

Off Track

Precious stone or tough as rock? The Track Topaz shows us that on-road comfort can come hand-in-hand with off-road performance

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RATINGS

EXTERIOR	✓✓✓✓
INTERIOR	✓✓✓✓
LAYOUT	✓✓✓✓
KITCHEN	✓✓✓✓
VALUE FOR MONEY	✓✓✓✓
OVERALL	✓✓✓✓

LEGEND

✓	POOR	✓✓	FAIR	✓✓✓	GOOD
✓✓✓	BETTER	✓✓✓✓	BEST		

Australia is such a big and amazing place that even if you only travelled the bitumen parts of it, you wouldn't be able to see it all and would still find something new around every corner. But for those who like to take advantage of the more remote and secluded areas of our fine brown country, you might want to check out Track Trailers and its Topaz.

Track's background is in extremely capable off-road camper trailers. Lightweight, fancy looking, great to tow, but way too small for all of the comforts you really want on the road. The Topaz, though, the company's go-everywhere off-road caravan, rectifies all of that.

We had our tester hook up to a 4.2L GQ Patrol, a great old reliable tow vehicle that takes all of the rush out of driving. On the dirt and gravel they were a great combination, but if you were doing



BEHIND THE GOOD LOOKS IS A VERY WELL THOUGHT OUT AND FUNCTIONAL CARAVAN

a few bit more highway kilometres, something a bit more powerful might be nice.

EXTERNAL

Wherever possible, Track Trailers has its parts laser cut with the aid of very expensive computer-controlled equipment. The end result is a package that is perfect almost every time.

A first look at the van makes you wonder if you are towing something in 2010 or 2020. Its smooth features, well-designed styling and obvious off-road ambition seem well ahead of its time. What we liked about the Topaz, though, is

that behind the good looks is a very well thought out and functional caravan. The walls are what Track calls a Tri Wafer Composite, which Track makes on site. They are fully insulated and lightweight so you aren't towing unnecessary bulk. Track has also fitted a door with security and midge-proof mesh so your outside living space is not obstructed.

Underneath, the van features Track MC2 suspension. This unique design was originally used by the Australian Defence Force, which needed highly mobile trailers that could take anything thrown at them.



The MC2 suspension was exceptional both on-road and off



EXTERNAL FEATURES

- CHASSIS:** Track's own Type 3 Chassis design. Consisting of RHS in varied thickness and lengths, combined with torque tubes, which is jig-welded to maintain consistency/quality and hot-dipped galvanised to prevent rust
- FRAME CONSTRUCTION:** Tri Wafer Composite wall structure with built-in insulation
- WINDOWS:** Tinted acrylic cut to shape.
- INSULATION:** High-density closed cell foam
- CORNER JACKS:** Four
- WASTE WATER COMMON OUTLET:** Yes
- WATER TANKS:** 2x 70L
- WATER TANK COVERS:** Yes
- COUPLING:** D035
- SUSPENSION:** MC2 Asymmetric link Suspension featuring twin Koni shocks
- CLEARANCE:** Off-road
- BRAKES:** 12in electric drum
- WHEELS:** 16in steel
- TYRES:** Goodyear Wrangler ATR
- AWNING:** Mechanical wind out
- BOOT(S):** Custom boot with fridge slide, reinforced gear rack and loads of storage in both sides, separated by a fully sealed partition
- STONE GUARD:** Custom Steel Stone deflectors
- GAS CYLINDER SIZE/S:** 2x 4L
- HOT WATER:** 14L hot water gas and electric 240V
- BATTERY:** 100Ah fully sealed battery
- BATTERY CHARGER:** Projecta Intelli-charge 12V, 15A, and seven-stage Switchmode with Multi Chemistry
- SOLAR PANELS:** N/A
- SOLAR PROVISION:** Capacity for 2 x 80 solar packs
- ENTRANCE DOOR:** Suicide
- TAP ON A-FRAME:** N/A

