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Quickstop SE



at a
glance

Price as tested £5,995
Prices start at £4,875
Club Care insurance £100
Length x width x towing height 3.3m x 1.44m x 1.2m
Berths Four
Bed sizes Two doubles 1.3m x 2m
Mass in Running Order 350kg
Maximum Authorised Mass 650kg
User payload 300kg
BE licence required No
Warranty One year
Manufacturer Raclet
Web www.raclet.co.uk
Supplier Burcroft Camping
Tel 01604 785400
Web www.thetentshop.co.uk

Raclet Quickstop SE

IAIN GEDDES takes a look at a trailer tent with added folding-camper-like features

THE arguments for a trailer tent are quite compelling.

The lack of need for a large car and the limited additional drag it creates - improving fuel economy when compared with a larger unit such as a caravan - really keeps down the cost of touring and that can't be a bad thing.

Raclet has called this unit the Quickstop. Of course, there's a little more to it than the legs-down-and-kettle-on type of pitching you'd find with a caravan, though the core unit is ready to use very quickly. There's work to do assembling the kitchen should you wish to. In particular the three-way fridge (part of the SE package) travels in a dedicated nose-locker and this takes some lifting out if it's left full, though you could leave it in its locker if you prefer.

The layout is a long-established classic with double beds on either side separated by bench seating and there's comfortably enough room for a young family for a weekend in the main unit. For a longer stay you can always add space by putting up the awning.

The core unit is very quick to pitch (Raclet suggests it can be done in three minutes). However, the awning is zipped on to the main body fabric with a frame featuring a full set of

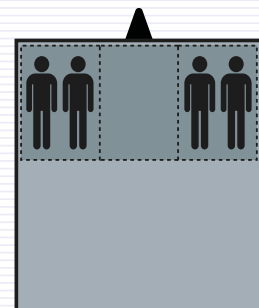
steel poles. I'm not going to say it's a chore to put up, but you do need to factor in another half an hour's pitching time for the extra space. If you're staying for a longer holiday, it's worth the effort.

With the awning up there's a possibility of moving the kitchen out into this space leaving the inner cabin free for lounging around. And why not? It is a comfortable place to be and the fabric inner tent creates a pleasant ambience that I personally find far more inviting than a rigid box. Add the convenience of having two fixed beds and you've a great base for many holidays to come. Of course, being mainly fabric it's only an all-season tourer for the hardy but there's nothing to stop you having an electric hook-up and using a heater, with care, to keep the night-time chills at bay at the extremes of the camping season. With the quality of the fabric, rain will be kept at bay.

One important technical detail that shouldn't be overlooked is this Quickstop SE is equipped with brakes and can be towed by some very modest cars. In comparison, a similar-sized trailer tent without brakes would need a car that can tow 650kg unbraked, which tends to mean a larger vehicle is required.

verdict

Light, easy to pitch and compact. It's very difficult to fault the Quickstop SE.



Inside the cabin