

First look
2012 SPECIAL



The Olympus gets a freshened-up exterior, two new layouts and much improved interior for the 2012 season

BAILEY Olympus II 540-5

Price £15,795

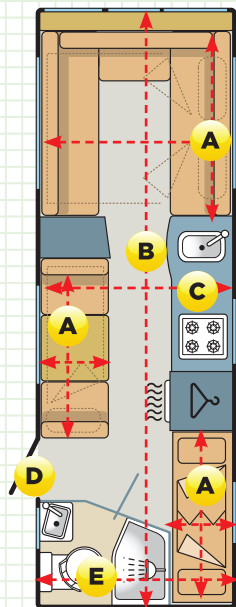


Interior styling is carried over from Unicorn and Pegasus II and is warmer and more appealing

Centre chest of drawers is a factory-fitted option

Bailey Olympus II 540-5

Price £15,795
Berths 5 **MiRO** 1272kg
MTPLM 1450kg **Awning** 1046cm
User payload 277kg



Measurements

- A Beds Front double** 1.98m x 1.7m **Fixed bunks** 1.9m x 0.64m **Nearside bed** 1.7m x 0.76m
- B Interior length** 5.68m
- C Interior width** 2.02m
- D Door width** 0.54cm
- E Overall width** 2.19m

Manufacturer Bailey of Bristol
Address South Liberty Lane, Bristol BS3 2SS
Tel 0117 305 2939
Web www.baileyolympus-s2.co.uk **Dealers** 80



The fixed bunks are solidly built and the ladder is snugly fitted

BAILEY HAS LEARNED a lot about what customers want since introducing its first Alu-Tech models in 2009. The incorporation of that feedback into the product line-up is completed with the launch of the Olympus Series II.

The range has been trimmed from seven layouts to four, with five removed and two completely new ones on offer. One of those being introduced is the 540-5. This shares a floor plan with the popular six-berth Pegasus Series II Ancona, but is just a five-berth.

Pitching and set-up

The Olympus features Alu-Tech bodyshells on Al-Ko chassis with face-lifted hitch gear. The gas locker door is now the same colour as the rest of the van and offers good access to the gas bottles.

Corner steadies are easy to access, although crouching is required to reach the rear ones. The services drain to the offside. The control panel is to the left of the two-piece entrance door.

Lounge

The restyled lounge is a major improvement over the original Olympus' sterile living space. The walnut cabinetwork and 'Panama' soft furnishings combine well,



Families will appreciate the Bailey's large nearside-corner washroom

while the windows and rooflight allow loads of natural light. Wrap-around seating is standard, and a centre chest is an optional extra.

Kitchen

The LED-lit offside kitchen includes a 107-litre fridge-freezer, four-burner gas hob, combined grill and oven, and 800W eye-level microwave. The sink has a clip-on drainer and a chopping board while the four side-opening overhead lockers look great.

Beds

Double, rather than triple, bunks separate the 540-5 and Pegasus II Ancona layouts. The assembly feels solid and well made, as does the aluminium ladder. The fifth berth is provided by the side dinette, while the front lounge seats are easily converted to a double bed using pull-out slats.

Washroom

Anyone expecting compromised space here will be pleasantly surprised. The door opens outwards to reveal a shower, swivel cassette toilet, Belfast basin and enough room for a small child accompanied by a parent.

Storage

Thanks to a combination of under-seat and roof-locker options, there is enough space for a family of five's kit. The wardrobe is above the Truma heater and offers three-quarter-length hanging space. Further options are provided by wet lockers at each front corner.

Verdict

There is little to dislike about the Olympus Series II. Bailey's successful make-over provides many compelling options to buy. The new interiors are refined and comfortable and the specification levels don't leave much out. The 540-5 will make a great van for small families, and we plan to test one in the near future.

For previews of other new tourers at the show, go to www.practicalcaravan.com

