

JMC LANDWIND 5

Targeted at a populace desperate for both comfortable transport and for keeping the household budget healthy, JMC's Landwind 5 takes aim at Nissan's Juke, the Renault Duster and others – at a price point that would have Pravin grinning from ear to ear.



✕ With hints of Subaru styling, the Landwind is undoubtedly the best looking of the entry SUV set. With its swooping bonnet, high stance and just enough chrome accents to keep it classy, the Landwind flies in the face of what one expects from Chinese design. Brightwork on the roof rails and door handles elevate the car's sense of style and ensures that you won't feel unloved in the school parking lot when other moms pull up in their more expensive SUVs.

Inside the cabin the dashboard design is appealing and all of the controls fall easily to hand. The large-ish infotainment screen is easy to read and the cloth-covered seats are comfortable enough to be good for at least medium-distance trips.

Although not quite packed with high-tech gadgetry, it offers value in the form of power steering, park-distance control at the rear, a CD player, and electric windows, as well as two airbags at the front.

Landwind sources its engines from Mitsubishi, which adds some gravitas to the notion of their mechanical reliability. In its chest beats a four-cylinder, water-cooled and turbocharged 2.0-litre engine with a respectable 250 Nm of torque. Power is indicated at 140 kW and the Landwind reached its target speed relatively smoothly. During testing we never had problems overtaking, and managed best average fuel consumption figures of 9.6 l/100 km.

For R249,880 the Landwind 5 offers a fair amount of value in a rather saturated market. The Landwind goes all in with decent equipment (including ABS + EBD, an anti-theft system and USB connectivity) and comes standard with a three-year/100,000 km warranty and a five-year/100,000 km service plan – including 24-hour roadside assistance. ✕