

Test driven: The new Kia Picanto X-Line

 By [Naresh Maharaj](#)

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In the market for a small car with an adventurous focus and distinctive crossover styling? Look no further than the all-new Kia Picanto X-Line, with all its bespoke detailing and high-tech features. An ideal companion to take you to your destination. Just three years after its initial invitation to South Africa to get in, the evergreen Kia Picanto has undergone a subtle mid-life refresh as the brand embarks on an exciting journey.



“The Picanto is a mainstay in the Kia product-line up and has for many years been recognised by industry experts and members of the press alike as one of the best cars you can buy in the entry-level A-segment,” says Stephen Crosse, sales director at Kia South Africa.

“The introduction of the new X-Line derivative sees Picanto gain an adventurous spirit perfect for those who believe in seizing the day and sharing experiences beyond their daily lives. It’s the perfect car for here, there and anywhere,” says Crosse.

Tiger nose

Never mind the ‘eye of the tiger’. The new Picanto X-Line features a series of design details that make it a real stand out. At the front, a redesigned radiator grille – a new interpretation of Kia’s well-known ‘tiger nose’ – and aggressive front bumper gives the X-Line a sporty stance, perfectly detailed by its eye-catching LED headlights. At the rear, a bespoke and completely redesigned rear bumper completes the picture, also with full LED rear lights ensuring it looks the part from all angles. And a sunroof is available on special order.



Added features

The Picanto X-Line comes standard with all the creature comforts you can think of, making the drive a real pleasurable one. Replacing the Smart derivative in the Picanto range, X-Line features a vast array of specification and features, including two-tone artificial leather upholstery and a new 8-inch colour touchscreen infotainment system, allowing for the safety and convenience of screen mirroring services such as Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. The system also incorporates a reverse camera with dynamic guidelines.



Feature highlights across the Start range include power steering, an adjustable steering column, manual air-conditioning,

as well as a radio with RDS and MP3 capability, Aux and USB connector jacks, Bluetooth connectivity and two speakers, to name but a few. The Picanto Start retains its 13-inch steel wheels with stylish wheel covers.

The Picanto Style now has new alloy wheels that add to its value proposition which already includes automatic headlamps, electric folding mirrors, leather-wrapped steering wheel and gearshift, to name but a few.

Very fuel efficient

Kia's well-loved 1.0 MPI and 1.25 MPI engines remain on duty in the Picanto range, with the new X-Line derivative only offered with the 1.25-litre engine. The fuel-efficient 1.0 MPI three-cylinder engine produces 49 kW at 5,500 r/min and 96Nm torque, while the four-cylinder 1.25-litre engine develops 61 kW of power and 122 Nm of torque. You will have a choice between a 5-speed manual or 4-speed automatic transmission.

Small but safe

The Picanto remains the safest A-segment vehicle Kia has ever built, with 44% of its body shell cast in Advanced High-strength Steel (AHSS). This super-strong steel has been used specifically to reinforce the Picanto's floor pan, roof rails, A- and B-pillars and engine bay.

Time to go there

The Kia Picanto has always been ahead of the pack with its amazing looks and incredible build quality. With its crossover styling, high-tech features and 'Go There' attitude, the new X-Line brings a fresh spirit of adventure to the compact segment with a more than comfortable drive. You will be spoilt for choice with many derivatives to choose from.

ABOUT NARESH MAHARAJ

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