



Million Dollar Baby

Don't have a million dollars? GIC can help.

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The window over the bed means you can sleep under the stars.

**SOFT FLOOR
SHOOTOUT
GREAT
VALUE**



The kitchen is simple but effective.



The running gear will follow you most, but not all, places.



It's a canvas mansion.



If I had a million dollars, you wouldn't be hearing from me right now. I'd be exploring the Kimberley by boat with my wife and boys, or skiing in Chamonix, maybe I'd get my pilots license and fly us to Antarctica to see some penguins. And my camper would be the most insane thing you've ever seen, with a helipad, Bundy bar and dancing pole.

I don't have a million dollars, probably because that's how I'd spend it. But the point of all this is that few of us do, and the very real economic reality of life shouldn't preclude the rest of us from getting out into nature with a modicum of decorum.

on one side and the girls on the other, but it might be great for people with dogs too, who want them to have a place away from the kids at night. There's a screened window over the bed, so you can sleep under the stars, and zippered privacy curtains on both sides of the bed base. The bed base itself lifts up for basic access to the trailer storage.

The awning comes with a full set of walls with screens and roll-up flaps. The awning floor attaches to these walls to seal in the whole awning area, and there's even an interior wall to separate the kitchen area from the area under the awning next to the main tent. This is pretty

"The main tent unfolds to both sides of the bed base, so you get two fully enclosed rooms"

That's where GIC comes in. For less money than an old 40 Series that doesn't run, you can have your own camper trailer with extra rooms, annexe walls, a toolbox, a kitchen, and running gear that'll follow you most, but not all, places.

The Ultimate Offroad we're looking at here is GIC's Offroad camper with the 'Ultimate' 18ft tent. It's definitely a unique design, in terms of the canvas, so let's see how this thing works.

Made from ripstop canvas with a PVC floor, the main tent unfolds to both sides of the bed base, so you get two fully enclosed rooms. The guys from GIC reckon this is good if you want the boys

handy for managing the kids while mum or dad is cooking, keeping them close by but out from under your feet.

Setting up everything takes a while – but this isn't a camper you're going to go setting up, awning walls and all, every night. It's perfect for weekend trips or Easter breaks with the whole family.

The optional tailgate kitchen (\$950) fitted to our trailer is basically a 304 stainless box with a door, stainless sink with hand pump and long fold-out shelf. It's simple, but provides good working bench space. A 60L water tank can be fitted under the trailer with a wrap-around alloy bash plate for \$340.



Setting up takes a while but gives the family plenty of room to move.

Holders for a jerry can and one 4kg gas bottle are provided, and our review model had the optional alloy toolbox (\$320) on the a-frame, which is pretty much a necessity these days. It's a good place to mount a battery box, and to keep all the canvas where you can get to it easily.

Looking at the running gear itself, while this is an offroad camper, the offroad Treg coupling is optional (\$360). The 15in rim upgrade is \$600, and these run on a 40mm solid square axle hung from seven-leaf springs.

The 50x50mm chassis and 100x50mm drawbar are fairly lightweight, with the whole trailer coming in at 280kg empty (without our options, which probably take it up to around 380kg). Without brakes, ATM is 750kg, so there is room here for all your gear. The 8in swing-up jockey wheel is mounted on an extended drawbar and the spare is up here too, out of the way and easy to get to.

SUMMING UP

People want to give GIC a hard time because they're selling campers for a fraction of the cost of most Australian-built campers. Well, it's fair to say you usually get what you pay for, but anyone who tries to compare a \$23k trailer to a \$7k trailer is off his rocker.

At the end of the day, the guy with \$23k to spend is going to get all the bells and whistles his money affords. And the guy who wants to take his family out camping and have enough money left over for petrol and ice, but can't afford bells and whistles, is going to spend \$7k and settles for a bell or a whistle. They're both out there camping. Who's rich now?

Starting at \$5,700, as reviewed the Ultimate Offroad costs \$8,270. ■

GIC Camper Trailers
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SPECIFICATIONS

GIC Camper Trailers **ULTIMATE OFFROAD 2011**

Tare:	280kg
ATM:	750kg
Suspension:	Seven-leaf heavy duty springs
Brakes:	Optional
Coupling:	Treg
Price (as shown):	\$8,270

