



Jimny is a brilliant vehicle for city use and for extreme off-road driving. It's VERY light on fuel, small in size making it very easy to park and to conquer rough terrain as the Jimny would fit through gaps, like trees, easily where bigger 4X4's cannot go. On the safety side the Jimny did very well in the Euro NCAP crash test. Another very positive factor is its highly impressive reliability record for not breaking down or giving problems. It's also cheap to insure and tax while you drive it in the UK and back in SA you'll feel safe in it as they won't hijack or steal a Jimny due to its conspicuous appearance.

Suzuki JIMNY

The Jimny is the successor of the legendary Suzuki SJ / Samurai and while it still retained its predecessor's incredible off-road capabilities and charming character, the Jimny has been made much more comfortable, powerful, luxurious and upmarket. They are still very cheap as their prices start at £1000! Most important of all why I like the Jimny so much is that it "under promises and over delivers". The SA motoring magazines cannot stop raving about the Jimny, which was only launched in SA in 2008. It's one of those vehicles where the sayings "don't judge a book by its cover" really applies. The



While the Jimny retained the good, tough old-school 4WD layout consisting of solid axles, low range gearbox and a ladder frame chassis, it also gained useful features like ABS brakes, airbags, electric



windows and power steering as standard equipment on 90% of its model line up. The proven 1300cc engine from the Samurai has been given a power boost by adding fuel injection and 16 valves.

The Jimny is not the ideal long distance cruiser however. Some find the ride a bit bumpy. So should you need a compact 4X4 for long distance driving, have a look at the equally brilliant Suzuki Grand Vitara (second generation) instead, as the

prices are quite similar. The Grand Vitara is bigger, more comfortable and powerful, but does not have the same character as the Jimny. The Jimny is also slightly more capable off-road due to its lower weight, solid front axle and smaller dimensions.

Two Jimny body styles are available, the 3 door hard top SW and the convertible. Both are four seaters only, and unlike the old SJ / Samurai you can actually accommodate two adults in the rear with some comfort. If you fold up the rear seats the Jimny has quite a spacious luggage compartment.

-The hardtop SW is probably the more practical version of the Jimny. If you're not bothered with a convertible, get yourself a SW.

-The convertible has two separate roofs, the front section which is quick and easy to retract like a foldable sunroof and the rear section which can be undone by clips and is easy to remove and store behind the rear seats. The cabrio would also be the most valuable in SA, as it would offer a great driving experience with the roof down! A removable hard top is available.

The first generation Jimny's had a 1300cc G13BB engine that produced 59KW and gave it a top speed of 140km/h.

The later hard top-only Jimny's (2005 and later) gained VVT (variable valve timing) in its upgraded M13A engine which upped the top speed to 145km/h, although it'll indicate 150km/h on the clock.

(ALL cars show an increased speedometer reading from the speed that the car

actually travels at) The 0-100 km/h sprint is 14 sec. for the 59KW version and 13.7sec. for the 64KW version, but both acceleration times are faster than many small hatchbacks anyway. This is accomplished by a light weight body and short gear ratios, making it very nippy in traffic. An automatic is also available for those who need it.

Should you want to add some more horsepower to its 1300cc engine, it can be done quite cheaply with an engine chip upgrade and a performance air filter.



Abbildung zeigt Sonderausstattung



Possible modifications

-The very first step would be to replace those dread full, useless-in-the-mud "highway tyres" with a set of all-terrain or mud-terrain tyres when the original tyres are worn. I'm not talking about those huge, tractor tyres, but a size similar to what the Jimny has, just a more "aggressive" tread patten. (see the picture of the silver Jimny)

-For around R2500-R3000 you can get yourself a big, wrap-around bull bar which make it look very aggressive. (and prevent damage in a light accident)

-If you really want to impress off-road, invest in a diff-lock. LockRight diff-locks sell for around R5000 in South Africa.

-A small suspension lift can also be a good idea.

-ABS brakes were not standard on all Jimny's, so if you really want ABS you can buy all the required components from ebay.co.uk for £100-£200 and have it fitted in SA for around R1000.

-An upgraded VVT engine and gearbox can also be bought for around £450-£600 on e-bay. Make sure you get the ECU and key set with the engine! Fitting cost in SA would be about R1500 and you should be able to sell the old engine and gearbox in SA for around R10 000, as it fits perfectly into a Samurai. The Suzuki Vitara 1.6 16valve is also a good option as its much cheaper (+-£300 for a complete conversion "kit") and offer even more power at 71KW.

it's dull. You have to add your own toppings like pepperoni (mud terrain tyres), mushrooms (good sound system), extra cheese (more powerful engine), jalapeno peppers (a diff-lock) and garlic (a bull bar) for example.

