

> We Drive

# Affordable and More – the JMC Landwind 5

BY LIANA REINERS

There's no disputing that JMC offers potential buyers with a limited budget good value-for-money alternatives to other more established brands. The Landwind 5 is a prime example, comparing favourably with its competitors in the SUV market.

The flagship model in the line-up is the Landwind 5 AT Flagship model, which retails at a very reasonable R289 880. But the best news of all is that you get a rather capable offering for your money.



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Under the bonnet of the Landwind 5 is a 1 997cc, four-cylinder petrol engine, enhanced by a intercooled turbocharger. This powerplant delivers 140 kW of power at 5 500 r/min and 250 Nm of peak torque, available from 2 800 to 4 400 r/min. An eight-speed automatic transmission sends power to the rear wheels.

All of this means that the Landwind 5 holds its own on the road. It's not the fastest horse on the course but it can happily maintain a comfortable 120 km/h cruising speed on the highway.

Acceleration was acceptable and handling can't be faulted.

One would be forgiven for assuming that a Chinese vehicle like the Landwind 5 with a price that won't break the bank has very little to offer in terms of standard spec and luxury features. In fact, the handsome exterior boasts 17-inch alloy wheels, folding side mirrors, roof rails and an electrically operated sunroof.

The interior is equally impressive, offering adjustable leather seats, a multi-function leather steering wheel, cruise control, electrically operated windows and side mirrors, central locking, reading lights front and rear, map pockets, central floor storage and cup holders, a power outlet in the luggage compartment, a single disc CD player and a radio with six speakers and auxiliary ports.

On the safety side, the Landwind 5 has dual front and side airbags, reverse camera, park distance control, child safety locks on the rear doors and three-point safety belts.

The Landwind is easy to drive, even in traffic and its 5,3-metre turning circle makes it easy to forget that this is a reasonably sized vehicle. In fact, one of the main selling points must be the generous interior space it offers.

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The boot can swallow 855 litres with ease, while leg and headroom in the rear is enough to ensure that even grown ups will be comfortable.

Also worth a mention is the fact that the Landwind 5, with its 60-litre fuel tank, is rather frugal. JMC claim combined figures of 8.5 litres/100 km and you can get pretty close to that without trying too hard.

If you still aren't convinced that the Landwind 5 is a capable contender consider this: it comes standard with five-year/100 000 km service plan, a three-year/100 000 km warranty and 24-hour roadside assistance. That's a good package in anyone's book. ■