



www.WeBuyCaravans.co.uk

Types of touring caravans:

UK Caravan Manufacturers

[Click on the company name to link to their website](#)

Bailey of Bristol - Bailey of Bristol have been making caravans for over half a century, with their products proving exceptional state-of-the-art facilities. A brochure of current models and designs is available from the website, or you can search to see where your nearest manufacturer is.

Avondale Coachcraft Limited - Avondale do not only offer touring caravans but also sell park homes if you want to find a more permanent camping base. The company has been running since 1970, and the website provides links to the brochure and dealers.

Fleetwood Caravans Limited - Fleetwood caravans are modern and high-tech, offering all the latest facilities. Their stylish design has made them very popular, which is also reflected in their price. The website provides details of all dealers in the UK.

Lunar - Lunar caravans are easy-to-use, lightweight and economically friendly, making them one of the most popular options on the market. The website not only provides details about their caravans and motorhomes, but also gives you the option of planning your holiday and offers membership to the Lunar Owners Club. Exhibitions centres are also available across the country.

Swift - The Swift Group is an international company that sells caravans, motorhomes and holiday homes. Brands which the group incorporates are Abbey, Ace, Bessacarr, Sprite, Sterling and Swift. The company has won many awards for its design and manufacture, and the website is packed full of photos and plans for the caravans and homes.

Van Master - Van Master specialise in caravans, although they also offer a limited range of motor homes and used vans. There is only one place that a Van Master caravan or home can be purchased from (Standish in Lancashire) but the website provides adequate pictures and information for you to be able to make an educated decision about your purchase.

The Explorer Group - The Explorer Group consists of Eddiss, Compass and Buccanner caravans and mobile homes, and is the second largest manufacturer of such products in the UK. Retailers are available across the country, and the website will be able to inform you of your nearest one. An owners club is also available, as is tuition as to how to manoeuvre your caravan or home.

Other Caravan manufacturers

Adria

Caravelair

Dethleffs

Geist

Hymer

Knaus

Sterckeman

TEC

Stimson Designs

Teardrop Trailers

The Pod

Eriba

Freedom caravans

Gobur Caravans

Airstream Europe

Fifth Wheel Co.

Calder Leisure

The average caravan

The majority of caravans have a single axle and are between 3 and 6.5 metres long inside. Depending on the interior layout, they can sleep between two and six people. They normally have a washroom, usually with a toilet, basin and shower, and a kitchen area equipped with a sink, hob, work surfaces and other necessities.

The majority of new caravans you see on the road or on site in the UK have been made in Britain by one of six manufacturers – some building under several different brand names. However Continental – and even some American – caravans are becoming increasingly popular as the years go by. And there are many excellent used caravans on the market with plenty of life in them, though their manufacturer may have ceased to trade.

The twin axle caravan

Larger and heavier caravans may be fitted with twin axles. This makes them more stable and easier to tow on the road, but more difficult to manoeuvre when you're pitching on site or returning them to storage.

Tiny teardrop trailers

These tiny stylish trailers are popular with people who want to tow with a small vehicle.

Classic cars, sports cars and even trikes will usually tow them with no trouble.

Accommodation is normally basic with a double bed covering the entire floor. Some have simple cooking facilities and room to carry kit and equipment.

Pop top caravans

Much less popular than they once were, pop tops use a lifting roof to give standing headroom in an otherwise small caravan. This means the caravan has less frontal area when towing meaning less drag and a better fuel consumption in your tow car. They can be stored undercover in a conventional height garage at home.

The best known make is Eriba from Europe, which has been building these distinctive pop tops for half a century.

Tiny GRP caravans

There are some compact GRP (often known as fibreglass) caravans on the market, including the Freedom caravan range. Freedom caravans are small, low priced caravans and are built in Poland. The one piece, glass reinforced plastic body shell is unique and long lasting and means the units hold their value well.

Inside fittings can be pretty basic which means they're also fairly light in comparison to no-luxuries spared premium models. But, all in all, these little caravans have provided a

comfortable and value-for-money start in the great world of caravanning for thousands of families and couples.

Folding caravans

You will be amazed the first time you see a small folding caravan arrive on site, as its owners unfold their low trailer into a full height, fully equipped caravan.

Folding caravans are easier to store and tow, but they need to be erected on site every time you camp, which can be a little time-consuming and a bit more inconvenient than a conventional caravan. Only you can decide whether the advantages outweigh the disadvantages for you.

The stylish T@B

This novel German caravan has become a retro style icon since it was launched some ten years ago. Inside the accommodation is somewhat compromised by those outside curves, so you won't find much overhead locker storage space, for example.

However it does offer a huge double bed, a compact kitchen and room (but only just) to store a tiny chemical toilet and it's light to tow.

The American Airstream

Airstream manufactures these famous silver bullets so beloved by American film stars and they're now available with a European specification in sizes more suitable for British roads.

These stylish trans-Atlantic caravans offer all the creature comforts in an elegant - if somewhat expensive - package. You'll also attract a lot of attention wherever you park up in this iconic bit of luxury.

Fifth wheelers

These distinctive caravans originated in the USA but are now made in Britain as well. US and continental imports are also available.

Rather than having a normal caravan hitch, they can only be towed by a pickup truck with a proper articulated towing connection on the bed. Some offer a huge amount of living space and some even have slide-out sections to give even more room.

Many thanks to the camping and caravanning club for the information used in this PDF

The Camping and Caravanning Club