

LUXE LIVING ON THE ROAD

There's a lot to celebrate with the
Paradise Independence Motorhome

WORDS MALCOLM STREET PICS JACK MURPHY





more difficult to get at when it's fully open.

Some of the bins already have a function, like those built into the nearside slide-out that contain a BBQ, flat-screen TV that has a Paradise-manufactured mounting, as well as a fridge. In addition, one of the lower bins contains the electrics and charger controls.

Richard Barwick was particularly impressed by the external storage options and features.

"The articulate professional design allows for loads of room, highlighted by the dual slide-outs and ample storage option.

The external additions just add value including foldaway BBQ and television along with additional fridge accessed outside and streamlined automatic awning."

A LUXURY PAD

Richard felt the attention to detail demonstrated in the interior of this luxury unit was a real credit to the Paradise team.

"The finer touches are appealing including the leather lounges and swivel chairs, large queen-size bed, full-face mirrors, and technology improvements, and the use of space in the en-suite where the washer/

Clockwise from top left: The large television above the double bed boasts surround sound; the plush cab seats swivel to maximise space at camp; The Wanderer crew enjoy a brew; solar panels line the roof. **Below:** Heating and massage controls for the cabin seats.



I am very familiar with the Paradise Motor Homes range, but I was particularly interested in this motorhome because it is the top-of-the-line model, built to order, and so presented a rare opportunity to review Paradise's flagship motorhome.

Myself, CMCA CEO Richard Barwick, and *The Wanderer* Editor Kirstie Bedford, had an excellent opportunity to inspect the Independence Deluxe at the inaugural Motorhome Legends event in Shoalhaven Heads, NSW recently. We road-tested three motorhomes, and this one was the cream-of-the-crop in terms of luxury appointments and features.

GENETIC ENGINEERING

At the top of the Paradise range with a price tag of more than half a million dollars, the Independence Deluxe is not a new motorhome design, but a continuation of an existing model range and built with the same genetic structure.

It has a high tensile alloy frame,

and a composite fibreglass body structure that uses mouldings for the front panels, and a one-piece fibreglass roof. It's not obvious, but a feature of the lower panel work is that it's easily detachable from the upper panels in the event of an accident.

Weight distribution is important to Paradise, and it ensures that both the front and rear axle loading is correct and that the motorhome is level from side-to-side. This is certainly a consideration when slide-outs are used, especially when the offside one is almost as long as the wall.

Aiding that are the four optional hydraulic corner levelling jacks – they make it very easy to set up the motorhome on non-level sites.

NOOKS AND CRANNIES

All the external bins, of which there are plenty along both sides of the motorhome, are fully sealed and have strut-assisted doors for easy opening. Those fitted under the slide-outs are, of course,



OPTIONS FITTED

- Underbody external storage bins with sealed strut-assisted access doors
- Storage bins LED lighting
- Dometic windows-tinted, double-glazed with thermal blinds, fly screens, venetians and curtains
- Streamline top mounted electric awning
- Automatic electric entry step
- Outside LED lights with internal switch and security motion sensor
- Front nudge bar and tow bar
- Superior quality vinyl flooring
- Energy saving high output LED 12v lighting
- Extensive overhead cupboards and window pelmets
- Auto 240v power selection from generator, inverter or mains
- Dometic ducted underfloor central heating
- Truma Aventa slimline rooftop reverse cycle air-conditioners with remote
- 4 x 4kg gas cylinders
- 300ah/12volt lithium batteries
- 240v earth leakage; circuit breakers and double pole power points
- 4 x 150w solar panels with 60amp regulator
- External hot and cold shower
- Stainless steel slide-out BBQ
- Dometic 2.6kva pure sine wave generator with auto start system
- 3000w inverter, 120amp charger, auto charging vehicle/house batteries
- Fresh water auto fill system
- Grey water level indicator
- Internal gas venting system reduces dust and noise ingress
- Smoke alarm, fire blanket, fire extinguisher, internal safe and Co2 alarm
- Jack HD TV antenna
- Automatic satellite TV system with vast box
- Automatic hydraulic levelling system



Clockwise from left: There's plenty of room to move in this luxurious motorhome, with a fold out sofa-bed perfect for the kids, or grandkids; electric and gas burners for camping on and off the grid; an external barbecue for happy hour satisfaction; an organised pantry helps at camp.

