

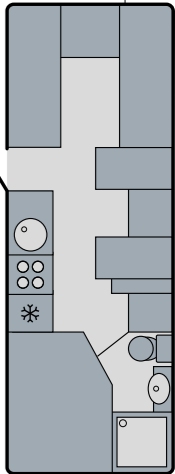


WE LOVE:
The Quasar is wide-bodied but surprisingly light



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At a glance
Prices from £24,424
Berths Six
Length x width x height 7.88m x 2.44m x 2.65m
Maximum Technically Permissible Laden Mass 1,700kg
User payload 181kg
For more information lunarcaravans.com



Lunar Quasar 686

Rob Ganley casts an eye over a wide-bodied tourer from a manufacturer known for its surprisingly lightweight models

Lunar Caravans has been making tourers for nearly 50 years, and while its 2019 season line up saw some consolidation, the Quasar 686 was a standout model.

It's a new-for-2019, eight foot wide, twin axle model, joining the growing trend for wide-bodied caravans. However, Lunar is known for making lightweight tourers, and the 686's maximum technical permissible laden mass (MTPLM) at 1,700kg is lower than you might expect for one of the wider breed of vans with a total shipping length of nearly 8m.

You can also opt for an upgrade to 1,800kg should your tow car allow. Either

would make a decent match for a tow car such as a 2.2-litre Kia Sorento, depending on your towing experience.

From the outside, it's simple and unassuming to

look at, with a minimalist graphic treatment. The standard-fit alloy wheels are attractive, and it comes with a hitch head stabiliser, but other goodies such as AL-KO's

ATC trailer stability system or a roof-mounted solar panel are cost options.

Ample lounge

Step onboard, and the extra width is immediately apparent in terms of interior space. The headroom is noticeable too, at 6ft 5in. The front lounge is flooded with light thanks to a large rectangular rooflight plus a secondary, small sunroof above the centre window up front.

The layout features a large front lounge with central chest and chunky

▲ The extra width and headroom are apparent in the lounge
 ◀ The secondary lounge is a hit for families



armrest cushions, plus a second wraparound dinette on the offside, giving two distinct lounging areas. Note, our images show a pre-production model - the freestanding table was replaced by a clip-on table in full production, with a hinged leg. To the rear on the nearside of the van is a large, fixed corner bed next to a roomy corner washroom.

Soft furnishings are low key, while locker doors throughout get a magnolia veneer. Two of the brushed aluminium-look directional reading lights have USB charging ports. Three circular ceiling lights have touch controls at their centre, and up front the corner panels are in fact lockers that you need to push to open. The control panel sits flush to the caravan wall.

Spacious kitchen

In the kitchen area, there's a Thetford oven and grill, plus three gas burners and an electric hotplate. Alongside this is a deep circular sink, which comes with a cover that doubles as a chopping board.

Acres of kitchen workspace includes a flip-up extension, although this does block access through the caravan



▲ The exterior is unfussy
 ◀ Storage space under the rear corner bed is ample and easy to access
 ▼ For a corner washroom, it's very roomy



with a wraparound privacy curtain. The rear fixed bed is positioned longitudinally, and a cutaway section at its foot allows for easier access to the corner washroom. The bed has corner shelves, two directional reading lights and lockers above it.

Roomy washroom

The washroom features a swivelling electric flush cassette toilet, vanity unit with large mirror and stylish wash basin, and the walk-in shower is fully lined with plastic, has a rigid bi-fold door and gets an ecocamel showerhead. Again, the additional body width of this tourer makes this space feel surprisingly roomy.

Verdict

The Quasar 686 offers plenty of interior space, and ample storage, for a young family of six, or as a luxury four berth. What's more, it's well within the towing capabilities of many regular family-friendly SUV tow cars. 🚗

Space for sleeping

The front lounge sofas can be used as single sleeping berths for kids or made up into a huge transverse double bed across the width of the van. The offside dinette also converts to a smaller double bed, which comes

door. The kitchen lockers and drawers mean storage space is ample here. There's also a Sharp microwave oven sited above a slim-line Dometic fridge freezer. Opposite the fridge freezer is a wardrobe, with a TV bracket mount for production models.