

Rugged Yet Trendy The Jeep Renegade

by Ian Lynas

With the Renegade Jeep has struck a balance between ruggedness and trendy; clearly a vehicle aimed at bringing not only new customers to the brand, but also attracting the younger buyer. For the Jeep brand the Renegade name has been the best to date and last year record sales were recorded in the UK and the target is even better for 2016.



With this the 75th anniversary for Jeep it is fitting that they have a vehicle such as the Renegade and while it strays from the norm of what we have come to expect from this iconic brand whether you like its distinctive styling or not it is certainly refreshing.

During one of the wettest days of the year to date I got my first taste of the Renegade over a variety of roads in Yorkshire with a mix of country roads and motorways.

On climbing aboard I was first struck by the sturdy build, I suppose that should

come as no surprise when you consider its big brothers in the Jeep line up.

To add further to the appeal of the Renegade there are a number of edition models and my test example was a Trailhawk powered by a two litre multijet engine with a useful 170bhp linked to a nine speed automatic transmission and of course four wheel drive.

While I found the engine on the sluggish side on lift off, once on the road it was perfectly acceptable. Performance is not sports like, the journey from rest to 62mph takes 8.9 seconds with a top speed of 122mph.

However this not the sort of vehicle that you are going to drive rally style, so for most the performance will be more than adequate.

The emission figure is relatively high at 155g/km and on the combined fuel cycle the official figure quoted by the manufacturer is 47.9mpg.

Styling has echoes of earlier generation models from Jeep, tough and durable looks and the Renegade rides on 17 inch alloy wheels with mud and snow tyres, so when the going gets tough this is one vehicle which I reckon would be a good bet.

Rear parking sensors, adaptive rear brake lights, fuel tank skid plate, front fog lamps all part of the package.

Moving to the interior which has added colour highlights which add a very youthful look you have a heated steering wheel ideal for those frosty morning start ups, a

premium seven inch screen, sat nav of course and a number of other key essentials. Hill descent control and cruise control are also featured.

Like so many other manufacturers there are a number of options to personalise your very own Renegade and there were a number on the Trailhawk edition which I tried. Lane Departure Warning Plus (£200), Visibility Pack (£750) and eight way power seats (£250) and electric panoramic sunroof (£1,100).

Closer inspection of the Visibility Pack and you get HID Xenon headlights, electrochromatic rear view mirror, automatic headlight activation, rain sensing wipers and SmartBeam headlights.

In no way could I fault the package that is the Renegade Trailhawk and including the options listed the final bill - £31,395.