



REVIEW | £19,999 + £525 delivery | MIRO 1271kg | MTPLM 1455kg

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# Lunar Lexon 580

Lexon's newest family arrival has a well-designed bunk/dining zone, brilliant atmospheric lighting, fabulously vibrant fabrics, and its MTPLM is only 1455kg



This year's Lexons have, arguably, the most bold and memorable interior design of 2016 caravans.

Both the fabric colours and lighting are truly special.

A lot of Lunar's focus has been on the Lexon range for this year, and not just in terms of styling. Three new models arrive, one with an island bed, one with twin beds, and this one, the new family Lexon, with bunks and a two-person dining area.

It's a really well planned layout; the cosy bunk 'bedroom' is integrated with the dining area, to create a zone that's nicely separate, making children feel as if they have their own space. Yet, at the same time, it's quite open plan, so the caravan has a feeling of spaciousness.

If you go to see a 580 at a retailer's premises, you'll appreciate the layout efficiency instantly. What you won't see, though, is the amazing lighting

#### TESTED BY

Val Chapman

#### PHOTOGRAPHY

John Chapman

#### TEST LOCATION

Little Orchard Caravan Park, Weeton, Lancashire

design because, naturally, most caravans are displayed outdoors without power connected.

Our review 580, however, is hooked up to mains and switched on, for a day of detailed evaluation 20 miles north of where it was built, in the north west. The weather is exceptionally dull, which gives the Lexon's lighting style a chance to shine, literally. Every area of the 580 has a superb and very different lighting styling, including the shower room.



See the video review at [caravan.ma/vanreviews](http://caravan.ma/vanreviews)



'Montana oak' woodwork and a thick-pile carpet in silver-fawn create a lovely look

## SHOWERING

The mirror over the basin is completely surrounded by beads of bright white light. The ceiling light is an exquisite rectangular structure encasing 12 LEDs.

A circle of brilliant white light is in the centre of the shower cubicle, framed by a large grey circle. The styling is simply lovely.

There's more than style to impress you here. Lexons have big, oval white basins that sit up above the cabinet. Even the tap is worth remarking on. It's angular and tall, up there with the best.

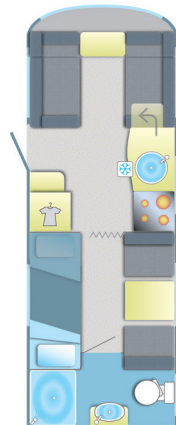
## SLEEPING

The bunks are 1.8m long. The single bed opposite, created from the dining area, is the same length. Each bunk has a curtain, as does the bunk area.

Lighting style is remarkable here, too. Both bunk areas have very

### TECHNICAL STUFF

<b>BERTHS</b>	5
<b>LENGTH BODY</b>	5.7M
<b>OVERALL</b>	7.32M
<b>WIDTH</b>	2.32M
<b>HEADROOM</b>	1.96M
<b>WEIGHT MIRO</b>	1271KG
<b>MTPLM</b>	1455KG



bright lights; they're clusters of LEDs on a spotlight-style stalk. The single spotlight over the dining table is of a totally different style, more classic spotlight in shape, and brighter than those you usually find in caravans.

Entertainment is catered for by a chunky TV bracket above the foot end of the top bunk; a TV fixed here can be viewed from the dining area as well as the top bunk. Connection points, plus 12-volt and mains sockets are alongside. A mains socket is close to floor level in the dining area. Having two power points in the kids' zone is important.

The lounge transforms into a double bed by pulling out a slatted base from under the drawers.

## STORAGE

The bunk base is exceptionally light and easy to raise; it's supported on spring hinges.

There's exterior access to this space.

The areas under the dining seating are accessed by sliding webbing-linked slats to one side; again, all very easy.

Front under-seat areas have full-width, drop-down doors, though the offside space is inevitably largely occupied by the Truma Combi space and water heater (which is really efficient, warming up the 580 in minutes at the start of our long test day).

The lounge has four top lockers, with two long lockers over the dining table.

The wardrobe, just forward of the bunks, has a good amount of hanging space and length, and there are four drawers beneath it. The storage potential in any family caravan is crucial to its appeal and success. In this one, storage space has to be regarded as up there with the best in its size class.