SPECIFICATIONS

VEHICLE

Manufacturer Paradise
Model Independence Deluxe 28ft
Base vehicle Iveco Daily 70C 210
Tare weight 5920kg
GVM 7200kg
Licence LR
Passengers 3-4

MECHANICALS

Engine 3.0L twin turbodiesel
Power 150kW@3100-3500rpm
Torque 470Nm@1400-3000rpm
Gearbox Eight-speed auto
Brakes ABS

DIMENSIONS

External length 8.6m
External width 2.49m
Internal height 2.02m
Travel height 3.23m
Bed size Queen size

EQUIPMENT

Fresh water 250L
Grey water 100L
Batteries Lithium 300A
Solar 600W
Air-conditioner Twin Truma Aventa
Gas 4x4kg
Cooking Dometic 3+1 cook top/grill, convection oven
Fridge Waeco 218L 12V compressor
Microwave Convection
Toilet Dometic 19L cassette
Shower Separate cubicle
Lighting LED
Hot water Bosch instantaneous
Washing machine Bosch 7kg washer/dryer

OPTIONS FITTED

Refer to page 71

PRICE AS SHOWN

(INCLUDING ALL OPTIONS FITTED)
\$525,808 plus on-road costs

CONTACT (MANUFACTURER)

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dryer is very desirable," he says.

"I do like a couple of simple, but effective improvements, in particular the light block-out blinds and the magnetic locks on all the drawers and cupboards."

Kirstie Bedford was equally impressed, noting the surround sound, soft closing cabinetry and heated massage seats in the front cab. "It's literally a home away from home, in fact, I'd go so far as to say many hotel apartments aren't to the quality, luxurious standard as the interior of this motorhome."

HOURS OF POWER

Powering the Independence is an Iveco Daily cab chassis. Its GVM of 7200kg, which will require the drivers to have an LR truck licence, comes with a generous 1300kg payload capacity, and the process of getting a licence is made easy by using someone like TDT Training, (see: www.transportdrivertraining.com.au), who assist you through both your theory, and practical, driving training).

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It is good that Paradise has opted to use the twin turbo-diesel engine which delivers up to 150kW of power and a very healthy 470Nm of torque – something all diesel drivers appreciate.

Even though it's 8.6m (28ft, 3in) long, the Independence is a very easy driving vehicle, especially with Iveco's smooth eight-speed gearbox.

For the electrical system, there's no shortage of power with the 300A Lithium battery being charged up by to 600W of solar panel capacity or the 2.6KVA pure sine wave generator. For quiet camping applications, the 3000W inverter/charger will deliver the 240V load.

THE BOTTOM LINE

There's no doubt that the Paradise's Independence Deluxe is an expensive motorhome. However,



PARADISE INDEPENDENCE DELUXE

it does come fully kitted out with just about every motorhome comfort and safety feature in the known RV universe. Staying with the tried and true seems to be the new Paradise owners formula for the moment, and that would seem to be very wise for what is a very luxurious motorhome.

Richard believes Paradise would be at the top of everyone's wish list, "with a price tag that is applicable to the quality".

"The attention to detail is a real credit to the manufacturer's ability to deliver a fantastic motorhome. You could want for no more than what is provided in the Paradise Independence Series. Paradise should be congratulated on a very aesthetically pleasing, practical and luxurious motorhome."

Editor Kirstie Bedford agrees, "if you're looking for five star luxury on wheels, you've found it - Paradise really does reflect its namesake."



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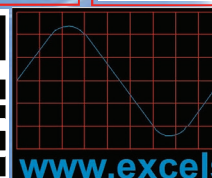
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