

Space Aged

Trakka has set a new standard for motorhome living

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Trakka is an Australian RV company that has been making rigs since 1973. The team there has a number of services including sales, conversions and modifications, spare parts, camping accessories, and a brilliant innovation – a ‘try before you buy’ program.

This is a fantastic idea. You don’t really want to sink your hard-earned cash into something if you’re not 100-percent sure.

Trakka produces a variety of motorhomes in a range of sizes, but today we’re looking at the Torino Xtra.

THE VEHICLE

The Trakka Torino Xtra is built on the Fiat Ducato with an extra-long body (hence the name), and most of the extra length is in the bedroom area.

The Ducato is equipped with a powerful 3L five-cylinder turbo-diesel engine and six-speed transmission. A standard licence is all that is required to drive the Torino.

The Ducato has a very short nose, so when you’re in the driver’s seat, you have a very good view over the road. The cab seats are comfy and have armrests on both sides.

The seats are perched nice and high. This gives the driver a clear view over the bonnet and the road, and while trying to manoeuvre into the perfect position on your site.

The cab seats also easily swivel right around to make full use of the dinette table, which is positioned directly behind them.

The cab has plenty of storage areas for your travelling needs, such as maps, magazines, drinks and snacks. Air-conditioning comes as standard, as does a CD player, central locking, power windows and cruise control.

The Torino’s steering-wheel position can be easily adjusted to suit any driver – tall, short, skinny or not so skinny.

On the safety side of things, the Ducato is very much up to scratch. Driver and passenger airbags are standard, as are ABS brakes and an Electronic Stability Program (ESP).

The ESP is designed to further enhance the ABS braking system, and it detects any difference between the driver's control inputs and the response of the vehicle.

When differences are detected, the system intervenes by providing braking forces to the appropriate wheels. This corrects the path of the vehicle.

If you're wondering about privacy, the rig we looked at didn't have front and side blinds installed in the cab. However, I was happy to hear that the blinds were en route from the manufacturer, and that they are fitted as standard to all the Torino Xtras.

ON THE OUTSIDE

The Torino looks a lot like a small space-ship on wheels. Its exterior is extremely attractive and completely breaks away from the traditional 'white box on wheels' look. Personally, I loved it.

The rig we looked at was a silvery blue colour, but you do have some choices when it comes to colour. Richard from Trakka pointed out a bright-red one on the assembly line, which looked very snazzy indeed.

He also tells me that Trakka vans have quite a few female owners. I think that is attributable to the attractive looks of the Torino as well as the ease of driving.

The Torino has very large double-glazed windows all around the vehicle. These are great for letting sunlight in and keeping the cold out. The headlights and tail-lights are sleek and modern, and the side mirrors are big enough to keep tabs on rearward happenings.

While the step up into the Torino isn't too high, it is assisted by an Omni step. A switch just inside the sliding door electronically operates the step.

Another really neat feature of the exterior is the removable outdoor

workbench. The small bench is easily fitted to a groove on the sliding door, and it is perfect for when you want to have a quick stop for a cuppa or lunch.

Rather than get out your larger outdoor table, you can quickly whack this one out and back again in no time.

The Torino is fitted with an easy-to-use titanium awning and the exterior light will help you roll it out in the dark. The rig is also equipped with a hot or cold outdoor shower, which is ideal for washing off after a day at the beach or a walk.

A 4.5kg gas bottle can be found in an outside lockable compartment. Another notable Trakka innovation is the External Electrical Locker or EEL. The EEL features a built-in power lead and circuit protection.

The rig's classy looks and innovative design features continue in the Torino's interior.



Kitchen space is sufficient



The cab seats swivel



The bed is at the rear of the rig



The retractable too creates so much extra room



The cab is neat



There is plenty of storage under the bed

ON THE INSIDE

The interior of the Torino is thoroughly modern. The people at Trakka have used laminated composite furniture throughout.

This furniture combines super lightweight construction with high strength and moisture resistance. The materials used for the furniture allows for the sleek curvy cabinetry and storage areas throughout the rig.

This, along with stylish light fixtures and fabrics, creates a really fresh, clean feel to the motorhome.

As you step into the Torino through the sliding door, you are immediately faced with the dinette area. The dinette table is removable, but setting it up was a little difficult.

I thought Trakka could easily initiate a simpler pull-out or extendable table. Nonetheless, it is a good sturdy table, and once you set it up, it isn't going anywhere in a hurry.

The fixed dinette seats two and is also equipped with seatbelts if you have extra passengers when in transit. The driver and passenger seats are easily swivelled around to create a cosy living and dining area for four people.

Back to safety again. The fire extinguisher is positioned directly behind the dinette seats should you ever have any small incidents. The fridge and microwave are also located directly behind the dinette seats.

The 130L fridge sits at a really good spot for easy access from the kitchen, and the microwave is above the fridge in a recessed storage area.

All the storage areas in the Torino have rattle-free roller-shutter doors. These look great and assure that cupboard doors won't fly open while you're moving.

There is also another little nook underneath the fridge to store shoes or even pots and pans.

