



TOW
TEST

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Photos by Mark Samuel

Tiguan 2.0 TDi

It's smaller than the VW Touareg and right for our times, offering a fuel-efficient 2-litre diesel engine and the promise of a fun outdoor lifestyle.



Boasting sleek styling and a manufacturer-specified towing capacity of 2.5 tonnes, the Tiguan surely deserves a second glance.

The recently launched Tiguan comes in 1.4- and 2-litre petrol or diesel engine derivatives and Volkswagen's 4-Motion four-wheel-drive system. And it is equipped with either a six-speed manual gearbox or a six-speed automatic transmission.

The model we tow tested here is the 2-litre diesel that develops 103 kW and a healthy 320 N.m of torque between the engine rev. bands of 1750 and 2500 rpm – ideal for towing!

Volkswagen quotes a

towing capacity of up to 2.5 tonnes for the Tiguan; this instils a great deal of confidence in the vehicle's ability to tow caravans as well as in its mechanical engineering.

Given the 2-litre diesel's tare weight of 1555 kg, we selected the Sprite Sprint as an appropriate combination match, and it did well. Our standard mountain pass test saw this combination climb the 200 m in 1 minute 32 seconds; that is over the 2 km distance, and again indicates

the wonderful performance of a turbo-charged diesel engine. Fact is, this engine pulls so well we felt we could have towed a heavier caravan if needed be.

On the flat road a top towing speed of 123 km/h was achieved which might be at the end of this engine's torque band. More importantly, fuel consumption while towing was only 10.8 l/100km at a steady 100 km/h, and this increased to 11.2 l/100 km in hilly country. Without a caravan in tow, consumption

was 8.4 l/100 km – not a big difference!

As a towing combination it is stable, and remarkably so when braking hard from 100 km/h, which it does in an impressive 3.37 seconds. This may not be the quickest stop we've experienced but it does stop with a solid feeling, thanks to the ABS braking system.

The drop on the towball with the Sprite attached was 35 mm, which in turn presented an ideal towball height of 430 mm with the Sprint. And there is some



▲ Plenty of packing space in this cavernous boot.



▲ Travelling comfort: you might not be sold on the rust-coloured upholstery, but this is definitely a comfy car.



▲ The rear camera proves invaluable when reversing towards your caravan for solo hitching up.

great news for caravaners - the Tiguan offers a rear-mounted video camera that provides a rather good rear view of what is behind the vehicle on a video screen mounted in the centre of the vehicle's dashboard. Importantly this screen, apart from providing GPS maps, displaying other functions, and the clear view of what is behind the vehicle, shows the top of the towball, the direction the car is reversing in relation to the lie of the land, and the caravan

coupling. It is the clearest system I have used yet.

Models in the range

The Tiguan is available in 10 derivatives based on three styles: The Trend and Fun, the Track and Field, and the Sport and Style, and options are too numerous to mention here, but expect 16" alloy wheels, Climatronic air conditioning, electric windows, electronic parking brake, multifunction display, front, side and curtain airbags and ESP as a basis. The price starts at R323 400. 📱



The towball flips down when you pull a lever in the boot. Once down you need to click it into place and make sure that it is secure.



Towing performance

Volkswagon Tiguan 2.0 TDi

Engine	2-litre turbo 4-cylinder diesel, second generation common rail injection system
Displacement	4134 cm ³
Max. power	103 kW @ 4200 rpm
Max. torque	320 N.m @ 1750 to 2 000 rpm
Fuel supply	Common rail injection
Tare	1555 kg
GVM	2240 kg

Caravan towed	Sprite Sprint
Licence weight	895 kg
GVM	1090 kg

Performance

Acceleration	
0-60 km/h	7.12 sec
0-80 km/h	12.21 sec
0-100	19.95 sec

Overtaking ability

60-80 km/h	4.28 sec
80-100 km/h	5.46 sec

Top towing speed	123 km/h
Braking (100-0 km/h)	3.37 sec
Hill climb	1 min 32.69 seconds

Speed in gears

1st	35 km/h
2nd	63 km/h
3rd	110 km/h
4th	123 km/h
5th	120 km/h
6th	120 km/h

Fuel consumption

At steady 100 km/h	10.8l/100 km
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Towball drop	35 mm
Towball height	455 mm

Price	R323 400
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