

at a
glance

Sprite Alpine 2

Price as tested (approx) £11,500

Berths Two

Bed size Double 2.1m x 1.8m

Kitchen Three-burner hob; grill; oven

Electrics Three 230V sockets; one 12V socket with TV aerial point

Gas Mountings for two 7kg cylinders

Specification also includes Diamond Pack (spare steel wheel; alloy wheels; stabiliser; wheel lock receiver; door flyscreen; radio/CD player; two scatter cushions)

Length x width x height 5.99m x 2.64m x 2.23m

Mass in Running Order 1,009kg

Maximum Technically Permissible Laden Mass 1,160kg

User payload 151kg

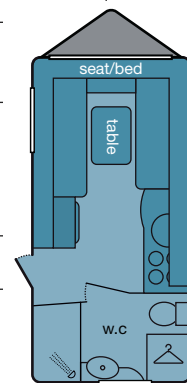
BE licence required No, with suitable vehicle such as Volkswagen Golf 2.0 TDI 140 Match 5dr

Warranty Ten year water ingress warranty

Supplier Swift

Web swiftgroup.co.uk

Tel 01482 847332



Old friend, new look

On a drizzly autumn day CANDY EVANS had the chance to see the newest version of a classic caravan, before it was even complete. Meet the new Sprite Alpine 2

IN NEARLY ten years this is the first time I've assessed a caravan before the first unit is fully built, but the chance to look at the Sprite Alpine 2 before it had its first public showing at the Motorhome and Caravan Show in Birmingham was too good an opportunity to miss.

At first glance – even without its rear panel fitted – the new Alpine 2 is a good-looking caravan. It has inherited the sleek, aerodynamic front panel design from its larger siblings, such as the Eccles Sport I looked at in September's issue.

There are areas where it's obvious the Sprite is at the entry level of Swift's caravans. The logo on the front locker, for example, has become a flat sticker rather than a three-dimensional motif. The lighting is also traditional, with two ceiling lights in the living area, a strip light in the kitchen and four reading lights above the front seats. You won't find fancy ambient lighting in this Sprite – just practical lamps to do the job.

But there are indications of a higher specification, especially if you buy the Diamond Pack – a set of optional extras – including a spare wheel, AL-KO stabiliser and two scatter cushions.

Even without the Diamond Pack the door to the washroom is an inch-or-so thick and you'll still find a plate rack in the kitchen cupboard and Grade 3 classification for heating and thermal insulation, all of which you might expect to find in a more expensive unit.

There's everything you need in the kitchen area – a Thetford fridge, colour co-ordinated sink, three-burner gas hob, grill and oven. The workspace next to the sink has an accessible 230V socket for an electric kettle. Three deep cupboards, hinged at the side rather than the top, give a domestic feel here. Elsewhere, however, the eye-level cupboards are quite shallow.

The living area is comfortable if not luxurious, though the scatter cushions in the test unit gave it a lift. The dark brown carpet and seat swabs combine to make this area quite dark.

There's a small plastic 'dashboard' at the front carrying two 230V electrical sockets and the thermostat for the blown-air heating system. There's no TV point here, but there's one on the dresser opposite the kitchen with 12V, 230V and aerial sockets all to hand.

The bed slats pull out

from under the chest of drawers at the front of the 'van to make up a double bed. You can also create a small table by pulling out a section above the chest of drawers. If you want more space, there's a freestanding table stored in the washroom at the back of the caravan.

The end washroom is spacious with a good-sized shower, wardrobe (though I'd prefer not to lean over the toilet to access it) and well-positioned towel hooks.

The latest Sprite seems to be a good, reasonably lightweight caravan, though it would benefit from the extra space you find in some of its competitors that have fitted underfloor-mounted heating systems.

Verdict: A worthy successor to Sprites of old.