A peep in through the nearside window shows the amazing top-locker lighting style



Nice styling features in the shower room; the big, oval basin and the prominent, angular tap



Secluded dining for two, out of the way on the offside



A circle of brilliant white light is in the centre of the shower cubicle, framed by a large grey circle



Each bunk has very bright lights; they're clusters of LEDs on a spotlight-style stalk



Eye-catching bright reds and animal-print seat backs look dramatic



## DINING

We love the position of the rear dining 'room', far enough away from the parents' dining area, yet well within sight, so that everyone feels they are eating in the same room. That's important in the 580, because the front dining area seats four, rather than five. Unless, that is, you go for an option. You can buy extra upholstery, for £139, to turn the 580's lounge into a wrap-around configuration, which makes this a five-seater dining area.

The freestanding table is stored in a compartment within the kitchen cabinet, easy to extract and replace.

## LOUNGING

The Lexon's amazing lighting features have grabbed our attention in every area so far. In the lounge, though, lighting style is even more striking. Three factors come into play; the locations and shapes of the lights and the amount of illumination created, which is more than in the majority of tourers. The four corner spotlights under the top lockers are exceptionally bright. Small, brushed-steel cube lights in the corners emit light from both top and base. A rim of light surrounds the long central rooflight, another stunning Lexon feature, and four small spotlights define each corner of it.

There's an additional lighting feature that contributes to the Lexon character. Lines of LEDs produce soft lighting within the two-shelf corner unit above the dresser beside the door. The shade of the wood means that a pinkish hue is created; another attractive feature.

Lexon lounge style isn't just about amazing lighting. Gloss cream locker inserts add to the style. It's the fabric colours, though, that, along with lighting, define this year's Lexons. Lunar dared to be different when the designers chose this scheme.

STUNNING REDS AND GREYS, AWESOME LIGHTING DESIGNS... THE LEXON 580 IS A REALLY GOOD PACKAGE OF STYLE AND SPEC



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## WHAT WE LIKE

- ▶ The immensely practical family layout
- ▶ The wow-factor lighting design
- ▶ The stunning fabric colours
- ▶ The long, rectangular rooflight

## WHAT WE DON'T LIKE

- ▶ The high position of the microwave won't suit everyone

With the 35cm extension hinged into place, the 580's kitchen is a generous 1.31m long



Bright reds and dark greys, bold stripes, with an animal-print design for the seat backs, create a look that's both sophisticated and modern. We love it!

## KITCHEN

Lighting is a feature of the kitchen, too. The top and sides of the upper lockers are defined by a rim of light, and a row of exceptionally bright LEDs runs the entire length of the kitchen under the top lockers, giving plenty of illumination where you work.

With the 35cm extension hinged into place, the 580's kitchen is a generous 1.31m long. The sink cover (matching the matt brown rock-effect surface) sits slightly above the surface but is nonetheless useful extra worktop.

The cabinet forward of the fridge is 26cm wide, and contains a cutlery drawer plus two shelf spaces, the lower one being ideal for tall items. Opposite, the dresser cabinet gives you two more shelf spaces, also 26cm wide. These two lower cabinets together, provide just about enough storage capacity, especially considering that this caravan has four over-lounge lockers that can be used for kitchen items if required.

Some will say the microwave is too high for anyone who isn't tall, but that's the only potential downside of what is otherwise an extremely practical kitchen.

## TOWING

Twenty mostly motorway miles, with a few roundabouts and lanes,

between Lunar and Little Orchard Caravan Park, provides a nicely varied tow-test route. Exposed motorway stretches and the gusty winds of the day had us appreciating the inclusion of ATC stability control as a standard feature. The 580 behaved impeccably, as we'd expected. And the best news? This caravan's modest 1445kg MTPLM puts it happily within range of vehicles a lot lighter than our beefy SsangYong Rexton.

## ALSO CONSIDER...

*Bailey Pegasus Ancona, comparable layout, at £18,179 and 1475kg MTPLM*

## OPTIONS TO GO FOR...

*Wrap-around seating at £139; AL-KO Secure wheel lock at £239*

## OUR VERDICT

*Stunning reds and greys, innovative lighting designs in all areas, the long rooflight and the gloss cream inserts in all the top lockers mark out this year's Lexons as trend-setting caravans.*

*The new 580's layout oozes family practicality. Its kitchen measures up well to its five-appetite task. Equipment level is impressive. There's an alarm system, an offside light so that you can do the water tasks without need for a torch, and ATC to increase tow safety margin. The Lexon 580 is a really good package of style and spec.*



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