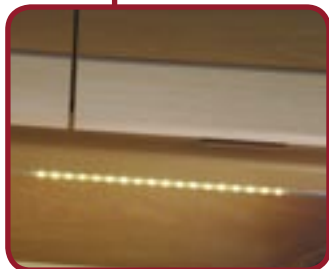
The shower is large and rectangular

Photography location:

Bath Chew Valley Caravan Park and Touring Park, Bishop Sutton, Bath, North East Somerset BS39 5TZ

Tel: 01275 332127

Web: www.bathchewvalley.co.uk



LED lights in neat strips create subtle light and pleasant ambiance



The microwave oven gets a proper housing that's colour-toned



Cooking equipment is three burners plus the usual grill and oven



There are three choices of upholstery; this one is called Scorpio

► FOR & AGAINST

PROS:

- Unrivalled construction in the UK
- Grade 3 insulation
- Interiors modular bed and seat base system

CONS:

- Such work deserves to impact more outwardly

► SPECIFICATION

Axes: 2
Berths: 4
MRO: 1438kg
MTPLM: 1661kg
Width: 2.30m
Overall length: 7.89m
Headroom: 1.96m



Those plain white walls make the bedroom look crisp and light

► OUR VERDICT

A lounge in which you can change the layout and pull out foot rests, a lovely spacious washroom, beautifully co-ordinated soft furnishings (and two more options from which to choose)... The Pegasus is an eye-catcher in every sense. If you fancy possessing the very latest in caravan build technology AND something that looks as cool as its structure would suggest, the Pegasus is for you.

Be in no doubt, the world of caravan construction has just changed for ever.