

Drive for him and for her

Written by Helen Carstens
Thursday, 10 March 2016 10:57

THE GUARDIAN ON WHEELS **DRIVE** for him and for her
lifestyle motoring news & reviews



Ford B-Max 1.0T Titanium

Enter a compact hatch crossover that Ford call their B-Max. I must say I was noticeably impressed with this car.

The design is that of a hatch of larger proportions, slightly higher off the ground and an interesting design of wrap around headlights and indents crafted in the body on the side in the vicinity of the boot. These look crafted in as part of the design but are in fact there to hold the very practical sliding rear doors.

The B-Max was indeed well stocked. Keyless entry is such a wonderful feature. The dash centre console is set in black gloss and hosts a Sony sound system, all seating in black stitched leather, LED daytime running lights as well as the ability to leave the headlights on, Stop-start technology, Eco-mode, gear change indicator, cruise control, Bluetooth telephone and audio streaming, auto-locking doors, auto-dimming rearview mirror, electric windows all around as well as power side mirrors and parking sensors. There is a reverse camera, however I found the little display screen in the centre console to be bit too small.

The Sony sound system hosts CD, radio as well as USB, Aux and iPod inputs.

Above the rearview mirror is a fold-out mirror aimed at the rear seats. This is very useful for keeping an eye on babies or small children in the back.

The side mirrors have integrated indicators and fold in on locking, which is a nice feature and very helpful at making sure you have locked the car.

Drive for him and for her

Written by Helen Carstens
Thursday, 10 March 2016 10:57

The B-Max has a lovely panoramic roof with a manual fold back cover.

Another interesting aspect was that of the steering wheel. It is wrapped in leather, adjustable and has multifunction controls. It gives the impression of a double steering wheel, with a layer of black gloss around the middle of the wheel and leather on either side.

The five-speed manual drove easily and it was very comfortable to handle and manoeuvre.

The seating is comfortable all round and the front safety belts are attached to the seats, making for much more comfort across the shoulder.

Comfortable seating and spaciousness aplenty for rear seated passengers. The boot is more than large enough for the family and it has an under-layer where the floor lifts revealing another compartment where items of value can be kept out of sight.

I think the B-Max is an option that could appeal to a number of buyers and I certainly fall into that category.

HC



Ford Ranger 2.2 double cab 4x4 XLS

The Ford Ranger is certainly an appealing-looking double cab. High off the ground, you cannot mistake the macho stance it presents. Curved and streamlined even though it is big, the style is evident on the front body. The back of a bakkie is the back of a bakkie so no elaboration

Drive for him and for her

Written by Helen Carstens
Thursday, 10 March 2016 10:57

required there except to say it is large.

The interior is neatly laid out and a step up and handle help you into the front seats that are covered in material. The cabin area is set out in black and is neatly arranged. The dash is smack in the middle and has all you need and is easy to see and operate. The air con is below the centre stack that also includes a small screen that also displays the handy reverse camera - I do think that the display screen is a bit too small.

The steering wheel is covered in leather, it has controls and is adjustable. The Ranger features an auto-dimming rear view mirror and power side mirrors as well as electric windows all around with driver auto up and down. The driver seat also has adjustable lumbar support. The side mirrors are nice and big and provide a clear view of what is going on behind.

Cruise Control, Radio, CD, AUX, iPod and USB ports as well as Bluetooth telephone and streaming add to the comfort of the Ranger - one can quite forget that it is a double cab when sitting in the front. Daytime running lights, and the option to leave your lights on which I really enjoy. It also has auto locking.

The six-speed manual includes a shift indicator and I must say the Ranger drives so much better with a bit of weight. The drive is soft and a bit bouncy - depending on the road surface. But let us compare apples with apples and the Ranger is an off-roader capable of hauling loads, not your supermarket run-around.

Having said that, the Ranger has the options for two-wheel drive and four-wheel drive, selected via a dial near the gear lever. I did not get a chance to traverse any interesting terrain with the Ranger, besides the normal roadways but can assure you that this one is not afraid of work and although you know it is work orientated, it still has an appealing look in any driveway.