



The Hunt is On

Will the Desert Edge Safari go the distance?



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AWD
Camper Trailer
TOURING

» VERDICT

[PROS]

- Lightweight
- Heaps of storage space

[CONS]

- Bouncy suspension
- Vulnerable stabiliser legs





THE REAR-FOLD TENT IS A SIMPLE ENOUGH TO SET UP FOR ONE PERSON



The first thing we noticed when we arrived to pick up the Desert Edge Camper was that it was a nice-looking piece of kit. The two pack polyurethane coating, flush close latches and mag wheels really do look the part on a top of the range Safari camper. While we were at the factory, we took the opportunity to have a look around and see how they put them together.

An alloy tub sits on a hot dipped galvanised chassis, which comes with all the mounting points for the options, so the hot-dip galvanised coating stays intact no matter how you option up the camper. We also had a quick run through on how the AL-KO independent rubber suspension works, it is simple, reliable and gives good under body clearance. After looking at the

» DESERT EDGE SAFARI CAMPER TRAILERS AT A GLANCE

Model: Safari Deluxe

Cost: Recommended retail is \$15861 as tested was \$17255

Hard/Soft Floor: Soft floor rear fold

Dimensions (L x W x H): 4.06 x 1.8 x 1.37

Sleeps: Up to 6 with 2 bunks

Tare Weight: 570kg

GVM/ ATM: 1100kg

Tow ball Download: Variable depending on how it is loaded but generally around 80kg loaded

Chassis Construction: 100 x 50 rhs duel grade steel full length chassis

Body Construction: 2mm marine grade aluminium

Body Coating: Two-pack polyurethane

Coupling: Hyland off road

Axle/Hubs: Landcruiser

Suspension: 1100kg Al-Ko independent torsion bar

Wheels: 15" alloy mags

Tyres: New 235/75r15

Brakes: 10" electric

Canvas weight: 340gsm SatProof 600+ canvas

Tent features: 6 windows, 2 doors, internal and external window flaps, annex roof,

Storage Space: Approximately 2000 litres depending on front storage box fitted

Water Tank: 90L pressure pump

Kitchen: Standard stainless steel two-burner stove and sink.

Bedding: Queen Size bed

Electrical: pressure water pump

Optional Extras: Wing storage box, stone guard, stone guard extensions, annex wall kit



Easy access to the essentials.



however, a full load of gear would help settle it down.

Pulling up at the park gate, we jumped out and did a quick check of the trailer before locking in the hubs and dropping the tyre pressure. With the off-road hitch and plenty of under body clearance due to the independent suspension, we were looking forward to seeing where this trailer would go.

One thing that did have us slightly concerned was the stabiliser legs hanging down at the back of the trailer. While we did try our best to keep the trailer out of danger, the wet tracks were not helping and the trailer had a tendency to slide into the ruts and one rear stabiliser leg did get hung up and bent slightly and broke the plastic handle. The leg still worked fine and the handles are only a few dollars but some sort of guard might be the go if you plan to tackle some of the tougher tracks.

When the trailer was adequately covered in mud, we figured it was time to find somewhere to set up camp. As we removed the cover, we noticed that there was no steel or alloy frame around the bed base. While the ply wood base seemed to be up to the task with the struts and hinges mounted directly to the wood, it did seem a little flimsy.

This model has a rear-fold tent, which is simple enough to set up by one person.

toys in the manufacturing area for an hour or so, it was time to get to work and take the camper for a good run.

Scenic Rim Adventure Park was the target destination for the test. The trip from Coomera to Beaudesert involved going over Tamborine Mountain. The trailer towed well through the tight winding mountain roads and the 10-inch off road electric brakes were more than capable of keeping the trailer in check under brakes.

Once we hit the gravel road, the real testing could begin. The large stone guard with the optional extensions did a good job of keeping the glossy two-pack paint looking the goods. After some recent rain, a few decent pot holes were forming in the road and these did have the trailer bouncing around a bit on that rubber suspension;



THE WET TRACKS WERE NOT HELPING



When opened out, the pole across the door way is unclipped from its holder and slid into a pocket in the floor to keep the door way clear when the tent is in use. The annex on the other hand is best tackled by two people. We did get it set up using only one person, but the extra pair of hands would have made it quicker and easier.

Being a rear-fold tent, the kitchen is located on a slide in the front of the trailer. The slides are heavy-duty units and good quality so the kitchen slides in and out

smoothly and a pair of catches hold the kitchen either in or out. To comply with regulations, the kitchen comes with a hose with quick connect fitting that connects the kitchen to the gas regulator once it is pulled out of the tub.

The stainless steel gas cook top and sink have glass tops that can be folded down independently so you can make the most of the available bench space. A battery located in a compartment at the back of the camper powers the pump for the sink and the fridge located in one of the front boxes. With the combination of the space under the bed and the front boxes, there is plenty of storage room and the hatches on the side are great for storing gear that you want quick access to, like the fire-extinguisher.

Little touches like the diamond plate on the front edges of the trailer to prevent stone chips, and the grease nipples on the front box and tail gate hinges help to finish of this good looking, high-quality camper. Whether it is a weekend away or a trip up the Cape, the quick set-up, quality kitchen and solid build will mean you spend less time setting up camp and more time relaxing in you Desert Edge Safari Camper Trailer. ■

» CONTACTS

Desert Edge Trailers are located at 53 Waterway Drive, Coomera in Queensland and can be contacted on 07 5585 9898. For more information check out www.desertedgetrailers.com.au or email info@desertedgetcampers.com.au. All sales enquiries should be directed to their dealer network which can be found on their website as no sales are permitted via the factory.



Plenty of room for a large fridge.

