

# BARGAIN BUYS

Such was the popularity of our second-hand caravan special in the July issue, we sent **Rob McCabe** out again to find three more used bargains



Nine years old, but in excellent condition

**Make and model:**  
Coachman Amara 450/2  
**Year of manufacture:** 2002  
**Current price:** £5,995

**W**OW! AND wow again. This terrific end-washroom two-berth gets the Peter Pan award for the caravan that has aged the least. For less than six grand, you can take away a top-quality tourer that calls for magnifying-glass-type inspection to reveal that it isn't, after all, a factory-fresh vehicle.

One of the hinges on the hob's glass lid is wonky – that's all I could find to comment on. That'll be fixed prior to sale, after which there's a 12 months' parts and labour warranty to fall back on, as with all three of our chosen models here.

The pale, thick, lustrous woodwork is beautiful, both in its presentation and craftsmanship. All panel gaps are precise and the overhead lockers open and close with the same pleasing stiffness you get from a new caravan. The upholstery is unmarked and still plump, while work and table surfaces are unmarked. All blinds and flyscreens (including the top-half door flyscreen) work perfectly.

From the comfortable and inviting sofas you can either sit back, relax and read the paper by day or open the sunroof and simply gaze at the stars by night. At bedtime, choose between a big double or two full-length singles.

On-board amenities have been enhanced by an aftermarket Sony

CD/radio player. For other appliances, there are three mains sockets inside, plus an exterior one adjacent to a gas barbecue point. External bodywork is unblemished: you can tell the alloy wheels aren't new, but they've managed to avoid any kerbs over the past nine years.

The Amara pre-dates the era of widespread inclusion of microwaves in caravans, but the four gas burners are complemented by a separate oven and grill, all spark-ignited. The hideous mud-brown colour (that's the polite description) of the Caprice cooker must have been somebody's idea of a joke.

If you have the sink cover raised, there's basically zero work surface but, handily, the surface of the dresser directly opposite is the same height as the kitchen worktop – so there's your solution. There's so much cupboard space, it's almost embarrassing.

At the back is a wonderful washroom (the fixed carpet notwithstanding). The pale wood/white furnishing is attractive, there's plenty of room for changing and there are enough storage options for six, never mind two. The separate shower cubicle has obviously remained watertight, although one of my first jobs would be to rejuvenate the slightly yellowing mastic around the edges.

### VERDICT

This model is as much a tribute to stunning Coachman build quality as to its fastidious previous owner. If I were looking for this layout of caravan, I'd have bought it on the spot. As it turned out, that would have been my only chance: before I'd even left Pioneer's premises, it had been sold. ■



Kitchen lacks workspace but boasts plenty of storage



Traditional-looking on the outside, this Clubman boasts an interesting interior layout

**Make and model:**  
Lunar Clubman 470-2  
**Year of manufacture:** 2004  
**Current price:** £7,995

**A**NOTHER TWO-BERTH model. This Lunar Clubman has an interesting layout, to say the least.

It features an L-shaped kitchen that looks, at first glance, like it's positioned across the rear. However, on closer inspection, there's a washroom (itself a vague L-shape) tucked in behind it. It's an ingenious design, and not one that you'll see every day.

The lounge is as conventional as they come: parallel sofas with a chest of drawers at the front. Like the Amara, this Lunar is in very good, cared-for condition, although it has more of a lived-in feel to it.

This one has audio entertainment, too: a Panasonic unit with a pair of unbranded speakers. It also benefits from more lights than just about any caravan lounge I've ever encountered – eight, if you count the ceiling dome in the middle. The

plasticky-looking light fittings possibly looked de rigueur in '04, but they do it few favours now.

Jumping straight from the beautifully-crafted Amara to the Clubman showed that the latter isn't quite in the former's league. Open the locker and cupboard doors here and you're greeted by a more untidy, unfinished look throughout. The previous owner has even wedged in a piece of wood in a kitchen cupboard to act as a support pillar to the flimsy shelf above it.

But it's seeing that expanse of L-shape kitchen that will cause most folk to linger when they pull open the Clubman's door. The cooker and sink (with the fridge alongside) are at right angles to each other, with a built-in, overhead microwave at 45° between the two. It's an impressive sight and a highly-practical set-up, with decent work surface, good lighting and lots of storage. An overhead extractor fan is in place to waft away cooking smells.

Everything is impressively clean; it's always good to encounter a cooker in a used caravan that's devoid of collateral damage from too many Sunday roasts.

