

OFF-GRID AND LOVING IT!



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KOKODA'S CARAVANS JUST KEEP GETTING BETTER. THIS IS WHY...

NOT YOUR TYPICAL CARAVAN!



'ENDLESS' POWER

Kokoda Caravans has been on a roll. In fact, this manufacturer has been steadily developing a new range of caravans. This new range perhaps heralds a new era for Kokoda, in which traditional construction methods are pushed aside in favour of the composite fibreglass panel beast we see here. It's called the Counter Strike and it's slowly becoming available in a variety of sizes and layouts.

Mid last year, we looked at the first Counter Strike off the production line, though it was then known as the Commando. However, it's since undergone a name change, and this 19ft 6in variant has all the hallmarks of a serious offroader.

The C196 Counter Strike rides on air-bag suspension and a 6in chassis with raiser. At the back, there are rated recovery points and a 110L water tank, while towards the front are another two 110L water tanks.

The Counter Strike makes excellent use of the latest technology. It comes as standard with the DCX 7kW/h lithium battery system by OzXCorp, which has a built-in 5000W inverter. This chassis-mounted system offers a host of benefits, including the ability to accept up to 4kW of solar. You can even let other caravanners plug in to share your power!



The Counter Strike is a seamless design. Take the picnic table. It's not a bog-standard third-party table screwed to the side that will require yet another key. Instead, Kokoda has created a table out of the same fibreglass panels used for the walls, and integrated the table to the nearside accordingly. The result is a mini-kitchen complete with a powerpoint for a portable electric hotplate that would be powered by the inverter.

This level of in-house customisation extends to the rear bar. It's built specifically to fit this van and contains a few storage compartments, with dual spare wheels mounted to the body of the van above, which means they won't add to its overall length.



Kokoda hasn't forgotten to include tunnel storage either, but on the nearside, it's partially occupied by a slide-tray to suit a portable fridge.

Space precludes me from detailing every innovation and design feature. However, I'll quickly point out the integrated stoneguard and triple-bin storage space that runs the width of the van where the A-frame meets the main chassis rails, and the external washing machine. More on that later.

BETTER LIVING

This is the first new caravan I have seen to come with the Better Living Australia double bed. It features two separate memory-foam single mattresses that can be infinitely adjusted by remote control to suit your preferred position. Both the head and foot of each mattress can be electrically raised. How do I know these beds are amazing? Well, I bought one for use at home and sleep on it every night!

On either side of the bed, Kokoda has included a locker built into the floor – the perfect spot to put your shoes. Meanwhile, each bedside gets a table with a top that slides forward on smooth runners to reveal a cavernous storage space which would suit a CPAP machine – and that's one of the reasons Kokoda has fitted 12V points inside each.

In lieu of a traditional dinette, the Counter Strike has two leather recliners and a foldable table, which might not be for everyone but I loved it.

At first glance, you might be wondering, where's the cooktop? What Kokoda offers here is perhaps the logical evolution for a gas-less caravan, which would typically have a built-in induction cooktop. However, Kokoda reasons that a cooktop is a cooktop, whether it's built in or not. Therefore, the manufacturer offers a portable induction hotplate which can be stored away when not needed, and plugged in when it is time to cook. The result is a cleaner kitchen with much more usable bench space. It makes sense, but again, it might not be for everyone.



In the back, you'll find the bathroom. It has a massive linen cupboard, a range of drawers, generous bench space, a cassette toilet, a shower cubicle in the nearside corner... and even a laundry chute. Remember that external washing machine? Drop your washing down the chute, where it will stay inside a compartment next to the washing machine until you're ready. Inside this bathroom, you'll never feel cramped or as though you've compromised.

I have only scratched the surface in terms of what this rig offers. While Kokoda has clearly covered all the basis and more in terms of features and functions, it's the seamlessness of the van, the innovation, the obvious rigidity and out-of-the-box thinking that appealed most to me.

GORV'S VERDICT

To see a manufacturer produce something so cohesive and innovative is exciting. The Counter Strike, I hope, is a sign of even better things to come from Kokoda Caravans. I even asked Trevor Price, the owner of Kokoda, if he had plans to include a single-axle unit in the range because, if so, I would have to put it on my list for when my time comes to hit the road full-time. Great stuff, Kokoda.



RATINGS

FIT & FINISH

5.0 ★★★★★

LAYOUT

4.5 ★★★★★

INNOVATION

5.0 ★★★★★

VERDICT

HITS

- Seamless, cohesive design and build
- Inclusion of latest technology such as the DCX system
- Clever layout

MISSES

- Lack of in-built cooktop and separate recliners won't be for everyone

[+ FULL STORY](#)

[+ MORE INFO](#)

THE SPECIFICATIONS

WILL IT FIT IN YOUR GARAGE?

Overall length: 8.5m

External width: 2.5m

Internal height: 2m

Travel height: 3.18m

WEIGHTS

Tare: 2880kg (up to 3080kg)

ATM: 3500 (up to 3900kg)

Unladen ball weight: 200kg

INTERNAL

Cooking: Two portable induction hotplates provided

Refrigeration: Compressor fridge-freezer

Microwave: Yes

Shower: Separate cubicle, fully-moulded fibreglass

Toilet: Cassette

Lighting: 12V LED

Hot water: Electric

TV: 32in smart

EXTERNAL

Construction: Composite fibreglass sandwich panel

Coupling: DO45

Chassis: 6in with raiser and 6in A-frame

Suspension: Independent level 4 air-bag

Brakes: 12in electric

Wheels: 17in alloy

Fresh water: 2x110L

Grey water: Portable bladder provided

Awning: Electric

Battery: 7.1kW/h DCX with 5000W inverter

Solar: 1650W

Air-conditioner: Dometic Series 7 reverse-cycle

Gas: Not applicable

Washing machine: Front-loader

Sway control: No

OPTIONS FITTED TO THIS VAN

Dometic Dust Reduction System; Additional 110L water tank; 14kWh DCX battery; disc brakes