



Volksleisure Silver Star

flair with flexibility



£45,000



Diesel heating and 12V/230V sockets



Table slides with the rear Reimo seat

	FOR
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upmarket and stylish • Sliding seat versatility • Very high specification
	AGAINST
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pricy, and it still needs a few options adding

HERE'S a different approach again, as Volksleisure is up there at the premium level. That's deliberate, we should add, because this converter espouses the use of the 138bhp (140PS) engine as a start point for any of its conversions – arguing it has superior performance, economy and refinement, as well as an extra gear, over lower-powered versions. It's hard to disagree, and yet the 101bhp five-speeder can be deemed as adequate (and ok, if you really insist, the company isn't going to turn down your custom).

With that proviso, you're looking at pre-owned base vehicles that can start from £15,000, but are

more likely to end up edging ever nearer the £25,000 price point. Add in a conversion that, here at least, equates to some £22,000 and you can see it's serious money for a complete package – but you could, just about, get close to our £35,000 target in the right circumstances.

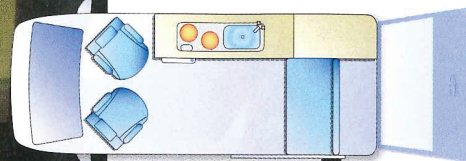
There's little compromise when it comes to fittings like Reimo's flagship Easyfit elevating roof and a Variotech rear seat for three people. The latter slots into floor rails for sliding – which means you can push the whole unit forward for absolute optimum load-carrying space.

Worth noting, also, is that Volksleisure says all

future conversions will use the multi-positional locking Reimo 3000 seat. This has six different travel seating positions, while you could also go for additional seats if you want to take the people-carrying capacity up to seven (and still retain all the camping facilities). Alternatively, and admittedly with a bit of effort, the whole bench seat can be removed altogether, should you have an occasional need for larger loads.

One other big difference between Reimo's rear seating and closest rival, RIB, is the former is set lower, so there's less chance of legs dangling (not such a good idea, especially over long journeys).





FACT FILE

BASED ON Volkswagen Transporter T5 Highline T30

PRICES FROM £42,000

CONVERSION ONLY FROM £22,500

PRICE AS TESTED £45,000

EXTRAS FITTED Roof bed (£490), roof ladder (£75), roof net (£75), awning (£650), Webasto heater (£980), windscreen blinds (£420), 20in alloy wheels (£1,350), Sportline style front and rear spoiler (£900)

TYPE APPROVAL Individual

DIMENSIONS 4.89m L, 1.90m W, 2.02m H

BERTHS 4

TRAVEL SEATS 5

BED SIZES Lower 1.95m x 1.31m, upper 1.90m x 1.10m

MAXIMUM WEIGHT 3,000kg

PAYLOAD 640kg

ENGINE 2-litre, 138bhp

ABOUT VOLKSLEISURE

An offshoot of the Wellhouse Leisure set-up, as you've probably guessed, Volksleisure restricts itself to VW conversions. But that hasn't stopped it branching out to becoming an agent for Freedom, the all-GRP mini caravans from Poland that are actually quite an interesting complement to a campervan.

MOTORHOME SUPPLIED BY

VOLKSLEISURE CAMPERVANS
TEL 07989 582863
WEB volksleisure.com

Which motorhome says ★★★★★

A stylish conversion from a company that's not afraid to aim for the premium end of the market. We certainly like the way everything is executed here, but it's rather hard to justify the cost in this company.

It's a good-sized double bed in the Volksleisure and LED lights switch from white to blue



Sliding Reimo seat means BIG loads can be carried



Smart high-gloss furniture gives the Silver Star a plush feel

In turn, there's more storage space in the base of the RIB seat.

There are a few other touches in the Silver Star that are worthy of note. The lockers over the kitchen have open tops – the idea being that, when the roof is down for travel, it seals them; with the roof up, you get easier access. It's a really clever idea.

All furniture has a smart, high-gloss finish that's currently very fashionable (and is even used on the cab seat bases), with finger catches for doors. The tambour-doored wardrobe in this example has both a hanging rail and shelving –

but that's probably an indication that you can opt for one or the other (a facility offered by most of the converters represented here).

Other fittings include a gas barbecue point and external shower, both just inside the tailgate, a storage box in the rear seat base, and a floor locker below the grill that's large enough to stow a portable toilet. Also part of the standard specification are a 6kg propane gas cylinder (most campervans use smaller Campingaz butane cylinders), 25m mains hook-up lead, thermal screens for the cab windows, rear speakers, plenty of LED lighting (in blue as well as white), a solar

panel and plenty more. Those huge alloys might mean a rather lumpy ride quality, though.

Nevertheless, as you can see from the data panel above, there are also a few options added that you might consider essential.

Future models will also see the grill relegated to the options list, thus freeing up valuable kitchen storage space.

The Silver Star rather broke through our price barrier, but it's a pretty impressive piece of kit, topped off by a three-year warranty on the conversion. Only thing is, a brand-new T6 California Ocean from VW starts at £47,840...

