

On the road with CoPilot Caravan App

Getting from A to B in Bluebell the motorhome is quite different to getting from A to B in our little Yoda the Skoda. We need to consider many different factors when planning our jaunts in the motorhome, but mainly the issues we run into (sadly literally in one case **back in 2010!**) are our height and weight. We've used the standard Garmin satnav for 4 years now, and don't get me wrong, its been ok, but this year we found ourselves looking at new satnavs and particularly one which we can input our vehicle dimensions in, so that the best route is found having taking these into account.

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For the last year or so we've used Google Maps as a secondary sat nav, although because it uses data to download the map it relies on having a decent internet signal, something which we are not blessed with sadly, even in not so deepest Norfolk! We enjoyed using the phone as a sat nav, finding the screen on my iPhone 6 a good size for clear mapping. This led us to looking into an App based sat nav, which works offline and more specifically one which we could enter Bluebell's vehicle dimensions into. Enter **“CoPilot Caravan Europe”**



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At **£49.99** I wondered if it was a bit pricey as I don't tend to pay more than £4.99 for an app, but then Keith reminded me that actually having looked into Caravan/Motorhome-/HGV sat navs, we were hard pushed to get one for less than £100. We decided to give it a go, and trial it on our recent Scotland trip - a handy test as most of the time we were without Mobile data.

Set Up

After download, a user friendly screen prompts you through set up, with clear and

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easy instructions to navigate through. There are lots of options to tailor the app to your own personal requirements, something which we found useful- we could even personalise the welcome to say “Welcome Lydia and Keith” – not the most important factor on a sat nav I realise, but a nice touch nonetheless- (I’m such a girl!!) You have the option to display safety camera alerts (and change how much distance ahead you want to be warned of them) and set it to save battery, another useful tool when you’re doubling your phone as your sat nav. Finally it’s time to enter those important measurements- the app allows you to input your Height, Width, Total Length and Total Weight. You can also select how it should navigate- the fastest route or shortest.

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Map Choice

I like  the fact that you have the option of which maps you want to download- having got the Europe version of the app, I had the option of downloading “Europe”, “Eastern Europe”, “Western Europe” then the individual countries as separate maps. This was useful for me as I have limited storage on my iPhone 6, so I was able to just download UK, although when we go to Germany over the summer I have the option of downloading “Western Europe” or just “Germany”.

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On The Road

With CoPilot you have the option to save certain addresses as favourites. For those one off entries, its easy to input, especially if you have the postcode of your destination. You get the option to select a “cross street” too, making pinpointing your destination much easier.

There are several ways to view the app whilst navigating- the one we preferred was the larger instructions with a mini picture of the next junction and a countdown to the next junction. This made navigating really easy. Other options included a smaller in-

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struction but more details for future junctions. I guess this would be useful for the passenger if they are navigating you. It reminded you several times which junction to take on a roundabout and although that was a bit annoying, it was useful and saved us going round roundabouts several times...ahem!

We LOVED the fact that it was easy to change the proposed route by a simple drag of your finger. For example- our route up to Loch Lomond from Norfolk wanted to take us up to Edinburgh on the A1. We wanted an overnight stop at Carter Bar border crossing near to Jedburgh so simply dragged our finger to the route we would rather take and it automatically updated. Fab. Equally you could add via's etc and also it comes with an

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extensive list of POI – even more when you are online.

Traffic Updates are included for a year, however depend on Mobile signal. Our journey home was affected by a huge accident on the A1- we were delayed for nearly 3 hours (ouch) but sadly it didn't do a great job in prewarning us (and we had 4G).

Verdict



We travelled nearly 1500 miles using the app and in general we were extremely happy with how it worked. The only criticism was that sadly it did still try and take us on single

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carriageway A roads near to Inverness rather than the dual carriageway A Roads (it wanted us to take the A833 to Beauly to cut off the corner of Inverness, rather than staying on A82 then A9. It thought it would save 30 mins but when we ignored it, suddenly the ETA decreased by nearly an hour!) If we could get an update to make sure that dual carriageway roads take priority then for us, it would be 5*. Until then, we give it a very useful “does what it says on the tin” 4*. We look forward to using the app in Germany over the Summer.

In Summary- yes it's nearly £50, but it made travelling round in a great big motorhome much less stressful and we were confident we weren't going to find ourselves

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in a tricky bridge situation! We will still continue to use a road map alongside the app, but, find me a motorist that doesn't do that!

CoPilot Caravan Navigation App is available from the [Apple App store](#) for iOS devices or [Google Play store](#) for Android devices.

Additional Accessories to make life easier

Phones are so much more than phones nowadays aren't they? Here we are using my phone to guide us 300 miles up to the Scottish Border, whilst using Spotify to serenade us- what happens when we arrive at the border at 01:00 – I have no battery left to take

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the obligatory “we have arrived” selfie! This was a worry for me- read into that what you will... ;0)

Our Solution – a decent **Apple Certified Car Charger**  and **Phone Holder for Air Vent, Magnetic Cradle Car Mount** 

Everywhere we went, despite using my phone as our sat nav and DJ, my battery was 100% charged and ready for #selfie action!



01:15 at Carter Bar England/Scotland Border
following a day at work and a 7 hour drive
north!

Disclaimer

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I was given this app for free by CoPilot Caravan in return for an honest review of their product. All opinions are strictly my own having extensively tested the product.

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