The rest of the kitchen runs along the passenger side of the motorhome. The kitchen is fitted with a stainless steel three-burner stove and sink.

The sink and stove fit under a glass cover, and while this area is compact, it isn't lacking in preparation space like in some other motorhomes I have seen.

You have to expect that bits and pieces of your travelling equipment are going to be stored here, there and everywhere

in a motorhome. I am a fan of having bedroom stuff in the bedroom area and kitchen stuff in the kitchen area.

However, that can't always be done with limited space. Trakka has made good use of the space in the Torino by installing a hanging closet underneath the preparation area behind a roller-shutter door.

On the other side of the sink area is a small but handy built-in rubbish container, and directly underneath are some drawers to store your cutlery and bits and bobs.

The drawers are great. When they are almost closed, a magnetised strip kicks in to ensure they close properly. So, once again, the contents of your kitchen won't make their way into the rest of the rig while you're in transit.

A rangehood sits above your head alongside some more storage units.

Directly above the rangehood, a control panel monitors the battery usage, water levels and even the outside temperature.

Also above the kitchen area is the spot where a 15in LCD telly is fitted if you opt for one.



RATINGS

THE VEHICLE:	8.5/10
ON THE OUTSIDE:	9/10
ON THE INSIDE:	8.5/10
IN THE KITCHEN:	8/10
AT THE DINETTE:	8/10
IN THE BEDROOM:	8.5/10
KEEPING CLEAN:	9.5/10

SPECIFICATIONS

MANUFACTURER:	Trakka
MODEL:	Torino Xtra
VEHICLE:	Fiat Ducato
EXTERNAL LENGTH:	6.3m (20ft 6in)
INTERNAL LENGTH:	4.8m (15ft 7in)
EXTERNAL WIDTH:	2m (6ft 5in)
INTERNAL WIDTH:	1.9m (6ft 2in)
HEIGHT:	2.6m (8ft 5in)
TARE WEIGHT:	4000kg
PRICE:	\$109,950

CONTACT

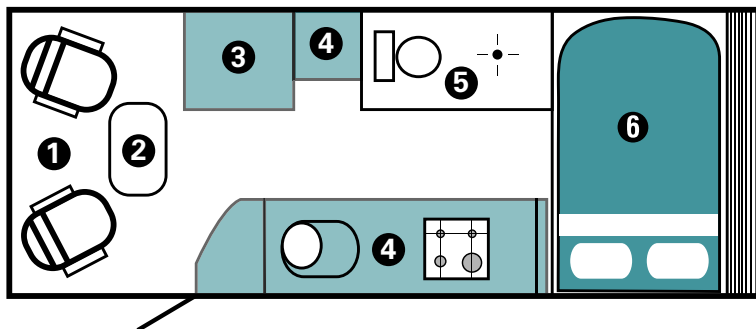
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KEY

1. Swivel cab seats
2. Dinette table
3. Dinette lounge
4. Kitchen
5. Bathroom
6. Bed



Zigzag to the opposite side of the rig and you will come across the bathroom. A sliding door accesses the bathroom. To date, this is the best bathroom I have seen in a motorhome.

Trakka has installed a 'Switch Mode Bathroom' module or SMB. Using a remote control, you can retract the toilet into an inlet for maximum showering room – just make sure nobody gets their hands on the control when you are on the loo!

The extra space really makes a difference when you stand in the shower area.

There is an attractive vanity basin and cabinet for storage as well as an adjustable showerhead with a flick-mixer tap. A shower grate on the floor prevents any slips, and the towel rails provided mean you will have a nice dry towel when you finish showering.

One of my pet hates is not having anywhere to hang your towel while you're showering. I just can't understand how a simple hook or rail could be left

out of any bathroom, so I was extremely happy to see them in the Torino.

There is also a window in the bathroom as well as a turbo vent to let out any steam, or worse – any smells.

Right at the rear of the rig is the sleeping area. The bed is accessed by a small step up, and for privacy there is a sliding concertina door.

Trakka has installed another great feature in the bedroom – the Motorised Bed Combination. In the Torino's case, the double bed elevates almost to the roof to allow maximum storage underneath.

There is so much space under the bed that you could fit golf clubs or a couple of pushbikes. The bed itself is pretty soft and cosy, and there is plenty of overhead storage and a couple of reading lights.

The speaker system also feeds into the bedroom, so you can listen to your favourite tunes throughout the rig.

The walkway from the cab into the living area and down into the bedroom area is

clear and uninterrupted. There is a generous amount of living space, even if you did opt to take along the maximum four passengers.

A huge skylight along with the nice big windows lets in plenty of natural light. All the windows are easy to open and are dressed with a roller screen and blind.

WRAP-UP

One of the Trakka team's aims is to enhance the lifestyle that people are already enjoying and to make the rig more than just a mode of transport or accommodation. The Torino certainly takes care of this.

Innovative inclusions like the Switch Mode Bathroom and the Motorised Bed Combination would make a trip away in the Torino an absolute pleasure.

Trakka is like the Mercedes-Benz of the motorhome world. Yeah, you pay a bit extra, but you can sleep easy knowing you are driving a quality vehicle and a thoughtfully designed, well-made rig. ■