

The perfect Partner



Ian Lamming drives the Kia Sorento

IT'S no coincidence, trust me, when it comes to finding the perfect partner for a holiday Kia always springs to mind.

If you are staying on terra firma and not jetting abroad, then chances are you will be packing the kitchen sink.

There will be your optimistic wardrobe of shorts, flip flops and t-shirts and there will be the clothes you actually wear in the Lake District, including bulky Gortex, hikers and fleece. Then there will be the paraphernalia to keep a seven-year-old sweet on a dreary wet day.

Space becomes vital and they don't come more spacious than the brand new Kia Sorento, it's huge.

No longer does Sorento sit in the shadow of its attractive sibling the Sportage, no longer does it merely look like the bigger big brother.

New Sorento is very much its own person and what a handsome person that is. If it has any familial resemblance in its latest form it's probably the C'eed, but a version that has been to the gym and grown whopping muscles.

To start with it benefits from seven seats leaving a decent size boot for the luggage. If you don't need them they fold away leaving a massive bay for the bulk. Score one for the holiday transport.

Comfort levels are also off the scale for driver and all the passengers thanks to interior space, brilliant ride and refined engine. There is close to 200bhp on tap from the 2.2 diesel and yet the trip computer could be coaxed to an amazing 44 miles per gallon. Score two for the holiday transport.

Lake District car parks can get a bit chocker during the holiday season yet the Sorento proved easier than expected to leave. Reverse camera and beepers all round make it surprisingly easy to manoeuvre in tight spots.

But the best example was at the foot of Haystacks near Buttermere because the car park was full.

There was a slot but it was on a steeply angled verge next to a menacing drystone wall. With Sorento all that was required was a flick of the diff-lock switch and the wonderful SUV managed a quick spot of off-roading into the space – brilliant. Score three for the holiday transport.

New Sorento is a truly awesome car in every respect. The new look is fantastic, the fit and finish superb and the specification stupendous. It's not only an amazing vehicle for your holidays but the rest of the year too.

Fact File

Kia Sorento

Engine: 2.2 turbo diesel

Power: 194BHP

0-62mph: 9.6

Top speed:

118mph

Combined miles per gallon: 42.2

Transmission: six speed automatic

CO2 g/km: 155