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Raclet Panama Up All Terrain

Below left: The Raclet pitched. Below right: the cavernous underbed storage

IAN HEWLETT gets to grips with the latest incarnation of the Panama 'off-road' trailer tent

THE ORIGINAL Raclet Panama Up trailer tent has been around for a while and its easy set-up and spacious easy-access storage have set it apart as a truly useful unit. The Easypack system allows access to the underbed area without unpacking everything, which is great for those who take lots of kit with them.

The latest incarnation, the All Terrain, has a larger payload capacity and is beefier in appearance with a wider track, treadplate running boards and external mud guards all adding to the 'globetrotter look' Raclet refers to in the brochure.

This off-road trend has seen the demand for SUVs in the car market grow and Raclet has produced a rugged-looking trailer to match.

The reinforced chassis, AL-KO axle with shock absorbers, brakes, stabiliser and oversize corner steadies allow for venturing off the beaten track. The large alloy wheels provide greater ground clearance and the heavy-duty pneumatic jockey wheel and rear-mounted spare wheel completes the package. However, the sturdy looking 'treadplates' aren't designed to be stood on, which is a shame when so much effort has gone into the rest of the All Terrain.

The trailer tent's greatest asset is oodles of storage. The kitchen unit, portable Dometic three-way fridge, trailer step and sun canopy are

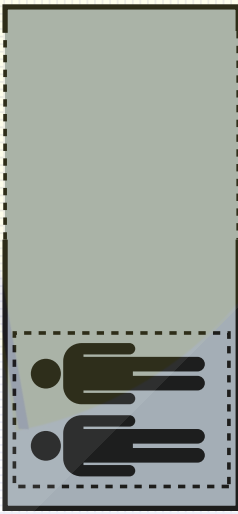
all stored under the bed. We even got an adult's bicycle inside with room to spare. That said, it was a bit of a challenge to remove items from the cavernous underbed storage area so I recommend trying it before committing to a purchase.

The pram-hood-style steel frame allows quick pitching, folding out from the main body to form the living area. The PVC groundsheet is then zipped-in to the Tencate 100 per cent cotton fabric and attached to the treadplate via press-studs. The steps are then set up allowing access to a king-size double bed with its foam mattress. If you need more sleeping accommodation there's an optional sleeping annexe that zips into one of the removable panels in the living area. The fridge and kitchen unit are placed in a well ventilated part of the living area, giving you preparation and storage space, two burners and grill plus sink and tap. The aluminium-framed sun awning adds to the space available in this compact unit.

As if this trailer tent doesn't have enough spare space, the A-frame storage box adds more. There are even two 230V socket outlets inside. However there are no 12V DC outlets, so you couldn't power things from a leisure battery, which doesn't really fit with the outdoor go-anywhere styling.

The price for the All Terrain version of the Panama Up is significantly higher than its predecessor. For that I would want all the bells and whistles and they aren't all here. However, if you're a couple looking for something with unique

styling, have a need for lots of storage space and want easy set-up this may be the trailer tent for you.



at a glance

Price	£8,670
Club Care insurance	£173
Length x width x towing height	3.8m x 1.7m x 1.2m
Berths	Two
Bed sizes	1.5m x 2.1m
Mass in Running Order	530kg
Maximum Authorised Mass	750kg
User payload	220kg
BE licence required	No
Warranty	Two years
Supplier	Raclet
Web	www.raclet.co.uk
Tel	0118 979 1023

verdict
A rugged-looking trailer tent that's easy to set up but may not be ideal for true off-road use.

