



fit for a King





Above, from left: Two 65W solar panels are standard; the tent and bed is on a pull-out tray at the rear of the Grand Tourer; Paul Tabone sets up the tent in five minutes.

Below: The Grand Tourer provides a high level of luxury.



The Adventure Grand Tourer has the equipment for the ultimate camper trailer experience.

Among camper trailer enthusiasts, there are always those who want to explore that bit deeper into the unknown. This invariably means tougher tracks to negotiate, unexpected obstacles and few signs of civilisation.

The rewards for such excursions speak for themselves, but you'd naturally expect to have to sacrifice many of the comforts and luxuries that are available with many of today's camper trailers in order to make such an adventure.

This is where the Grand Tourer from Adventure Off Road Campers comes in. It might be hard to believe, but after going through all the incredible bells and whistles that come as standard with the Grand Tourer, I'm convinced that whatever hard core route you take, Adventure's range-topping Grand Tourer will handle it, all the while providing a level of luxury that will be in stark contrast to your wild surroundings.

Adelaide-based Adventure Off Road Campers tests its offerings in the harshest terrain throughout Australia and the knowledge that is gained from such trips goes straight back into building its camper trailers and traytops.

By thoroughly testing in such conditions, the company knows what problems and challenges customers face on their trips and build accordingly. The old saying 'built by enthusiasts for enthusiasts' couldn't be more relevant.

I tested the Adventure Stockman camper trailer a few months ago (CTA April/May 07) and, coming in at just under \$18,000, it is the bargain of the range. The Grand Tourer is built on the same heavy duty 50mm x 75mm powder coated offroad chassis, but is loaded with enough options to ensure you'll want for nothing.

This many extras, of course, means that at \$41,450, it's a more expensive rig. However, for those planning extended or remote

trips and who demand the best, it is definitely worth spending the extra money.

ROUGH AND READY

Some of its features may seem unnecessary for your particular needs, but once you use them, it becomes obvious how much easier they make things – no matter what your demands.

Having tested the Adventure Stockman offroad, I know how capable these units are in that department, but the Grand Tourer takes things further.

As standard, you get up-rated shock absorbers for optimum offroad performance, electric brakes, a 1500kg-rated, solid 50mm x 50mm beam axle, and three lightweight alloy rims shod in Mickey Thompson ATZ tyres.

The inclusion of an electronic rust prevention unit by Coupler Tec will be welcomed by regular coastal travellers.

The Grand Tourer will have no problem following your 4WD across any terrain you choose and, when you do stop for some rest and relaxation, there is plenty of kit to ensure a true home away from home.

Paul Tabone from Adventure Off Road walked me through the Grand Tourer's features and had everything in its proper 'ready-to-use' place in about 15 minutes, including the kitchen, awning, tent and bed.

If only the kitchen area is needed, it can be fully functional in around 15 seconds. Simply unfasten two latches on the side panel. For a bit of extra cover, a stand alone awning covers the kitchen area and this can be put up in two minutes.

This area has been designed with ease of use in mind – the less fiddling around the better.

The same is true for the slide-out bed, which emerges from a compartment



“THE GRAND TOURER IS BUILT ON A HEAVY DUTY, POWDER COATED OFFROAD CHASSIS”



Clockwise from above: The king size bed features a Hypervent mattress underlay; the Grand Tourer combines durability with comfort to create an all-round great package; the kitchen comprises a four-burner cooktop and grill; the huge side storage compartment works as a food preparation area.



in the trailer's rear. You simply drop the rear-mounted spare wheel, open the tailgate, and pull out the bed base and legs.

It swivels through 90 degrees and the bed box opens up to expose the tent canvas and its internal frame. With the tent fully constructed (this takes about five minutes once you have the technique right), a king size, low-profile bed is exposed and ready for use. A Hypervent mattress underlay, which comes as standard with the Grand Tourer, eliminates any condensation.

Now for the bits that set this flagship Grand Tourer apart from other Adventure camper trailers. Two adjustable 65W solar panels are mounted on the side of the trailer which, working with a 120Ah battery, make extended remote travel much easier. As long as the sun shines and you've enough food

and water, you can plan for very long trips into the back of beyond.

Solar power is also used to power a fan sucking hot air from the fridge box, which is a 60L Engel fridge/freezer with cover. The remainder of the front storage area, to the left of the fridge box, features a lockable toolbox that can comfortably house two jerry cans or a portable generator.

Add to this the huge side storage compartment and you've got 2000L of storage space at your disposal in this 2.3m-long unit. Need more? A roof rack carry basket and static boat racks are included.

The trigger tap/shower with Flojet pump will prove invaluable, while in the kitchen area there's a four-burner stainless steel cooker, energy-efficient LED strip lighting, a couple of 12V powerpoints, two

electronic water level indicators, and a battery voltmeter.

Quality abounds, with marine-grade carpet on the cargo deck and rear panel, and a solid rubber jockey wheel for easy manoeuvring, included. Also of note are the two 59L water tanks with metal stoneguards and two extra vents to the tent side walls to provide greater airflow. With this trailer, it's as if every little improvement to make a trip perfect has been picked up on and provided for.

SUMMING UP

A good thing about the Adventure Off Road Campers' range is the choice it provides. You get the same innovative, easy-to-use and go-anywhere basic trailer if you buy the Stockman, Daintree, Cape York, Pilbara or, our review trailer, the Grand Tourer, but each

has slightly more standard gear, plus those at the top of the range enjoy a higher axle rating and more advanced wheels and tyres.

The Grand Tourer is the one that has it all. But is the extra price over the rest of the range justified?

Knowing that Paul Tabone and all at Adventure Off Road Campers don't do things half-heartedly, I'd say it's the ideal choice for serious camper trailer travellers that don't want to discover too late how important a given piece of equipment is.

If you take your camper trailer trips seriously, you will ultimately find out why spending the extra money is justified – everything has a purpose and will prove its worth in time. After all, these trailers are tested to the extreme. And each time Paul discovers something that will make camper trailer life easier, it's added to the range. In this case, the result is a great trailer – the Grand Tourer.

Adventure Off Road Campers, 1800 353 561, email info@adventurecampers.com.au, or visit www.adventurecampers.com.au for your nearest dealer. ■



Clockwise from above: Solar panels are hooked up to a 120Ah battery; sturdy Mickey Thompson ATZ tyres; a tap, connected to the water tank, is mounted near the A-frame.

