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## Auto Campers Multi Recreational Vehicle

**CANDY EVANS** heads off to the West Country in the latest flexible campervan from Berkshire-based Auto Campers

**THE MULTI RECREATIONAL VEHICLE (MRV)** was created by Auto Campers in response to a customer who wanted everything – a day van to transport dogs, people, kit and yet still be at home on the campsite. It was the sort of request that has been known to produce a compromise that doesn't do either job particularly well. Fortunately the MRV bucks this trend.

I took the Hi-Line version down the M5 to Minehead, Somerset with my parents on board. It was one of those very blustery days and the high sides caught the wind a little on the way down. However, once we were on the winding roads of the West Country I was reminded how well the new Ford Transit holds the road. It was a very pleasant drive.

At motorway speeds there was some wind noise from the rooflight in the living area, but overall the build quality matched the standards I'd expect to find in campervans costing significantly more than this.

There are sliding doors on both sides of the van and with the optional electrically-operated step it was very easy to get on board. A quick stop on the road became a companionable lunch break as I turned one of the cab seats and we gathered around the table (stored on the door for travel), which seemed to underline this vehicle's practicality as a day van.



### On the road:

The standard MRV comes with just three seats – two in the cab and one in the back. I requested a second rear seat so my parents could ride together in comfort. If you were to leave the bed at home you could increase capacity to five, with the seats positioned so you could still get to the kitchen. Floor rails make it simple to add and remove seats.





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#### At night:

The rear seats fold down to allow the sizeable double bed to be put together. You only need to move a single panel and strap it to fixing points in the roof. It's very straightforward. Well-fitting curtains keep the morning sun out, though the cab relies on insulated black-out screens that have to be stored elsewhere during the day.



#### Cooking and washing:

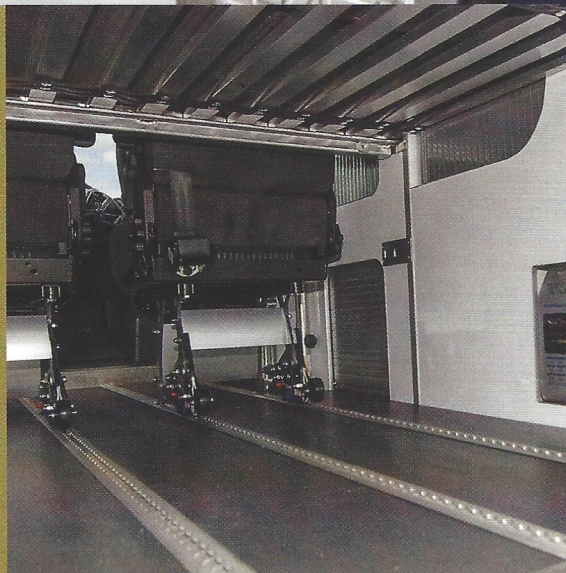
The kitchen area is compact but practical with a two-burner hob and small sink. It can be accessed from inside the van or out, and has a fridge underneath that can also be reached from both sides. A slide-out section of work surface by the hob is useful for a plate or two and a fold-up table can be used when the weather's good enough to be outside.

#### Storage:

It's been a long time since I've found such comprehensive, practical storage in a campervan. I particularly like the vast space beneath the bed at the back, which allows you to carry a load that can't be seen through the windows.

On the campsite you can take advantage of the many cupboards with smart roller-shutter doors. There's even a dedicated cubbyhole for a toilet, if required.

If you need even more space, you can take out all the rear seats and the bed, leaving just the side storage units in place.



#### at a glance

**Price as tested** £40,880

**Prices start at** £29,500

**Club Care insurance** £248

**Base vehicle** Ford Transit Custom Hi Roof

**Engine as tested** 2.2-litre turbo diesel, 153bhp, six-speed manual gearbox

**Emissions category** Euro 5

**Length x width x height** 4.97m x 2.48m x 2.44m

**Berths** Four travel/two sleeping

**Mass in Running Order** 2,420kg

**Maximum Authorised Mass** 2,900kg

**C1 licence required** No

**User payload** 480kg

**Warranty** Three years base vehicle; one year conversion

**Supplier** Auto Campers

**Tel** 01189 790202

**Web**

[www.autocampers.co.uk](http://www.autocampers.co.uk)

#### verdict

A supremely competent day van that doubles up as a practical campervan.