

Making WAVES

Life's a beach in
the Desert Edge
Discovery Deluxe.



Desert Edge isn't the first company to enlist the skills of boat builders to make camper trailers. It's a natural affinity, with boats and camper trailers sharing components like kitchens, electrics and a healthy enmity for the elements.

Stuart Morgan is the bloke heading up Desert Edge's design and production team, and while he spent most of his career doing product development for boat marques like Quintrex, Stacer and Savage, he was simultaneously developing a love of his own for building camper trailers.

"Well, I got into designing these things because I was building my own in the backyard. Every year, I would design and build my ultimate trailer, use it for a year, all the while designing the next version. I would sell the one I'd had for a year and build another one."

Stuart's story harks back to the auspicious roots of quite a few companies that are now household names: an Aussie bloke building something in his backyard because he loves it.

The Discovery Deluxe is the 5m tinnie of the camper trailer world. It is solidly built, with the kind of attention to the important things that comes with experience in the bush, not sitting in front of a CAD machine, and a laissez-faire take on the luxuries. After all, what's a bigger luxury, sitting under a sky where the stars kiss each horizon and the night is so still you can almost hear yourself breathe, or a camper trailer with all the options? If you can only

afford one, I know which one I'd be choosing.

The body is all 2mm alloy, with checkerplate doors and pockets, and the chassis is hot dipped galvanised steel. This combination provides good protection from corrosion and the best strength where you need it on the chassis. The rest of the fixtures are all stainless steel or alloy, so that a bit of salt spray isn't going to leave you feeling guilty when you don't wash it on the way home.

Weight, or the lack of it, is one of the drawcards of the Discovery Deluxe. At only 420kg, it will follow the most modest 4WD anywhere, or you can stick it behind a V8 Cruiser and not rip through an extra half a tank of fuel a day. With an ATM of 749kg, that's a payload of 329kg.

And you can actually get to your gear. As it's a rear fold tent, Desert Edge realised that getting to your gear via the tailgate wasn't going to be the best option all the time. So they designed the bed base to lift up, providing great access to the storage inside whether you're set up or on the side of the road half an hour from home trying to remember if you packed your underwear.

The kitchen is a slide-out unit located at the front of the camper on the nearside. This way it's all under cover when the awning is up, and, being a rear fold, there is plenty of space under the awning. Bench space is a little limited while you're cooking. The slide-out kitchen houses a stainless steel Dometic

★ RATING	
OFFROAD ABILITY	★ ★
BUSHABILITY	★ ★
SET UP	★ ★ ★ ★
ELECTRICS/LIGHTING	★ ★
VALUE FOR MONEY	★ ★ ★ ★
COMFORTS	★ ★

Not a huge fan of where this pump is mounted, but it's nice to have in a trailer this affordable.



This slide out kitchen is great for quick sandwich and cuppa stops!

cooktop and sink, both with flip up glass lids. With the lids down, you've got enough prep space for cooking. There's a 12V pump for the sink, but it's behind the offside wheel, not the best place for something fragile on an offroad camper, but pretty well protected by the support legs, which act as rear rock sliders too.

The tent isn't made from traditional canvas, instead using the ripstop style

OzTrail fabric which is 100% waterproof, pretty durable and very lightweight.

With the optional offroad coupling, this little camper is a great beach toy. You don't have to worry about getting stuck pulling a lead weight you or corrosion. At \$13,630, it isn't going to empty your back pocket either, so you can stay out in the spray for longer with no worries. Sounds like something a boatie would come up with... ■

SPECIFICATIONS

Desert Edge DISCOVERY DELUXE

Tare:	420kg
ATM:	749kg
Suspension:	Independent, Alko torsion bar
Brakes:	Drum
Coupling:	Treg
Price:	\$13,630



Austyle Campers & Trailers
1/15 Logan River Road
Beenleigh, Qld 4209
(07) 3807 8007
sales@austylecampers.com.au
www.austylecampers.com.au

Left: Internal and external window flaps are a nice touch. The OzTrail ripstop fabric is lightweight but strong, so packing up is easy and you'll stay dry.

