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Renault Duster ready to take over the Compact SUV segment of India by Siddharth Bharadwaj

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Renault India has finally launched its much awaited new compact SUV, Renault Duster in India. The Duster has been offered in both diesel as well as petrol variants. The petrol powered Duster gets full hydraulic power steering whereas the diesel version has the efficient electro-hydraulic power steering. The French car maker has launched total 8 variants.

Renault Duster Petrol Price

Renault Duster RxE priceâ€“ Rs 7.19 lakh

Renault Duster RxL price â€“ Rs 8.19 lakh

Renault Duster Diesel Price

Renault Duster RxE price â€“ Rs 7.99 lakh

Renault Duster RxL 85 PS price â€“ Rs 8.99 lakh

Renault Duster RxL 85 PS Safety pack price â€“ Rs 9.99 lakh

Renault Duster RxL 110 PS price â€“ Rs 9.99 lakh

Renault Duster RxZ 110 PS price â€“ 10.99 lakh

Renault Duster RxZ 110PS option pack priceâ€“ Rs 11.29 lakh

What is more interesting is that Renault also proffers 2+2 years or 80000 km warranty on the compact SUV. However, Renault Duster is not alone in the market and will have to face a tough competition from numerous other cars like Tata Safari, Mahindra Scorpio, Premier Rio and upcoming Ford Ecosport.

Renault Duster

This five seater SUV has comfortable interiors, which come with numerous high class features like AC with rear AC vents and independent blower control, 2-DIN audio player, headlight alarm and the list goes on. On the other hand, look wise, Duster doesnâ€™t let down at all. The sharp headlights, edgy and chic headlamps, stylish roof rails etc give the car a very smart and sophisticated look. Coming to the technical specifications, the car has 2 engine options; the petrol one has 1.6 litre of engine producing peak power of 102 PS with 145 Nm of maximum torque. The diesel variant features 1.5 litre DCi engine churning out 85 PS of power and 200 Nm of torque. While, there is one more diesel engine option with the same engine but produces 110 PS of power and 248 Nm of torque. The first two engine options are coupled with five speed manual transmission while the later one is mated with six speed manual transmission. All the variants will deliver high class mileage figures- 13.24kmpl, 20.46 kmpl, 19.01kmpl respectively. All mileage figures are claimed by the company.

Tata Safari

The first compact SUV that would give Duster a hard-hitting competition in near future is the Tata

Safari SUV, which would make life a bit tough for Duster in the Indian car market. This SUV is available with a 2.2 litre of VTT DiCOR diesel engine in the market and looks quite bold and stunning on road. The engine churns out peak power of 140 BHP with 320 Nm of torque. Safari is offered in both 2WD and 4WD and both offer different mileage figures. The 2WD drive Tata Safari delivers 11-15kmpl of fuel economy and the 4WD driver Safari gives out 10.45kmpl of mileage. These figures are way too less when compared to Duster. But, Tata Safari SUV comes with good interiors. The five-seater SUV by Tata comes with leather upholstered seats, illuminated instrumental panel, power windows, airbags, ABS with EBD and reverse guide system. The price of this SUV in India ranges from Rs. 8,15,574 to Rs 13,25,052 (ex-showroom, Delhi).

Mahindra Scorpio

Another SUV that would compete with the ravishing Renault Duster is Mahindra Scorpio. Mahindra launched Scorpio a couple of years ago and since then it has won so many hearts in India. The SUV is going under a knife now and the updated version will be launched by 2014. Presently, the existing version of Scorpio is available with a powerful 2.2 litre of mHawk diesel engine and the sporty appearance help luring the consumers towards it. The car is available in 2WD and 4WD versions. The engine produces peak power of 120 BHP and maximum torque of 290 Nm. The engine is coupled with both 5 speed manual transmission and automatic gearbox. The manual gearbox variant gives out 15.4 kmpl of mileage while the automatic gearbox variant delivers 13 kmpl of mileage. The interiors of the car also fulfilled and sport every comfort feature that one would wish to see in their SUV. Mahindra Scorpio comes with automatic temperature control, 2-Din audio player, sun visor, tilt power steering and comfortable seating arrangement. The Mahindra Scorpio SUV comes with a price tag of Rs. 7,52,476 to Rs 12,63,344 (ex-showroom, Delhi).

Premier Rio

Next SUV, which could threaten Renault Duster, is Premier Rio. This compact SUV is a five-seater and is packed-out with numerous impressive features like alloy wheels, air conditioning, ABS, electrically adjustable ORVMs, alloy wheels and so on. Besides the comfy interiors, look wise as well, Premier Rio is top class. The car looks rugged and dynamic from every angle. Under the hood, the Premier Rio SUV is blessed with 1.5 litre of turbo diesel engine that produces 65 PS of power and 152 Nm of torque. The compact SUV is also available in petrol variant with an 1173cc of engine that produces 77 PS of power and 104 Nm of torque. The engines here are cleverly mated with five speed manual transmission, which help the petrol and diesel variants of the SUV deliver a good mileage of 12 and 16 km per litre respectively. With so many features, Premier has kept the price tag of Rio SUV as competitive and affordable as Rs. 5,00,000 - Rs 6,59,000 (ex-showroom, Delhi).

Ford Ecosport

The last one on the list is Ford EcoSport. Ford India is planning to launch its compact SUV, Ford EcoSport in next couple of months and this would certainly give a tough competition to Renault Duster. Same as Duster, EcoSport will also be launched in both diesel and petrol variants. The petrol version of EcoSport will feature 1.0 litre of EcoBoost engine producing 120 PS of power and 170 Nm of torque. While the diesel variant features 1.5 litre of TDCi engine churning out peak power of 91 BHP with 204 Nm. There is another variant of EcoSport with 1.0 litre of EcoBoost engine. Its major highlighting feature would be the dual clutch 6 speed automatic transmission. The other two variants will be coupled with five speed manual transmission. The mileage figures of Ford EcoSport are also expected to be impressive. The petrol variant will deliver 14 to 19 kmpl of fuel economy whereas the diesel variant of EcoSport will deliver 16-21 kmpl of mileage. The price of Ford EcoSport is expected to begin with Rs. 81,00,000.

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Keep yourself updated for more details on a Tata Safari and a Mahindra Scorpio at a Carkhabri.com.

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