

My Way expedition trailer



Fitted with stainless 'marine' fixtures



PREPARING FOR AN EXPEDITION is great isn't it? You fit your roof tent onto the, errrrr, roof and pack the back of your Land Rover with essentials, food, water, beer, wine, coffee and some non-essentials should space allow and then you're ready for the off. As in the tradition of a Haynes manual, on return, follow the loading instructions in reverse.

There are a couple of issues some people may find with this system. Firstly the roof tent. Whilst it's a great thing to have (and they really are) they're not for everyone. You have the first issue of access. Some people find the long climb up at the end of the day to be tricky, either due to health issues or fermented grape issues. And then you have the long climb down in the night if you need to attend to drainage issues!

Then you have the "stuff". All to boxes and items you take with you. When not away you have two options. You either need to leave

BY LEE BALLARD

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all the bits in your Land Rover, rendering the storage space we love them for pretty much useless for the shed clearing trips to the local waste disposal site. Or you can unload all the gear into the house/garage/shed, again taking up space. Next you have the joy of reloading it all when you next want to go away.

What would be great would be if there were a way to instantly put your roof tent on and load the equipment. Maybe something detachable. Maybe a trailer.

Well, a few companies took these ideas on-board and ran with it. One of said companies it My Way based in North Lincolnshire.

Paul Stevenson took the idea and using a Sankey trailer as his starting point he has made a couple of great expedition trailer models from that base to choose from. Here we take a close look at the smaller of his offerings. As I say, it is based on a Sankey but it's far from the battered ex-MOD lump you might have pictured in your head. A Sankey is stripped to its component parts and even some leaves are removed from the springs as the load requirements are not as high as a standard Sankey.

It is then shotblasted and repainted before having an onboard gas tank fitted so you can fill it with LPG rather than dealing with bottles. A custom built frame and body are then fitted and a custom built water tank ensures you can make the most of the available space.

Depending on your budget the trailer is available from a very basic version to the fully equipped model we see here with outer storage lockers as well as a front locker and roof tent. And it has internal space in the main compartment to hold twelve Wolf-type boxes. Ample for all your gear.

Now here is the really the neat part. Its load



Very compact unit doesn't require the +E entitlement on your driving licence



Will hold up to 12 'Wolf' style boxes

capacity is 300kg. This is rather useful and deliberate as coupled with its unladen weight (as shown with tent and outer lockers etc) of 450kg it means if you are one of the many souls out there without a "+E" entitlement on your driving licence, you are able to tow this straight out the box, so to speak. Having the tent fitted to the trailer means that not only is weight in the Land Rover reduced and the centre of gravity lowered, but also the climb to bed is much shorter and the risk of injury should you fall, far reduced.

The My Way tent itself will unfold in under 2 minutes so if caught by the weather, you'll soon have a bed up and ready. Another advantage of it being three feet from the ground rather than six feet is you can walk round it and put the vent struts in places in seconds with no tricky balancing – ideal for icy or wet conditions.

As for towing, it's a Sankey so tows as nicely as any Sankey behind a Land Rover.



Very neat and sturdy wheel arches also provide extra space for storage



Rear cross member provides additional towball for carrying a bicycle rack

Probably better really. The one shown here is fitted with a goose neck for towing with a standard tow hitch but it can be delivered with a Nato hitch as standard if required.

All in all an expedition trailer is a great option for a weekend or long period travelling get-away. Just hook up and go and your vehicle can be used normally when at home without having to unload everything, win-win in my book.

MY WAY ROOF TENTS & EXPEDITION TRAILERS



MyWay offer a range of roof, ground and trailer tents in addition to the three trailers shown here. They also stock a range of useful accessories and camp equipment for overland travelers. www.mywayrooftents.co.uk



Effective 'base camp' solution when you intend to stay in one place for a while