

All-New Renault Scenic

All eyes on you

Multi-purpose vehicle's, once about as exciting to look at as a wet carrot, are more attractive these days. You could argue they're even desirable, especially the all-new Renault Scenic.



FAST FACTS

Max speed: 114 mph

0-62 mph: 12.4 secs

Combined mpg: 72.

Engine layout: 1,600cc 4-cylinder turbo diesel

Max. power (PS): 110

CO2: 100 g/km

Price: £25,445

Inside the Scenic, digital instruments replace the conventional speedo and there's a big touchscreen infotainment unit in the middle of the dashboard. If you can operate an iPad, you'll be able to work this out quickly. It all looks very upmarket.

But it's not all about appearances. Behind the all-new Scenic's stylish body and sporty 20-inch alloy wheels, you have a car that offers a practical transport solution for a family of five. You never have to worry about where to put stuff as there are loads of oddment bins to keep coins, cans of drink and even toys. Picnic tables in the rear fold out simply and are sturdy enough to put up with kids leaning on them and eating their lunch from.

There are several trim levels being offered with the Scenic: Expression +; Dynamique Nav; Dynamique S Nav, and

Signature Nav. We drove the Dynamique S Nav which comes with equipment such as cruise control, a head-up colour display, a rear parking camera, DAB radio, cruise control and a panoramic sunroof.

On the road, the Scenic is agile, and visibility is excellent. The car stays relatively free from body roll and offers a firm ride, but not an uncomfortable one. The five-door Renault is very planted at speed, and it certainly feels safe. And so it should, having achieved the top five-star safety rating from crash test body, Euro NCAP.

The diesel is the one to go for if you can. Our test model had the 1.6-litre 110PS unit fitted to it. It gives just enough punch to make the car a good, efficient commuter. Top speed is 114mph, but in a country besieged by safety cameras, does a top speed even matter? Not really – what's more relevant is the 72.4mpg the Scenic can achieve with this engine. On

top of that, you've got low CO2 emissions of 100g/km, meaning road tax is cheap.

As well as being a car for parents who haven't given up on style yet, the all-new Scenic offers a seriously good seating set-up. One touch folding rear seats fold easily to give a flat floor. What's more, the Scenic is the only car in its class where you can activate this function from inside the load area – or by using tech via the multimedia system in the dashboard. The all-new Scenic is also class-leading with 572 litres boot space. More than enough for all the family!

Test car courtesy Pentagon, Lincoln