

ChicMotoring



Vauxhall Mokka Tech Line 1.6 16v

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The Vauxhall Mokka mixes functionality with a comfortable elevated seating position.

It's the Griffin-badged company's answer to the Nissan Juke or the Skoda Yeti, and power to the small Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) is provided by three efficient engines, all equipped with fuel saving Start/Stop technology. The petrol version comprises a 1.6-litre engine or a 1.4-litre Turbo and there is a 1.7-litre CDTI diesel.

I drove the 113bhp 1.6 petrol Mokka; it has moderate pulling power, but, working your way through the five speed gearbox, it eventually spins up to a decent speed. It also provides a smooth and grippy ride.

Looks-wise the Mokka is beefy and incorporates Vauxhall's signature 'blade' on the body side, sweeping towards the rear. Its muscular disposition is reinforced by its higher ground clearance and 18" alloy wheels.

But what I really liked about the Mokka is its cleverness. Inside, the vehicle displays archetypal Vauxhall values such as versatility and user-friendly functionality, providing up to 1,372-litres of load space and 19 storage locations. The Mokka also offers the latest generation Flex-Fix bicycle carrier. The user-friendly case is fully integrated in the rear underbody, functioning like a drawer and accommodating up to three bikes at a time. Brilliant, if you're into two-wheeled outdoor family fun.

The SUV is available in front-wheel and all-wheel-drive. The 4x4 system wasn't fitted to my demo, but if I was in the market for a Mokka I'd definitely want it. As you'd expect, the extra technology ensures a high level of stability and traction, extending the car's capabilities to more rugged environments. It's always worth having for extra safety reasons alone.

Standard features that enhanced the driving experience for me included Electronic Stability Control (ESC) and Traction Control (TC), as well as Hill Start Assist (HAS). Other progressive upmarket gadgetry the Mokka brings to the table includes Advanced Adaptive Forward Lighting. This increases driving safety and includes High Beam Assist. The lights cut a way through the dark like a laser - they really are that good.

The Vauxhall Mokka range is available, priced, as my test model was, from a very reasonable £15,995 - and it's far more handsome than its unsightly rival, the Nissan Juke.

Pros 'N' Cons

- Smart ✓
- Distinct ✓
- Smooth drive ✓
- Reasonably priced ✓
- Slow off the mark ✓

Fast Facts

- Max speed: 114 mph
- 0-60 mph: 11.9 secs
- Combined mpg: 43.5
- Engine: 1598 cc 4 cylinder 16 valve petrol
- Max. power (bhp): 113 at 6000rpm
- Max. torque (lb/ft): 114 at 4000rpm
- CO2: 153 g/km
- Price: £15,995 on the road

Mercury Taxis donate over £3,340 to The Children's Hospital Charity

A summer's day of golf for the Mercury Taxi drivers was not your average staff day out. Instead the guys were raising money for an extremely worthy cause, The Children's Hospital Charity in Sheffield. The day saw 150 golfers take part in the day-long event at Dore & Totley Golf Club.

"We are delighted many local businesses and account customers of ours, plus over 15 teams of our own drivers competed. The golf club offered us outstanding hospitality, with bacon butties to start the day, followed by a round of golf and then a prize-giving, charity auction and raffle at Napoleon's Casino on Ecclesall Road, who kindly donated the use of their venue. The support of the business community and our drivers has been tremendous. As a dad myself, whose daughter has been in and out of the children's hospital over the years, I know exactly how important supporting this service is," said Mercury's General Manager Dermot Griffiths.

"This tremendous total was helped by a charity auction of sporting memorabilia, kindly donated by sporting personalities from around the region. We had a signed football, shirts, boxing gloves, snooker and darts from the many contacts Mercury has made over the years. I think we have carried most of these celebrities as passengers at some point!" said Mercury's new Marketing Manager, Peter Holmes. Mercury donated a total of over £3,340 to The Children's Hospital after a very successful day on the golf range which was presented to the hospital last month. Mercury also support other local charities such as St Luke's Hospice.



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