



ALL-NEW KIA STINGER REVIEW

Kia has already shown the world what it can do in the SUV market. Its Sorento and Sportage have been massive hits over here, challenging the Germanic, well established models.

The Stinger will undoubtedly take the Asian firm the extra mile and propel it into territory it's never seen before. And that's because Kia has never produced a grand tourer before. It's a handsome piece of machinery and even has muscle car hints about it – particularly at the rear.

The Stinger isn't cheap. You're looking at emptying £40,000 out of your bank



account to get your hands on one. And I guarantee you will want one, once you've seen it in the metal. Pictures are one thing, but you must hear the engine and the tune from the four tailpipes to really appreciate this Kia. Then you need to sit in it and drive it. The car has punch. Lots and lots of it.

The Stinger GT-S, as tested here, belts out 510Nm of torque, pulling you to 60mph in just 4.7 seconds. The car will then go on to a prison sentence inducing 168mph. These are serious figures and place the Stinger in the hardcore performance saloon zone.

Of course, none of us want to lose our driving licence, so unless you're on an airfield or track day, then you'll really be more interested in what else you gain from the Stinger. Well, the 3.0-litre V6 turbo revs with gorgeous progression and replies instantly to the throttle. There are different drive modes you can play with, too. For instance, in Sport or Sport+ settings, the grand tourer howls purposefully. But the soundtrack is never overbearing – it's just

FACT FILE

Car reviewed:
Stinger GT-S
£40,495

Max speed: 168 mph

Engine layout:
3.3-litre six-cylinder petrol turbo

CO2 225 g/km

7 year/100,000 miles warranty

Prices: From £31,995



there in the background doing the job of stimulating your senses, without over-exciting you either.

The Stinger GT-S employs an eight-speed automatic transmission. And in another drive mode, 'Comfort', the gearbox sorts its cogs out seamlessly. Change to one of Sport settings and you can dance through the gears yourself by using the paddles on the steering wheel.

The Stinger handles incredibly well, too. And it should. The Kia is rear-wheel driven, making it a real driver's car. There's a lot of traction, even when pushing down on the throttle out of an apex. Okay, the steering feel is a little numb, but the grand tourer never makes you feel anything other than confident.

What's more, Kia has stacked the all-new Stinger with lots of equipment to keep us Brits happy. Kit includes a touchscreen hooked up to a sat-nav, and there are connectivity choices, via Bluetooth, Android Auto and Apple CarPlay. Parking sensors are thrown in too, and the audio comes courtesy of Harman/Kardon. If that's not enough, a head-up display is projected onto the windscreen, so you can look at the sat-nav's map without taking your eyes off the road. Oh, and there are vented and heated seats to keep you and your front seat passenger content.

I can't ignore the work Kia has done to ensure the Stinger is a safe car, either. The grand tourer contains aids such as lane keep assist, autonomous braking, blind spot detection and strong Brembo brakes.

Space is good in the Stinger as well. In the front, there's lots of room to get comfy, and finding a decent driving position is undemanding. In the back, there's good legroom for six-footers, and head room isn't bad either, given the sloping coupe-esque roofline. The boot, accessed via a powered hatchback is also impressive at 406 litres.

The Stinger is a well-balanced, quick, good looking and roomy vehicle that will get your pulse racing. It's certainly a proper grand tourer, and a comfortably entertaining one at that.

Words: Tim Barnes-Clay,
Motoring Journalist – tweeting @carwriteups



LAND ROVER CELEBRATES YEAR OF THE DOG

WITH Chinese New Year marking the start of the Year of the Dog today, Land Rover introduces its range of pet-friendly accessories designed to make life with canine friends that little bit more straightforward.

Land Rover now caters for the journey to and from the walk with its comprehensive pet packs. The boot can be protected from wet paws and fur with a rubber mat or liner tray, both offering waterproof protection. The mat covers the carpet on the load space floor, while the liner tray has a raised lip on three sides to cover both the floor and side wall carpets.

A full height partition can be easily fitted to not only keep pets safe and comfortable, but also prevent muddy paw prints on the passenger seats. The partition also enables owners to separate the load space into two sections.

In addition to the pet pack accessories, the Rear Height Adjust on the Land Rover Discovery is another feature which can make life easier for canine companions. The electronic air suspension lowers or raises the height of the vehicle at the touch of a button, making it easier for smaller or older dogs to climb into the load space.



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