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THE STARS  
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CARAVANS IN  
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**Leyland's Australia**  
On the road again in Beechworth



Tried and Tested Pioneer Argyle SE Review by David Cook Warranty Five years RRP \$35,995

# CAMPER WITH STYLE AND SUBSTANCE

**Pioneer Argyle SE has good looks, features and a five year warranty – all for a competitive price**

Rear-fold camper trailers are a great solution for those who like to travel a lot and not spend too long in one location. Pull in somewhere for an overnight stop and you can be set up in five minutes in a camp that has you off the ground and clear of creepy crawlies. Pioneer is a brand that evolved in WA and is now produced in Melbourne. With a staff of 75 including a couple of in-house designers, they're one of the bigger local manufacturers, even supplying the Defence Department. Over time the company has earned a good reputation for making a quality product that does the job. Their

## Pros

- Quality of engineering
- Snappy modern styling
- Lots of storage options
- Five-year warranty
- Light Tare weight
- Big payload capacity

## Cons

- Would like fridge slide option
- Awning must be removed at pack-up

focus is on hard-floor designs, with the Argyle SE sitting at the budget end of the range. Pioneer has stepped outside the standard versions of camper design with a stylish redesign that makes the most of space and gives the trailer a classy modern look. The finish is in a neat Periwinkle Grey with black and silver inserts. The camper is constructed using a mix of welding and Sikaflex bonded and pop riveted panels, with Rhinocoating in high wear areas. The sturdy chassis rides on a Grafta independent trailing arm suspension with twin shocks and replaceable stub axles. The wheels are five or six-stud black Sunraysias with G/T Adventuro all-terrain rubber and brakes are 10in Al-Ko hydraulic override, with electric brakes as an option.

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## PIONEER ARGYLE SE



### Chassis

Drawbar and chassis: 100 X 50 X 3mm hot dip galvanised  
Dimensions: 4520mm long, 1750mm wide  
Tare 820kg, ATM 1500kg  
Wheels: 15 X 7in 5- or 6-stud Sunraysia rims with GT Adventuro all-terrain tyres  
Trigg polyblock hitch



### Suspension and brakes

Grafta independent trailing arm with coil springs  
Dual Ridepro 4WD shock absorbers  
10in hydraulic override drums



### Body

1.2mm zinc anneal steel and 2mm aluminium  
Fold-over top with fibreglass honeycomb/steel sandwich  
1 X 9kg gas bottle



### Kitchen

Stainless steel slide-out 2-burner Smev gas cooker  
Cutlery drawer  
Stainless steel sink  
Food preparation bench



### Water storage

60L stainless steel tank



### Electrical

1 X 110Ah AGM battery  
10A VSR mains charger  
Anderson plug at hitch



### Tent

14.9oz roof and 10.9oz walls Dynaproof canvas  
4500 X 1600mm tent area  
Double bed foam mattress  
2000 X 4900mm main awning



The Argyle has plenty of storage options, with a large front storage box, suitable for a fridge, generator, porta-potti or similar items, with a pair of 70L compartments for wet storage underneath. At the front is a box with perforated floor suitable for carrying up to three jerry cans, firewood, wet canvas or other dirty items. There are two other tubs, one containing a single 9kg gas bottle and hand pump.

Behind the front boxes is a slide-out stainless steel kitchen. It's a bit smaller than some today but perfectly adequate with a slide-out preparation shelf, two-burner stove, stainless steel sink, cutlery drawer and a worklight on the flip-up access door.

The standard electrical fit out includes a single 110Ah AGM deep cycle battery, a 10-amp Narva mains charger and an optional regulated solar panel. There's also a 240V mains outlet on the side.

Water capacity is a basic 60L stainless steel tank as standard but there is the option of a 150L tank.

The vinyl-covered floor area is 1.6 X 2m so there's room for kids' bunks if needed. The canvas is

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## tried + tested | camper review

14.9oz and 10.9oz Dynaproof Australian material, with windows all around. These are finished with midge-proof screens internal awnings and clears. The roofline continues out over the front box to shelter any fridge and the front of the trailer. The awning is a roomy 2 x 4.9m.

Other options include a separate sleep area and an ensuite which simply zip on.

The bed is a double foam mattress with under-bed storage area. This can be accessed internally by lifting the bed, or through the tailgate hatch on the roadside.

With a Tare of 820kg it is pretty light for what the Argyle SE offers and with an ATM of 1600kg there's heaps of load capacity. 🏠



### Summary

The Pioneer Argyle is a classy and stylish hard floor camper at a value for money price. It comes with a good range of specs including independent suspension. You have the with peace of mind knowing its built of quality Australian made materials, including the all- important canvas. Finally, it's backed by a sizeable company that will be around to honour the very generous five-year warranty. 🏠

### YOU MIGHT ALSO CONSIDER

#### *Altitude Ultimate Hard Floor*

The Altitude Ultimate Hard Floor is a well set-up rear fold hard floor camper, with Cruisemaster independent suspension, electric brakes, dual 120Ah AGM batteries, 25-amp Projecta charger, large swing around gourmet stainless steel kitchen, roomy storage box with slide-out pantry drawer and fridge slide, two 80L water tanks, queen-sized mattress with under-bed drawer. It's all-Australian canvas with a large side awning, shower room and a diesel hot water and space heating system. Well priced at \$39,990.



#### *Cub Spacematic Drover*

Cub is one of Australia's oldest manufacturers and builds a wide range of rear-fold campers, all with a sturdy, no-nonsense finish and most with a huge amount of internal room. All Cub campers feature a winch opening system. The Spacematic Drover has a strong 6in drawbar, independent suspension, electric brakes, 127L of water, 2 x 4kg gas bottles, three-burner stove with grill, choice of internal or external kitchen, two-way internal fridge, pantry drawer, roll-up side walls. That's a lot for \$38,990.