INTERNAL FEATURES

- FRIDGE:** Waeco 80L
- TELEVISION:** N/A
- ANTENNA:** Antenna plug and wiring extension is available for use with a portable antenna
- MUSIC SYSTEM:** Panasonic 4x50W iPod connect and charge with two 4in speakers
- COOKING EQUIPMENT:** Four-burner internal cooker with grill. External stainless steel BBQ. Optional Tvan external kitchen (two-burner cooker with pressed non-stick BBQ plate, wind deflector, large sink, cutlery drawer and internal storage)
- MICROWAVE:** Provision for customer supply
- HEATING:** Optional - Truma reverse-cycle air conditioner
- COOLING:** Truma reverse-cycle air conditioner
- RANGEHOOD:** External venting rangehood with cooking lights and large venting capacity
- LIGHTING:** Roof-mounted fluoro diffused lighting. Fluoro cooking lights around the bench and preparation space. Halogen reading lights around the seating and bed area. All lights can be up graded to LEDs as required
- SMOKE ALARMS:** Yes
- GAS LEAKAGE DETECTOR:** N/A
- CUPBOARD FINISHES:** Powdercoated
- TYPE OF LATCHES:** Latches vary from compression catches on lockers to slam shut with deadbolt for the door
- LOUNGE CONFIGURATION:** A single seater and a two-seater sit opposite each other with a free-swinging table in between
- SEATING CAPACITY:** Four using the bed as an extra seat. Five if you bring a chair in and put it on the end of the table
- UPHOLSTERY:** Grey leather
- SINK:** Yes
- SLEEPING CONFIGURATION:** Customer specified
- BERTHS:** One
- BED SIZE(S):** Double length, queen width
- MATTRESS:** High-quality Dunlop foam
- UNDER BED STORAGE:** 2x 40L plastic storage boxes
- PRIVACY SCREENS:** N/A
- BATHROOM CONFIGURATION:** External shower tent, hot and cold water
- PRIVACY DOOR:** Yes
- TOILET:** Bio Pot 30
- TOILET PROVISION:** N/A
- TOILET ROLL HOLDER:** N/A
- SHOWER HEAD:** Adjustable for three kinds of flow
- WASHING MACHINE:** N/A
- CLOTHES DRYER:** N/A
- TOWEL RACKS:** N/A



The rangehood is externally vented



A full-height locker provides very useful storage and houses the optional reverse-cycle air con

Track has further developed it for its caravan range, including the addition of a second shock absorber per side. The result is a van that glides along behind the tow vehicle without any of the harshness you might expect from an off-road vehicle. We towed over highways, dirt roads and some corrugations, and were only limited by the Patrol's ability.

The external storage is all very easy to access. Lift-up panels along the

sides and back provide generous boot space, a pull-out BBQ for pleasant evenings or roadside stops, and most importantly the hot and cold shower. The latter is used with the addition of a tent-style shower room, which is easy if only a little time consuming to put up. On the matter of bathrooms, the Topaz is without one, although can be supplied with a Porta-Potti.

The front of the van is protected by a chip-resistant coating and steel stone

guard. There is also space for four jerry cans of fuel, water or both. Our tester was also fitted with a fridge box (big enough for most 40L fridges), a generator box and two bike racks. Gas bottles are stored in the rear boot and permanently plumbed to the kitchen.

INTERNAL

The van is a pop-top, although even locked down there is enough headspace to move around. Great if



THE TOPAZ OFFERS GOOD VALUE FOR MONEY

you left something in there or want to get to the fridge but don't plan on stopping. The interior layout is very simple in its configuration with the kitchen up one end, table in the middle and bed at the other end. The beds are queen sized as standard, but a king extension is available.

The lighting around the van is exceptional. LEDs ring the inside perimeter, run up the centre of the roof, and are more concentrated over the kitchen where you need them most. The electrical system is very well labelled and easy to use. They have even put all of the most important switches near the door so you can turn them on as you go in.

Storage is almost limitless with a near full-height wardrobe, hidey-holes seemingly everywhere, and an extensive range of kitchen drawers. All of the cupboard doors feature compression lock and travel lock latches to make life easy. The kitchen is well thought out with a generous amount of bench space. The four-burner stove and grill are great and the rangehood vents outside of the van, not just into a wall cavity.

Track claims a seating capacity of



The storage is very generous

up to five, but they are either all very small or very good friends. It is comfortable with two and probably bearable with four (two kids). Our only real concern with the van was the table in its travelling position. The design of its pivoting base allows it to move around slightly, and we found a few dents on the interior wall as a result.

WORTH BUYING?

Starting at just under \$60,000 for a base model, you are getting quite a lot of trailer for the money. Considering there are a number of flip-top camper trailers on the market that are harder to set up, have less room and luxury but cost only a fraction less, the Topaz does offer good value for money. Definitely worth buying. ❏

TECHNICAL SPECS

MAKE/MODEL: Track Trailer Topaz Murrangi
CHASSIS: Type 3 chassis with MC2 suspension
EXTERNAL BODY LENGTH: 5920mm
EXTERNAL WIDTH: 1990mm
VIN TARE WEIGHT: 1550kg
BALL WEIGHT: 70kg
RRP: Murrangi: \$65,900. As used: \$68,900 (includes optional reverse cycle air con and full annexe walls and draft skirt, second fridge, second battery, bike rack) GST and VIC REG & VIC DELIVERY ALL INCLUSIVE

NB: length and width are external measurements of the vehicle shell (and awning) only

CONTACT/THANKS

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LAYOUT KEY

1. Bed	5. Fridge
2. Cooktop & grill	6. External shower
3. Couch	7. Wardrobe
4. Table	

