

Ford's family expanded with the addition of the crossover Kuga -by Liana Reiners

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Looking for a vehicle with style, technology, on-road dynamics and off-road ability? Then the latest addition to Ford's local product line-up – the Kuga AWD crossover – might just be the answer. Not only does it look good, it also promises a rewarding driving experience, practicality and comfort.

Offered in two specification levels, the Kuga is fitted with a 2,5-litre Duratec Turbo petrol engine and a so-called Durashift five-tronic automatic transmission. With a maximum power output of 147 kW at 6 000 r/min and a torque peak of 320 Nm being available from 1 600 to 4 000 r/min, it boasts a top speed of 202 km/h. In addition, the claimed combined fuel consumption figure is 10,3 litres/100 km, with CO₂ emissions rated at 244 g/km.

Key to the versatility of the Durashift five-tronic is the ability for the driver to switch between different modes. To allow maximum driver involvement, a manual mode is provided, giving full control of the five-forward gears. On the other hand, when the sport mode is engaged, it activates up- and downshifts at different shift points as appropriate. Information related to modes and gear selection is provided in the central instrument cluster display.



In developing the Kuga, Ford went to great lengths to ensure that the vehicle caters for the day-to-day requirements of customers. To this end, for example, a split tailgate with separate access to either the upper tailgate section only or both sections simultaneously ensures maximum flexibility. At the same time, second-row underseat storage, a generous cargo area and a high compartment sill ensure ease of use when loading heavy items in the car. Furthermore loose items can be tethered using four tie-down points.

Like other Ford models, much emphasis was also placed on the safety side of the Kuga. Equipped with disc brakes all-round, it gives assured braking performance at all times. All model and drive types feature ABS with electronic brakeforce distribution (EBD) and an electronic stability programme (ESP) with anti-rollover mitigation (ARM) and electronic brake assist (EBA).

The Kuga also comes well equipped with a host of high tech features such as a power start button, cruise control, Bluetooth with voice control functionality, full leather trim with six-way power driver seat, heated front seats, power windows and heated, powered door mirrors are available as standard features.

The Kuga comes with a comprehensive four-year/120 000 km warranty and a four-year/80 000 km service plan. Added peace of mind comes by way of a three-year/unlimited kilometre roadside assistance plan. Service intervals are staggered at 20 000 km.

Prices for the Kuga range:

Kuga 2.5 Turbo Trend AWD Auto	R375 000
Kuga 2.5 Turbo Titanium AWD Auto	R395 000

