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Bailey Unicorn Segovia

Got a big family? This latest model from Bailey is generous with space and might be the answer, writes **SIMON McGRATH**

I PITCHED UP at this year's National Feast of Lanterns meet in the all-new Unicorn Segovia from Bailey. And it drew many comments, the most common of which was about its size. In a nutshell, it's a big twin-axle six-berth caravan with generous space and large windows (there's no fewer than five roof lights), which make it really light inside.

Yes, you need space for a big family but it's the layout in the Segovia that I think will appeal most to those with children.

The washroom is sizeable and sits in the middle of the 'van and while this may not suit some, it has practical benefits. The mid-section washroom has two doors, meaning there's privacy if the campers at either end want to use the facilities at night without disturbing others. A surprisingly large washroom is created when both doors are closed, which gives parents plenty of space to help little ones.

There are two fixed bunks at the rear with a seating area facing it that converts to a second set of bunks. This second seated area is crucial, allowing separate space for mum and dad at one end and kids at the other during daylight hours.

We all know kids want connectivity these days through their tech gadgets so this family 'van boasts a number of USB ports (I counted five before getting bored hunting for them), most of which are housed with the LED directional spotlights.

Outside, the gas barbecue point is on the awning side, which always makes me scratch my head as you wouldn't want a barbecue in the awning...

A big caravan with plenty of features brings with it a price tag of about £26,000 but I feel you get a lot for your money. And if you are filling the six berths, don't forget to think about an awning. Despite the generous inside space, it will help prevent everyone getting in each other's way.



DAYTIME LIVING

The front bench sofas, up to five per cent larger on new Unicorn models, are a good size for the family and the lounge area is light and airy with the large windows. The dining table stows away neatly in a compartment next to the fridge while there's another seating area at the back when the second bunk beds are stowed away.

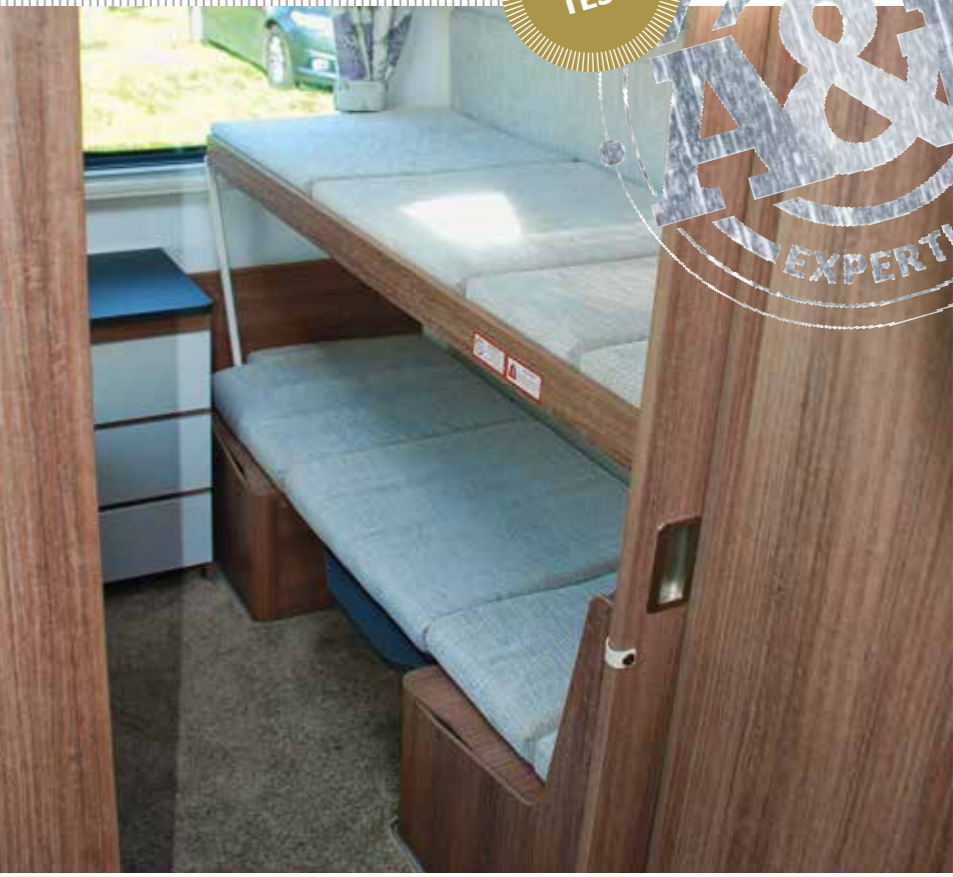
Storage space is always a compromise in a six-berth, but I think the team at Bailey has it about right. There's plenty of overhead lockers, slimline units, cabinets and two chests-of-drawers at either end, plus under seat storage space (though be mindful not to overload the 'van).

SLEEPING

I imagine the grown-ups will sleep at the front of the 'van with a generous double made up from the bench sofas.

Meanwhile there's room for four youngsters at the rear, courtesy of a fixed set of bunk beds for two plus a fold-down bunk facing it that was relatively easy to put up and take down. The mid-section washroom provides a good space between the two sleeping areas for privacy and also means late night trips to the toilet shouldn't disturb the occupants at the other end of the caravan. But you'll need to remember to knock on the door in case it's in use.

The lower fixed bunk bed also has a neat little power socket and TV aerial point tucked away in the chest-of-drawers beside it.



COOKING

Bailey has increased kitchen work surface space in the Unicorn range by up to 30 per cent and in the Segovia there's a good-size table extension. There is the now-standard cover to the hob plus an additional cover on top of that, which matches the worktop and provides a flush kitchen surface.

The Dometic fridge-freezer is about the right size for a six-berth caravan at 190 litres. There are deep drawers for pots and pans, plus a microwave oven high up though over the hob - a position we at the magazine have never liked.

The bin in the habitation door (stable-style) is also deep and a decent size, unlike many caravans and motorhomes I've tested.



THE WASHROOM

Given the layout, here's a 'van with a decent-size washroom for family holidays. Thanks to the position of the toilet and the size of the room, no-one will need to press their knees against the wall.

There is plenty of shelving, two cupboards, a wardrobe and three towel hooks. The shower has a neat fixed bench that little ones can sit on, and the two sky lights ensure there's plenty of light and ventilation.



ON TEST



at a glance

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| Price as tested | £25,999 |
| Club Care insurance | £330 |
| Berths | Six |
| Length x width x height | 7.9m x 2.28m x 2.61m |
| Mass in Running Order | 1,587kg |
| Maximum Technically Permissible Laden Mass | 1,767kg |
| User payload | 180kg |
| BE licence required | Yes |
| Manufacturer | Bailey |
| Tel | 0117 966 5967 |
| Web | www.baileyofbristol.co.uk |

verdict

A spacious caravan with a well-thought-out layout that should prove popular with families.