



SSANGYONG

- SsangYong Rexton W
- Engine: 2.0 turbo diesel
- Power: 155BHP
- 0-62mph: NA
- Top speed: 108mph
- Combined miles per gallon: 38.2
- Transmission: six speed manual or five speed auto
- CO2 g/km: 196

Go first class on economy budget

by Ian Lamming

HOW many times have you paid to go on holiday and life is actually nicer at home?

You park at an airport – ouch, that’s not a pleasure purchase – you battle the 8.30am pint of lager brigade, then get caught up in the melee caused by foreign air traffic controllers, or the weather. And you pay for the pleasure?

It is easy to see why people opt to buy a caravan and drive themselves to foreign climes where they can literally enjoy all the comforts of home. Having just flown

budget airways to Spain, I totally get why it’s best not to.

If you do tow and want to travel in luxury then chances are your van will be a big ’un and if that is the case then your car is going to have to be weighty too.

There’s no shortage of large 4x4s on the market, the trouble is the majority are priced somewhere between £30,000 and £80,000 and how many of us have that sort of spare cash sloshing around our automotive slush funds?

Wouldn’t it be great if someone made a chunky, capable, quality SUV for around the £25K

mark. Guess what?

They do.

Korean manufacturer SsangYong has just released a brand new Rexton W and it is a cracker. The old one was a trusty, reliable beast of a car that was incredibly good value for money and looked very similar to one particular premium brand.

New W looks even more the part with a broad purposeful grin, great lines and superb proportions. It is a very smart head turner which oozes a level of quality that belies its modest price tag.

The feeling of luxury extends inside, particularly with the EX. Black leather,

metal grain trim and electrically adjustable seats with memory function scream luxury.

There is also no luxury like space of which there is plenty inside big W. It comes with seven seats and when not needed the rear set folds neatly away to leave a gargantuan load area.

All the occupants benefit from air conditioning, Bluetooth, CD, iPod and a decent radio with the controls duplicated on the steering wheel. SatNav and DAB are also on the option list.

The fascia is smart and functional with well-placed switches

and controls. It is all extremely neat, well finished and easy to use. And it is all so much more than window dressing. This is a proper, rugged, capable 4x4. The home grown 2.0 litre diesel pumps out a lusty 155PS and 360Nm of torque which makes Rexton capable of towing three tonnes. When not pulling, it simply glides along demolishing the highways and swallowing gradients for breakfast, while returning almost 40mpg.

Driving dynamics are helped further by the super-slick T-Tronic automatic

gearbox lent by Mercedes or a six speed manual. What sets this particular off-roader apart from many of the opposition is the fact that the selectable 4x4 transmission comes with a low range that splits the power between the front and rear axles to haul the W clear of the tricky stuff.

Old Rexton was an affordable and worthy car but the new W is a more than worthy successor. With its air of quality and go-anywhere ability you need never go on a cheap holiday package again.