



4WD EQUIPMENT

ADVENTURE OFFROAD CAMPERS

- Luxury in the rough
- You'll sleep like a king
- It'll go almost anywhere

Overlander puts the range-topping Grand Tourer from Adventure Offroad Campers through its paces.



Comfort zone

WORDS BY ISAAC ROBER PHOTOS BY GUY BOWEN





1. The Grand Tourer's trailer is compact and versatile.
2. There are plenty of ingenious storage ideas.
3. The slide-out cooker will have you eating in no time.

For some people only a camper trailer will do – one that'll survive the rough and tumble of Outback travel, and be comfortable enough to suit even the fussiest camper. But then finding that sort of camper can be a bit like trying to win the lotto. Damn near impossible. Well, not anymore because one camper trailer maker has answered the call and is offering a camper trailer that literally ticks all of the boxes.

But this isn't just some flash in the pan, for years now Adelaide-based Adventure Offroad Campers has been building its distinctive slide-out bed style of camper trailer and tray-on camper. The products are practical, capable and comfortable and they've been tried and tested in the harshest environment on earth – the Australian Outback.

The company offers a range of camper trailers to suit all tastes, needs and budgets, from the entry-level Daintree (\$20,700) to the Cape York (\$24,900) and the Pilbara (\$32,674). But Adventure said its customers wanted more. More bells, more whistles. Enter the range-topping Grand Tourer, which features absolutely everything on the Adventure options list, and a few more things besides.

At \$39,300 it isn't cheap, but it's easily one of the best, most luxurious camper trailers on the market and is excellent for quick getaways or extended adventures. The flexibility of its design; you can set up various parts of the camper, like the bedroom or the kitchen independently. Meaning, you don't need to set the whole

camper up just to use the kitchen, etc. This makes it one of the most user-friendly campers on the market.

Smaller than some flip-top style campers, the Grand Tourer, which has a body length of 2.3m and a travel height of 1.5m (or 1.8m to the top of the awning box), has a few tricks up its sleeve. Open up the unit and, with the cost optional extra room in place, there's more than 23.75m² of sleeping and living accommodation. It's also the only camper with an awning that can be erected independently of the rest of the camper trailer.

Built to eat-up the rigours of Outback travel, the grand Tourer sits on a tough 50mm x 50mm powder-coated chassis, which has been fitted with a Coupler Tec Electronic Rust Prevention unit. This is tops for keeping rust at bay when bashing through creeks or camping by the beach. It's also worth noting that all holes, be they in the chassis or the zinc-anneal body panels, are pre-drilled before being powder coated to lessen the chance of rust.

The Grand Tourer is shod with 265/75 R16 Mickey Thompson Baja Radial MTX rubber and sits on a beam axle, rated at 1500kg, and a nine-leaf spring set-up with shock absorbers to help damping and rebound. Electric brakes are standard.

Our towing test combined some highway cruising and loads of high-range dirt stuff. We even dragged the Grand Tourer down some rocky, low-range tracks and it never missed a beat. And the clip-on flexible stone deflector is one of the best we've seen.

Where the Grand Tourer sits out from the rest of the Adventure



FAST FACTS



Manufacturer: Adventure Offroad Campers
Model: Grand Tourer
Size: 2300mm(L)/ 1890mm(W)/
1500-1800mm(H)
Weight: 950kg (approx)
Storage: 2000 litres
Price as tested: \$39,300
Contact: Adventure Offroad Campers
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1. Solar panels charge the on board battery
2. The unique slide out action of the king size bed keeps it lower to the ground and easier to access with no steps.

range of camper trailers is in the sheer amount of gear that's been loaded into it. It comes with two 60W mounted solar panels which can be tilted to catch the sun, a 120 amp hour battery, four-burner stainless steel cooker, a shower with Flojet pump and marine-grade carpet on the cargo deck and rear panel, plus loads more.

The drawbar-mounted chequer-plate box (which is dust sealed with automotive quality strips) holds a 60-litre Engel fridge/freezer, there's also a solar-powered filtered fan mounted into the box to suck out hot air from around the fridge and keep it dust free. The rest of the front storage box is broken into compartments and can hold either two Jerry cans or a portable generator. Combine that with the side storage compartment (opposite the kitchen and running the full length of the camper) and you've got a massive 2000-litres of storage space.

Possibly the most interesting and indeed ingenious things about the Grand Tourer, and the whole Adventure range of campers and tray-on campers, is its innovative slide-out bed system. The bed, which is king-sized, slides out from a rear compartment in the camper before swivelling through 90 degrees, it's then locked in place. The tent, which sits on top of the bed when stored, can then be unfolded and set up – ventilation is via huge fly-meshed windows. Total set-up time, after plenty of practice, takes about 15min. Head to the Adventure website to watch a video of the set-up.

Adventure Offroad Campers' ingenuity and years of Outback travel experience is evident in the practicality and quality of the Grand Tourer. The truly great thing about the Grand Tourer is the way that you can access, or set up individual sections independently of everything else, making it more user-friendly than any flip-top style camper trailer. The awning is a stand-alone unit and can be erected to protect the kitchen area in a matter of seconds. Accessing the kitchen is easy, too. Simply undo two latches, fold down the side panel and then swing the cooker into place. Easy. Or, you can ignore all of that and just set up the bed. It's versatile, flexible and quick.

All lighting for the camper is courtesy of LED strip lights that offer great light, draw minimal power and will last for absolutely ages.

The Grand Tourer is a perfect example of everything a camper trailer should be – self-sufficient, flexible, capable and incredibly comfortable. And it's the perfect camper for an adventurous couple, or even (with the cost optional extra room) a family, looking to explore the more remote parts of this big brown land. The Grand Tourer's unique features set it apart from every other camper trailer on the market. So if you want to take the road less travelled and absolutely must have all the bells and whistles then head to Adventure Offroad Campers, where all the hard work has already been done. 