

Air by Auto-Sleepers

It's the first Ford-based pop-top camper from Auto-Sleepers in years - **Pete McKenna** checks it out on a Club Site



The Air campervan

was launched by British manufacturer Auto-Sleepers in late 2021. It's a compact campervan with an elevating roof, a conversion of the Ford Transit Custom Short-Wheel Base, the first time the company has used a Ford for a pop-top camper for around 30 years. It is almost bang-on 5m long and 2.1m tall.

Raising the standard

Priced at a shade under £70,000, it's aimed squarely at the premium end of the market, to compete with the likes of the Ford Nugget or Volkswagen California.

All the Air models come with metallic paint, alloy wheels, and you have four colours of metallic paint to choose from, including blue, red, orange, and silver. The externals are muted, which is

good news for any potential buyer who would likely also use this as a daily driver.

There are manual and automatic gearbox options, with the auto setting you back a further £4,000. The 2-litre, four-cylinder diesel engine produces 170bhp and around 400N of torque. The top-end model we tested

has the automatic six-speed transmission, and it also comes with plenty of goodies as standard, such as satnav, cruise control, lane assist, and you'll even get some heated front seats.

Auto-Sleepers also throws in a lithium-ion leisure battery, awning and roof-mounted solar panel, which add to the

off-grid competencies of this modern tourer.

The service points are fitted neatly, with the electric hook-up inlet tucked underneath the van on the driver's side, next to the water tank and drain pipes, and the fresh water inlet is just inside the driver's door.

Musical chairs

Release the catches either side of the roof, give it a push and the elevating roof goes up easily on site.

Step aboard, and it's a regular campervan layout, with swivel cab seats, kitchenette on the driver's side wall, and a



Clockwise from top left: The pop-top rises with a simple push; the two colour options are both striking; the well-thought-out design manages to pack a lot into a small space

Watch Pete's video review at mycc.co.uk/magazine or in the magazine app

REVIEWS & ADVICE AIR BY AUTO-SLEEPERS



WE LOVE:
The moveable rear bench



At a glance

Prices start at £67,000

Berths Four

Travelling seats Five

Length x width x height

4.97m x 2.27m x 2.12m

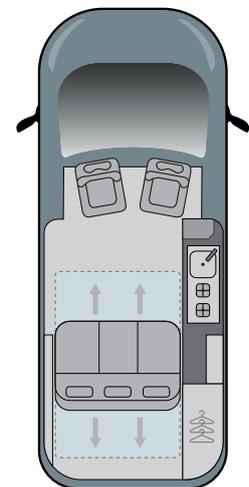
Maximum Authorised Mass

3,400kg

User payload 744kg

For more information

air-camper.com



Clockwise from top left: The moveable seats make for a flexible living area; the boot can also benefit from increasing space; the bed is flat and comfortable when laid down; pipes and electric hook-up are on the driver's side; the glass sits flush to increase worktop space in the kitchenette; the top bed has windows and allows plenty of space for two sleepers

moveable rear seat bench. This seat bench comes with belts for three and is mounted on a Reimo sliding seat system, which gives great flexibility for passengers on the road, while seating in the camper on site, and storage space.

With the rear bench folded flat and the double bed up top in the roof, it will happily sleep four. The upstairs bed is very comfortable, largely thanks to plastic springs. Both beds are over 6ft long and 3ft 6in wide at their narrowest – plenty of space for two.

It's a bit of a shame the side windows only open on hinges – I think sliding windows would be a better option. But all the windows benefit from good blinds, so it's nice and easy to create a fully private space in no time at all.

More than a bed

Blown hot-air heating comes from a diesel-fired Webasto system, with an outlet behind the passenger seat at floor level.

The interior lighting is a touch of class, with an array of adjustable spot lights and

some LED strips adding a nice ambient glow throughout.

The kitchen work-top features a smart stainless-steel unit, with two gas burners and a sink. There's still a bit of handy prep space on the end, but with the two lids down there's plenty of room to lay out a feast or use as a general utility area.

The kitchen also features a small, integral grill, plus there's a 47-litre compressor fridge, as well as a good amount of modular storage space for the likes of a small toilet seat.

In the back of the vehicle,

a shower hose is installed and hidden away inside a cupboard. There is nothing to attach it to, so you'll have to hold the nozzle above your head for a full cleanse, but it's useful for cleaning shoes and muddy dogs.

Final verdict

Overall, this is a well-equipped compact campervan, that covers all the bases as an everyday vehicle and all-purpose touring base, even for off-grid adventuring.

What's more, its understated modern styling means it looks great without being too flash. 

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