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ON TEST



Eriba Touring Troll 535

CANDY EVANS headed to Germany to be among the first to see Eriba's latest caravan, fresh off the production line

I HAD the privilege of seeing one of the latest Eriba 2018 caravans - the Touring Troll 535 - outside the Hymer factory in Bad Waldsee, in southern Germany, earlier this year.

It should be in the UK at the end of the year and is a smart, modern twist on the ubiquitous Eriba caravan.

The Eriba Touring range has been part of Hymer's portfolio for most of the company's 60-year history and its construction and exterior look haven't changed much over the years. Introduced as 'retro style' by Hymer during the launch of the 2018 ranges, this Troll is clearly a direct descendent of the prototype from 1957 that was on display in the Erwin Hymer Museum behind it. It still has the basic steel frame and distinctive exterior shape but the 535 is a new layout, including having an extra-large 90-litre fridge, Truma Combi 4 boiler and a good-sized wardrobe.

At the front of the caravan is a small dinette that converts into a single bed. Around the roof line are a number of cupboards, which I'd normally describe as 'eye-level'. In this pop-top caravan, however, they sit a little lower than in a standard height caravan because they're fixed to the permanent sides of the 535.

The main part of the roof can be raised, giving



The prototype Eriba Troll from 1957


extra headroom throughout the caravan, apart from the rear section of the fixed bed, which retains the lower level roof.

This bed is large and comfortable. The mattress is divided in two so you can lift each half separately, making it easy to access the space underneath.

In the centre of the caravan is the compact and stylish washroom. Its mirror is attached to the roof and slides up when the roof is raised, bringing it to a realistic height so you can see your face in it. The roof fabric extends around the washroom, to ensure privacy for the occupant. And in another practical feature, there are two long rails on the door for your towels, though you won't find a shower in the standard 535 model - simply a Thetford bench cassette toilet and a basin.

The 535 has a typically continental kitchen, with just a sink and three-burner hob to accompany the new-for-2018 compressor fridge. This leaves plenty of room for storage space, in the form of cupboards and drawers.

Workspace is a bit limited, so you'll probably need to use the sink cover as a food preparation area but it's of the same material as the rest of the worktop so it should work well. There's also a small pull-up section of work surface to the side of the sink and you could always press the dinette table into service.

Overall this is a caravan in the tradition of all Eriba Touring caravans - compact, practical and built to last. 

at a glance

Price as tested £21,190 (including delivery)

Prices start at £19,890

Berths Three

Bed sizes Double 1.98m x 1.4m; front single 1.98m x 0.93m

Kitchen Three-burner hob

Electrics Three 230V sockets

Gas Mountings for two 5kg cylinders

Length x width x height 5.76m x 2.1m x 2.26m

Mass in Running Order 1,020kg

Maximum Technically Permissible Laden

Mass 1,300kg

User payload 280kg

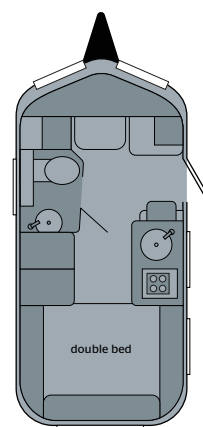
BE licence required

No, with suitable vehicle such as Ssangyong Tivoli XLV Diesel ELX 4x4

Warranty Two years parts and labour; six years water ingress

Manufacturer Eriba

Web www.eriba.com



verdict

A modern twist on the Eriba, showing the brand is ready for the next 60 years.



Left: Looking towards the rear of the caravan. Right: The compact washroom