

ISUZU TROOPER 3.0 DT DUTY LWB



For many the Trooper is an ideal car, with its roomy and reasonably comfortable interior, steady and economical engine, ok cruising refinement and adequate four-wheel-drive ability. 'Reasonable' and 'adequate' sum up the Trooper – it does everything but doesn't excite. The same applies to the styling, which is neat enough, smooth enough and even bold enough to exude some off-road character, but it's no fashion statement either in the city or out in the field. The simple but effective selectable four-wheel-drive system is engaged by a dash button, but low range uses floor-mounted gear lever. The heavy chassis and rigid back axle make it a good towcar, but mediocre ride height and the torsion-bar-sprung front suspension compromise its off-road ability.

SPECIFICATIONS

Price:	£21,755
Engine cc/bhp:	2999/157
Transmission:	5-speed manual, dual range, selectable 4WD

RATINGS (0-10)

Comfort:	6
Refinement:	6
Off-road:	6
Value:	6
Style:	6
TOTAL:	30

WE LIKED:
Simple 4WD selection

WE DISLIKED:
Uneven ride

LAND ROVER DISCOVERY 4.0 ES AUTO



But for its price, and the narrow feel of the cabin, this could so easily have been the class winner because it is such a good dynamic package. The engine has a delightful sound, delivering spirited acceleration and easy high-speed highway cruising – a supremely refined affair since the suspension, in spite of the big beam axles, offers impressively smooth ride. The Active Cornering Enhancement keeps the Discovery level in bends, enhancing driving enjoyment no end. And off road the Discovery is masterful, with excellent axle articulation, the engine producing vast torque from low speeds. Traction control, Hill Descent Control and even the option of a centre diff lock complete the off-roading picture, while superb leather upholstery graces the well equipped cabin.

SPECIFICATIONS

Price:	£34,490
Engine cc/bhp:	3950/182
Transmission:	4-speed manual, dual range, permanent 4WD

RATINGS (0-10)

Comfort:	7
Refinement:	8
Off-road:	8
Value:	6
Style:	8
TOTAL:	37

WE LIKED:
Electric seat adjustment

WE DISLIKED:
ok mpg consumption

MERCEDES ML270 CDI



If you require an elegantly uncluttered and spacious passenger compartment in a smart MPV-style body but with a modicum of off-road ability, here's the Mercedes. Excellent engineering, build quality and refinement, just no off-roader looks. On the road it's a superb driver's car, riding firmly but handling well, while the efficient 2.7-litre common-rail turbodiesel offers eager, smooth and economical progress. The turbodiesel is the good-value choice from the range, though key luxuries like automatic transmission and leather upholstery are expensive options. Off road the Mercedes is surprisingly competent, since its very evident lack of axle articulation is to some extent overcome by the effective electronic traction control, and the engine's good low-rev torque.

SPECIFICATIONS

Price:	£29,395
Engine cc/bhp:	2685/163
Transmission:	5-speed manual, dual range, permanent 4WD

RATINGS (0-10)

Comfort:	7
Refinement:	7
Off-road:	6
Value:	8
Style:	4
TOTAL:	32

WE LIKED:
Good stereo system

WE DISLIKED:
MPV styling