



Inside the Alpine



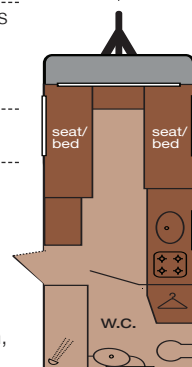
at a glance

Sprite Alpine 2

- Price as tested** £12,169
- Prices start at** £11,440
- Club Care insurance** £288
- Fridge capacity** 107-litre
- Kitchen** Three-burner hob; oven
- Heating** Blown air gas and electric
- Water system** Inboard with semi-rigid piping
- Electrics** Two 230V sockets; one 12V socket
- Gas** Accommodates all touring bottle types
- Washroom** Basin; cassette toilet; shower

- Options fitted** Diamond pack including alloy wheels; stabiliser hitch; spare wheel and carrier; CD/radio; microwave
- Length x width x height** 4.34m x 2.23m x 2.61m
- Berths** Two
- Bed sizes** Front double 2.08m x 1.80m; single nearside 1.90m x 0.72m; single offside 1.80m x 0.72m
- Mass in Running Order** 1000kg
- Maximum Technically Permissible Laden Mass** 1,156g
- Payload** 156kg
- BE licence required** No (with suitable vehicle such as Ford Focus TD)
- Warranty** Six years body plus three years on certain equipment

- Manufacturer** Swift Group
- Web** swiftgroup.co.uk
- Tel** 01482 875740
- With thanks to** Campbell's Caravans, Kirkham, 01772 672000



A Spritely return

It's a historic name, and the Sprite brand is showing no sign of leaving the caravanning radar. **ANDREW JENKINSON** looks at one of the latest versions – the Sprite Alpine 2

SPRITE is one of the best-known names in caravanning. The brand has been around for more than 60 years (you can read more in From the Archive on page 128) and the Alpine has been on the UK market since 1958. Known for low cost, lightweight and reliable caravans, the Sprite of 2011 aims to keep up the good work. So is that going to be the case? I looked at the Alpine 2, with its end washroom layout. It has a large front lounge, side kitchen with large side dresser opposite and a good-sized end washroom.

The exterior of the Sprite is modern yet remains conservative in style. The one-piece front window is a give-away to its entry-level origins, but otherwise it doesn't look like a budget caravan.

Equipped with the Diamond Pack, my test model includes a spare wheel, alloy wheels, hitch stabiliser, CD/radio, door flyscreen, scatter cushions and

an AL-KO lock receiver. The Alpine also comes with an interior that's more mid-market.

Quality upholstery is used throughout. It's supportive and well co-ordinated with the walnut furniture finish. The front lounge features twin single settees that convert to a large double. Roof locker storage here is excellent – deep and easy to access and that's reflected in the under-seat storage too. The access flaps are a great feature, but their size means putting away bulky bedding is easy. The large front window allows in plenty of natural light along with the Heki rooflight, while corner spot lamps provide concentrated night illumination.

The side kitchen comes with a 107-litre fridge and oven and a three-burner hob. A microwave can be fitted in the built-in locker above the oven as an option. The sink is finished in granite effect and the worktop will please most users. Opposite is a

dresser housing the Truma heater and also more working space, along with good access to the water and heater controls. Above, a roof locker adds more storage. The solid entrance door to the washroom reinforces the Sprite's good build quality. The washroom is ample in size and includes a shower cubicle, full-length wardrobe and a hand basin with storage beneath. However, the cassette toilet only has a manual flush.

There's little to knock in the Alpine 2. An extra 230V socket would be handy and two 230V lights would be good too, but for the price this is a great tourer for two.

Verdict: The Alpine is a cracking tourer. Sprite still offers the same excellent value as it always has, and it's one of the most famous names in caravanning too.