
1959 VW T1

Lot sold	USD 0 GBP 0 (listed)	Drive	RHD
Year of manufacture	1959	Condition	Used
Gearbox	Manual	Location	
Chassis number	448676	Exterior colour	Other
Lot number	331	Car type	Other
		Engine number	2456736
		Exterior brand colour	Mango Green / Seagull Grey
		Interior brand colour	Ash and leather camping interior

Description

The Volkswagen Type 2 was introduced in 1950 as a multi-variant utility vehicle, known as the Transporter (basic panel-van), Kombi (basic dual-purpose freight/passenger vehicle) and Microbus (luxurious passenger vehicle). It was devised as an evolution of the Volkswagen Type 1, the original Beetle. The first generation of these versatile vehicles (named the T1) were produced with distinctive split-screens from 1950 until 1967.

Among enthusiasts, it is common to refer to the different models by the number of their windows. The Kombi and Microbus are the 11-window with a split windshield, two front cabin door windows, six rear side windows, and one rear window.

Presented here is a LHD 1959 VW Type 2 (T1) 11-window split-screen van which started life in the USA as an 8-seater Microbus (mod. 221). This is confirmed by the corresponding VW 'M-code' (i.e. original specification code) which can be taken from the specification plate (which is still in situ). It also tells us that it was produced on the 12th March 1959 and was supposedly destined for Boston. This M-code also correlates to a correct chassis number (present on the V5C). Originally supplied in Seagull Grey (upper) over Mango Green (lower) - it still sports this great combination today. Imported

from the US to the UK in 1974, this VW has lead somewhat of a cherished life. It has been professionally converted into a camper-van with a fully bespoke interior. As a Microbus originally, it would have been well-appointed (with interior & kick panels plus a headlining) and not designed or intended to carry freight. It would have a lead relatively easier life than a similar Kombi van of the same era, making it a good basis for a camper.

This camper has obviously been much cared for and maintained over the years. Our vendor and previous owners have sought to make subtle but sensible improvements to the usability of this 57 year old vehicle. Marque specialist John Mayer has upgraded the engine (now 2110cc) giving more power (145bhp) and torque. It has covered 15,000 miles (approx.) without issue. This special engine is mated to an American-built performance gearbox. The driving improvements also include the reassurance of independent rear suspension plus rack & pinion steering (supplied by Creative Engineering), servo-assisted disc brakes all-round and Porsche 356 wheels. New windows were fitted (Creative Engineering- £1200) as were a 'Firetec' auto suppression system and a Fairbanks & Craven alloy fuel tank.

The interior has been finished to a very high standard, whilst retaining period features such as the dashboard and steering wheel. The camping side of things includes a bespoke interior finished in Ash veneer (including a double bed, wardrobe and storage cupboards). The electrical features include a completely new 12v wiring system with leisure battery and main hook-up, USB outlets, a Waeco CF35 (£450) fridge and a quality music system with remote control.

This unique camper van comes with a file of invoices and paperwork documenting its maintenance and upgrades. The chassis is said to be in fine condition and free from rot or rust.

This genuine split-screen bus is in fabulous condition and strikes the perfect balance between 60's camper-van cool, VW enthusiast credibility and real-life modern drivability. It's fast enough but not too loud, long-legged and easy to drive, comfortable with good ride quality, and is just waiting for its next trip!

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