The washroom's a bit of a talking point, too. You walk in via a mini corridor, the plethora of wood giving it something of the aura of a sauna or steam room. This runs the full width of the back of the caravan, with the shower compartment right in the far corner. As with the Amara, this shows signs of staining around the beading.

There's a window and a skylight, but all that wood does conspire to make the washroom feel a wee bit dingy.

The Lunar Clubman in all its guises over the years has never been short on practicalities. As well as exterior barbecue and mains sockets, there's a big exterior storage locker on the offside wall, a built-in hitch stabiliser and a huge double wardrobe that'll take care of a couple's fineries for a two-week holiday, no sweat.

### VERDICT

A nice example, free of any serious flaw, that's obviously been cherished. While the underwhelming finish may put some off, the superb kitchen is bound to woo yet more. ■



Impressive L-shaped kitchen has a similarly-shaped washroom behind it

**Price when new** £14,995  
**Overall length** 20ft 6in (6.25m)  
**MRO** 1,050kg (20.7cwt)  
**MTPLM** 1,270kg (25cwt)  
**User payload** 220kg (4.3cwt)  
**Berths** 2  
**Warranty** 12 months parts and labour



Conventional lounge benefits from a plethora of lighting

**Price when new** £11,345  
**Overall length** 20ft 10in (6.35m)  
**MRO** 1,042kg (20.8cwt)  
**MTPLM** 1,260kg (24.8cwt)  
**User payload** 218kg (4cwt)  
**Berths** 2  
**Warranty** 12 months parts and labour



Fabulous large sunroof lets natural light flood in

**Make and model:**  
**Bailey Ranger 550/6**  
**Year of manufacture: 2008**  
**Current price: £8,995**

**C**ARDS ON the table – I love this layout. Putting a pair of fixed bunks along the rear wall is a fantastic use of space that gives two kids their own ‘den’ right at the back of the caravan, not to mention a great bed each. The side dinette gives you another two beds, courtesy of the facing single seats and a cantilever bunk that folds up and out from the wall. Up front, the nice, long parallel sofas give you the option of having another two singles or a massive double – not to mention plenty of room to plonk down six for a family meal.

So, yes, it’s a great layout and this lovely example really shows it off to its best effect. Pioneer – a prominent Bailey dealer – actually had three Ranger 550/6s on the forecourt, all priced identically and all nice, but this is the one I’d have gone for if I were opening my own wallet. It still looks new – there’s not a mark on it anywhere, and the cheery, upbeat colour scheme has lost none of its lustre. Even when laden to the max, it can be towed by a wide range of vehicles, too, boosting its appeal yet further.

Once, the Ranger was the entry-level Bailey, but this 2008 model took its place in the line-up alongside the cheaper Discovery. The need to offer model differentiation explains why you get such niceties as a front chest of drawers, a

decent-specification cooker with separate grill and oven, and a very swish-looking sunroof in the lounge, with a quartet of downlighters built in.

There’s a smattering of ‘nice touch’ practicalities, too: the 12V master control switch by the entrance door; a handy key shelf above said door; coat hooks on the wall; and good-quality, pull-out wire racks in a kitchen cupboard. The free-standing table is stored here, too – right next to the lounge for maximum convenience.

The lounge itself is a good ‘un, although it needs an influx of cushions and bolsters from the haberdashery store to give it a decent snugability score.

The washroom is exceptional in as much as it looks as though no one’s ever stepped foot in it. All the essentials are there, though, including decent storage space and – just in case you really, really need to use it – a shower, operated by pulling the tap/flexible hose free from its housing in the wash-hand basin and placing it in the wall-mounted bracket.

The Ranger is the only one of our three featured caravans to have removable carpet, although it’s in one mammoth section – hardly the last word in manageability. At least you can fold it forwards a bit to protect it from soaking wellies as you come in the door.

**VERDICT**

This is top money for a Ranger of this vintage, but I can’t imagine you’ll find a better one. And if you’re touring as a family of four, five or six, I don’t think you could ask for a better layout, either. ■



Colour scheme is fresh and modern



This three-year-old example is in such good condition it looks as good as new

<b>Price when new</b>	£11,120
<b>Overall length</b>	23ft (7.02m)
<b>MRO</b>	1,058kg (20.8cwt)
<b>MTPLM</b>	1,298kg (26.6cwt)
<b>User payload</b>	240kg (5.8cwt)
<b>Berths</b>	6
<b>Warranty</b>	12 months parts and labour