



TAKE A SHINE



It's easy to like the stylish, practical design of this aluminium trailer from Desert Edge.

Camper trailer manufacturers come from all sorts of backgrounds, including the marine industry. The latter association may not be immediately obvious until you consider the experience with welding and shaping aluminium, which seems to scare a few manufacturers off. If it works successfully with boats that are required to stay afloat, there's no reason why it wouldn't work with camper trailers either.

Desert Edge, a relatively new name in the camper trailer business, is a good example of such thinking. The parent company also happens to own Quintrex, an old name in the boating world, and has been building galvanised steel and aluminium trailers for a few years. It has now ventured into the camper business as well.

OVERALL DESIGN

There are several camper trailers in the Desert Edge range and our review trailer is the offroad Oasis Deluxe. It comes with both an aluminium body and an

aluminium chassis, but the latter is an option, with the standard chassis being hot dipped galvanised. Standard is the Al-Ko torsion bar independent suspension, which isn't common in the camper trailer world but is certainly something that caravan owners are familiar with.

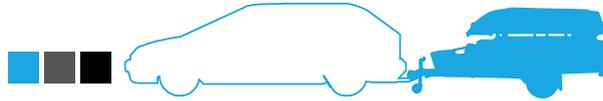
The Oasis is basically a 2.13x1.22m (7x4ft) box trailer but it certainly doesn't look like one. Storage bins on either side, which are angled over to meet the top of the trailer, change the profile entirely. Like the front storage bin, the side bins are all made from smooth aluminium panel with checkerplate doors. The result is quite stylish and practical – and those two things don't always go together. There are three bins on either side; the rear offside is for the gas cylinder and the rear nearside for the battery box, but the rest are empty.

In addition to the front storage bin, which has jerry can holders on either side, the drawbar also sports a spare wheel mount, Hyland hitch, jockey wheel and handbrake.

At the rear (and not often seen on

Clockwise from top right: The Oasis Deluxe featured an aluminium chassis (optional); a queen size foam mattress is supplied standard; the on-board battery box is stored in a nearside compartment; the Oasis Deluxe has a tailgate kitchen with stainless steel tops.





“THE OASIS DELUXE IS PERFECTLY AT HOME EXPLORING THE COASTAL AREAS OF AUSTRALIA”



the Oasis Deluxe has a kitchen box attached to the offside hinged tailgate. It comes fitted with round stainless steel sink, a Cramer two-burner cooktop and a fire extinguisher fitted next to the cooktop. Under the latter is also an open storage area.

SUMMING UP

“Desert Edge” and “Oasis Deluxe” are associated with exploring the sandy areas of Australia, but the Oasis camper trailer is perfectly at home exploring the coastal areas of Australia as well. It’s certainly a very eye-catching design with the aluminium/galvanised steel construction, and for \$14,779 as reviewed, it’s fitted with all the basics ready for a weekend away or something considerably longer.

camper trailers) are Al-Ko quick-drop corner stabilisers.

EQUIPMENT

Like many camper designs, the tent part of the trailer is fitted to a ply timber base that has a partly metal frame. It is hinged to the nearside and can be lifted, assisted by gas struts, to give easy access to the trailer base.

Being a side-fold design, the tent is easily erected by removing the vinyl cover and swinging the tent over the side of the trailer. Once the vinyl floor is pegged out, the internal hood bows can be extended and the tent is almost ready for use.

Standard with the Oasis Deluxe design

is a 2.8m (9ft) tent floor area. The tent itself comes with three windows around the bed and three more around the main tent area plus a door. The vinyl floor runs right up the side of the trailer to keep everything weather and insect-proof but there are no flaps to give access to the trailer storage bins.

Outside the main tent, an awning zips onto the side and covers both the doorway and kitchen area. The awning walls are optional.

For the main bed, a queen size 150mm foam mattress is supplied. It sits on the aforementioned ply timber base, which has an inbuilt hatch to give access to the trailer base from inside the tent.

Like many a good camper trailer,

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Clockwise from top left: The bed base sports hydraulic struts; corner stabilisers keep things steady; there is plenty of readily accessible storage on the Oasis; under the awning, cooking’s a breeze.

