



# MAHINDRA Scorpio Pik-Up

Words by Dean Castle  
Photographs by Mark Samuel

*One of our more unusual towcars, the Scorpio is a workhorse that always attracts attention.*

**W**hen I first saw an advert for the Mahindra Scorpio Pik-Up and read the praises heaped on it by journalists, I thought they must've lost the plot.

We have so many proven vehicles in this country, what were the chances that a relatively inexpensive vehicle from India could possibly rate the reviews it was getting?

When one arrived at our offices, its keys lay at reception until word got out that it had a fold-down DVD screen on board for the pleasure of rear passengers. This was offering candy to candy-starved kids, so we took the bait.

Now a scorpion is a small creature with pincers on the front to alert predators, and a sting at the back that does the greatest damage. Similarly, the Scorpio Pik-Up has an oversized bumper (optional extra), presenting an aggressive, not-to-be-messed-with attitude, while its greatest asset is probably the load area, with a capacity of 1 725m<sup>3</sup> or 980 kg. With a big canopy, it's a multipurpose vehicle capable of transporting heavy goods or all your holiday gear. And the more I drove it, the more I liked it.

## As a towcar


It's worth remembering that the

Scorpio is very affordably priced; its styling says it's a workhorse-cum-recreational-vehicle, so speed is not a high priority. It's powered by a 2.5-litre turbo-charged diesel engine that produces 258 N.m. @ 1 800 rpm and 77 kW @ 3 800 rpm. Our fastest towing speed was 118 km/h, not particularly fast for a vehicle of this size towing a small caravan like the Gypsy Rascal (GVM 1 100 kg), but bear in mind that it offers two-wheel high-range, and four-wheel low- and high-range. These features will give you a whole lot more fun than merely travelling fast.

The Mahindra Scorpio Pik-Up is so wide that extra rearview mirrors aren't necessary. And being a Pik-Up, it has a long wheelbase that creates better straight-line towing stability.

It has a five-speed manual transmission, and although there's leaf spring suspension at the rear, it gives a smooth ride while towing. The towball is high and you'll need a drop plate to get the caravan level or nose-down. Fuel economy is not bad: 15.5 l/100 km at a steady 90 km/h average.

The Mahindra Scorpio Pik-Up comes in single-cab 2x4 and 4x4 versions as well as double-cab 2x4 and 4x4 derivatives. Optional extras include satellite navigation, leather seats, bull-bar, DVD player, MP3 player, rubberised loadbox, towball and bumper.

It's selling from R170 000 with a three year/100 000 km warranty. 



Featuring the optional DVD player and plenty of space.

## Specifications

### Mahindra Scorpio Pik-Up 2.5 Turbo

Towing Gypsy Rascal GVM 1 100 kg

#### ENGINE Diesel

Cylinders/cap 4/2 496 cm<sup>3</sup>

Power I.S.O. (kW/revs) 77@3 800

Torque (N.m./revs) 258@1 800

#### TRANSMISSION

Shift type Manual

Drive Wheels 2H, 4H, 4L

#### ACCELERATION (seconds)

0-60 km/h 12.35

0-80 km/h 14.93

0-100 km/h 21.50

#### OVERTAKING ABILITY (seconds)

60-80 km/h 8.06

80-100 km/h 11.96

#### BRAKING

100-0 km/h 3.22 sec

Towball height 540 mm

Towball height with caravan 525 mm