

# SUZUKI IGNIS ALLGRIP

By Jim Mc Cauley



The all-new Ignis from Suzuki offers crossover styling in a practical, compact vehicle built around a lighter but stronger floorpan. While the range majors on the two-wheel drive models, test choice was the range topping ALLGRIP model which comes in top SZ5 trim. Powered by the company's lively 1.2 litre petrol engine the ALLGRIP has permanent four-wheel drive and offers an all-terrain and all-weather option in the compact crossover range.

In appearance, the new Ignis has immediate appeal successfully carrying the key features of a bigger SUV into a smaller vehicle without losing any of the assertiveness of the larger vehicle. In this respect, the additional exterior features of the ALLGRIP make a significant contribution and give the car added visual impact. On the exterior, it gains wheelarch extensions with protective side mouldings, roof rails and 16-inch alloy wheels, while interior upgrades include satellite navigation, rear view camera and sliding rear seats.

Underneath, is the company's all-new platform, first seen in the recently launched Baleno saloon and the use of very high tensile steel means that although it is around 15 per cent lighter than the previous model, body rigidity is increased by around 10 per cent.

The sole power choice at present is the 1.2 litre Dualjet petrol engine, but in this range topping model is assisted by what the company calls a mild hybrid system. This compact and lightweight addition incorporates a belt driven integrated starter generator (ISG) which acts as both starter motor and electrical generator. The unit assists the 90PS engine during take off, when accelerating, and by generating electricity through regenerative braking. An additional lithium ion battery is fitted. This provides it with



the fastest initial acceleration in the model line-up with a 0-62mph time of 11.1 seconds and a potential top speed of 103mph. Driving through its 5-speed manual gearbox, the engine is a very willing performer, maintaining enthusiastic pace even with a full complement of four adults on board. Steering is light and precise which makes it very attractive in town, while the engine relaxes on the open road with negligible noise intrusion.

With the slightly raised seating position, visibility is excellent and the camera adds to the safety of reversing in restricted spaces. While the higher seats can be appreciated by older drivers, they are also of benefit to those with young children as it offers easier fitting of child seats.

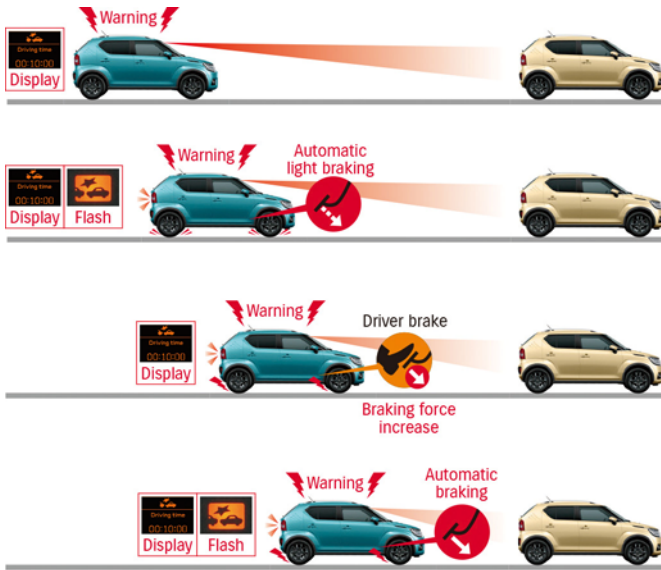


Despite the vehicle's compact dimensions, excellent design consideration provides a roomy cabin and there is clear instrumentation for the driver including an on-board computer screen as well as a central colour touch screen for infotainment controls and satellite navigation. This is mounted as a separate tablet-like unit and sits high in the dash for easy viewing and control access.

For rear seat passengers, there is easy access, and depending on luggage requirements the seats can be individually slid fore and aft through 165mm, while the backrests have a two-position recline function. The boot has a useful capacity of 267 litres, extendible to 514 litres with the rear seats folded. Underneath is an emergency puncture repair kit and compressor.

With regards to running costs, the Dualjet engine is so-called because it uses twin fuel injectors for improved fuel economy which is given as 60.1mpg on the combined cycle for this mild hybrid all-wheel drive model. With a CO2 emissions of just 106gms/km, the Ignis is in Band B for annual car tax, which is zero in the first year of ownership and just £20 per year after that. While the standard model comes well specified with a full complement of six airbags, air conditioning, DAB radio and Bluetooth connectivity, the SZ5 trim takes the equipment provision to a much higher level and adds automatic braking technology which warns the driver of a possible collision with the vehicle in front, and if he or she fails to respond, will apply the brakes automatically. Also standard on this model is cruise control, switchable start / stop, automatic LED headlights, front fog lights, rain sensing wipers, keyless entry, push button starting and automatic air conditioning.





While the range opens at £9,995, the ALLGRIP version tested in range topping SZ5 specification is listed at £14,464. All Suzuki vehicles are covered by the company's comprehensive 3-year / 60,000 mile warranty, one year AA UK and European roadside assistance and 12 years perforation cover.

(Driven February 2017)