

BENIMAR MILEO 294

The cleverly designed washroom is just one of this 'van's many plus points, says Peter Baber

Benimar only slightly refreshed its Mileo range for the 2024 season, but as the brand, sold exclusively through the Marquis Leisure network, remains one of the most popular on UK roads, we revisited the island-bed 294. We saw it at Marquis's Preston branch.

The striking Benimar looks are still there, with the mostly black cab and black decals trailing down the side, contrasting with a bright stripe.

This is a standard Ducato cab, with central drinks holders and handbrake to the right of the driver's seat, leaving the aisle clear for anyone wanting to walk back and down one step into the front lounge, where a forward-facing bench holds two travel seats.

The cushions on both seats and the side settee look a bit slab-like, but the seats are comfortable, in a smart black, white and blue colour combination.

The chunky table has a swing-out extension, so it can be reached from any of the seats. With USBs and a 12V socket close to the swivelled driver's seat, this table could easily double up as a desk for a digital nomad.

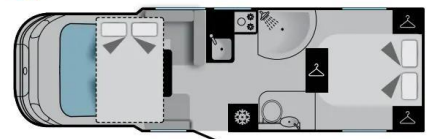
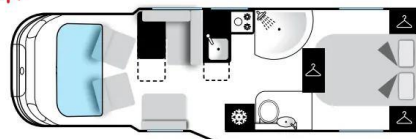
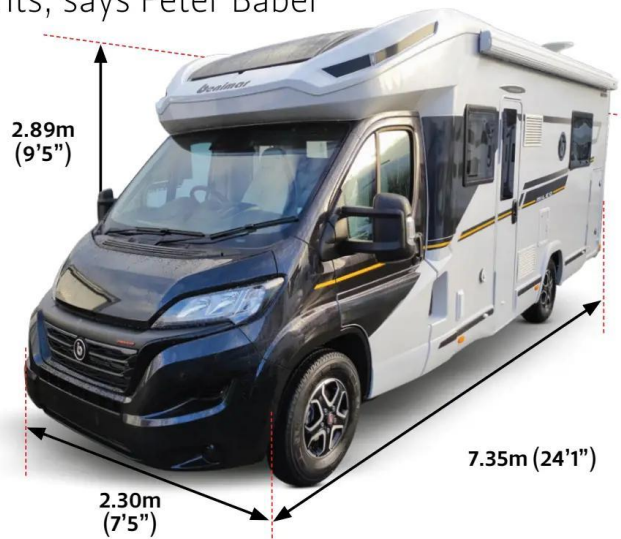
The TV sockets and bracket are by the door. A set placed there could be seen by anyone in the cab seats.

That entrance has the fridge on one side, right next to the door, and the side of the settee on the other, so the gangway can feel a bit narrow.

But that aside, the daylight flooding through the skylight, LEDs under the drop-down bed and well-placed lights in the cab make this a bright place.

The L-shaped kitchen has plenty of workspace, even without the fold-out extension by the sink. But the step up to the washroom behind it makes the

Price From £79,995
Sleeps 4 **Belts** 4
Base vehicle Fiat Ducato
Engine 140bhp turbodiesel
Length/width/height 7.35/2.30/2.89m (24'1"/7'5"/9'5")
MTPLM 3650kg
MiRO 3124kg
Payload 526kg
Water (fresh/waste) 120/105 litres
Leisure battery 100Ah
Gas 2 x 6kg



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floor area limited. The area is well lit, however, from the window and by lights in the extractor fan above the three-burner dual-fuel hob, which is itself above a separate oven and grill.

There is a towel rail on the far side of the sink, although it's partly obscured if you use the extension flap. On the other side of the aisle is a 145-litre fridge, with a microwave above.

The washroom is very flexible, with a sliding door shutting it off from the front, and two more doors either side of the island bed behind. But because

a tambour door can slide across to shut off the basin area, too, someone could use that while someone else showers.

The shower itself has rather flimsy doors, but there is good headroom, as well as a rooflight and a shelf.

The toilet and salad-bowl-style basin to the right are raised, and there is a large lit mirror and tooth mug. Between the two doors to the bedroom is a huge, virtually floor to ceiling, mirror.

The island bed butts up against the other side of the central pillar, offering a length of 1.90m or 6ft 2in. That pillar

up close



Cab is standard Fiat Ducato, with central drinks holders



LEFT Opposite the kitchen, 145-litre fridge below the microwave

RIGHT Worktop can be increased by pulling out the extension flap



Between the two doors to the bedroom, the mirror is almost floor to ceiling

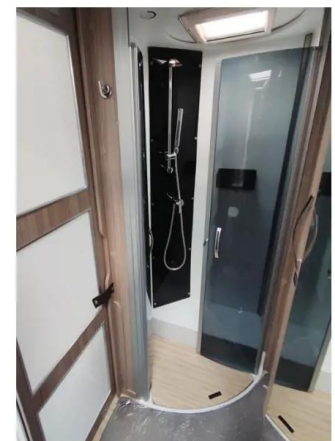




1 Eye-catching colour scheme enhances the pleasing sense of space in the front lounge

2 Plenty of worktop in the L-shaped kitchen

3 Door arrangement makes the washroom very flexible, and the shower cubicle has good headroom, too



includes sockets for a second TV. The spotlights at the bed head also include USBs, and there are speakers here, too.

The drop-down bed up front comes with an adjustable ladder. With the bed in its upper position, the worktop below it is still just about usable.

The bed has its own spotlights, and anyone sleeping here can easily make use of the 12V sockets and USB ports near the driver's seat.

You won't be short of storage space in this 'van. It comes with a big garage, large enough for bikes, especially if

you hike up the island bed using the lever provided. The garage is accessible from inside, through doors under the large mirror in the washroom.

The rear bedroom provides shelves, lockers and cubbyholes, while even the front lounge, with its drop-down bed, manages a couple of overhead lockers and a useful boot locker.

The kitchen has drawers down the side and an overhead locker, partially taken up with ducting. There's another locker (with a roof vent) above the microwave, but the

cupboard underneath the oven is disappointingly shallow.

The same applies for the shelves behind the mirror in the washroom. But there is another, equally shallow, cupboard above the handbasin.

PRACTICAL MOTORHOME SAYS...

The 294 remains a good family 'van, probably best for two but with reasonable room for four. The kitchen is a touch cramped, but the super-flexible washroom, and comfortable lounge and beds, are all very much plus points.



Comfortable island bed has its own spotlights and access to sockets and USBs



Three deep overhead lockers offer plenty of storage in the bedroom



Drop-down bed is easily reached by using the adjustable ladder

Garage is big enough to house bikes and can also be accessed from inside the 'van




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