

It's roomier. It's Toyota's all-new compact MPV Rumion

 By [Naresh Maharaj](#)

22 Nov 2021

Before I tell you about the Rumion, I have to take you back to the Avanza. Remember that? It served as Mzansi's first value for money multi-seater vehicle. The Avanza had compact dimensions, a simple fuel-efficient engine line-up and seven-seat carrying capacity and very quickly favour with Mzansi for both business and leisure use. Now after two generations, the trusted Avanza makes way for the Rumion, which brings with it many improvements that cater to the evolving needs of customers in the smaller MPV segment.



Image credit: Naresh Maharaj

'Compact' is the word!

The newcomer keeps the same product concept, compact dimensions, a four-cylinder petrol engine, seven-seater layout and good ground clearance. A noteworthy change is the switch to a front-wheel-drive layout - which brings with it improved fuel economy, better packaging and reduced mechanical componentry.

The front design employs a trapezoidal radiator grille, with the familiar three-horizontal-slat design and centrally-mounted Toyota ellipse. These are flanked by large tapered headlamps with a large lower apron, which houses stylised air vents and fog lamp surrounds.



Image credit: Naresh Maharaj

A choice of five exterior colours is on offer: Mystic Pearl White, Azure Blue, Seal Grey Metallic, Autumn Blaze Red and Shadow Black Pearl.

Engine and transmission

All Toyota Rumion models employ the 1.5l K15B engine which delivers 77kW and 138Nm. Both five-speed manual and four-speed automatic transmissions are offered (grade-dependant).

The fuel consumption figure checks in at 6.2 l/100km (a slight improvement over the 1.5 Avanza) for both transmission types. CO2 emissions register as 146 and 147g/km, while top speed is quoted as 175 and 170km/h km, for the manual and auto respectively.

Grade me!

The Toyota Rumion retains the existing three-grade line-up; S, SX and TX. The S-grade model is aimed at customers requiring pure functional use at a low price point, the SX offers a balance between affordability and comfort, while the TX grade is aimed at the leisure buyer requiring enhanced comfort and convenience.

The S-grade features hard-wearing black exterior mirrors and radiator grille, colour-coded bumpers and high-mounted LED brake light. The interior is finished in durable textile trim with a three-spoke urethane steering wheel, and 60/40 folding second-row seating. A unique feature of the cabin are the ventilated cup holders up front (allowing beverages to retain cold or heat). A 12-volt power outlet (front), electric windows, tilt-adjustable steering column and air-conditioner are also provided.

The mid-tier SX adds colour-coded door handles, colour-coded retractable exterior mirrors with power adjustment, chrome treatment for the radiator grille and a rear-window wiper. Remote central locking, a rear-window demister, additional rear 12-volt power outlet, steering switches, park distance control (PDC) and rear air-conditioner amplify the convenience factor.

SX and TX models also boast a double-din audio system with Bluetooth, USB and Aux interfaces playing through four speakers. Toyota Connect is available across the range (even on the S-grade sold without audio) which offers telematics services, Wi-Fi hotspot (including complimentary 15Gb data) and vehicle health status. The above can be accessed via the MyToyota App on any smartphone.

The top-spec TX model offers customers a comprehensive specification level, aimed at the family buyer. An upgrade to keyless entry with push start, chrome touchscreen variety, which brings with it a reverse camera and Apple CarPlay/Android Auto functionality, while the speaker tally is increased to six. A wood-trim finish on the instrument panel adds an air of luxury.



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Model line-up and pricing

5 TX MT- R301,600

- Rumion 1.5 TX AT - R317,200

Peace of mind:

A four-services/60,000km service plan is standard on all Rumion models, with service intervals pegged at 12-months/15,000 km. A three-year/100,000km warranty also forms part of the offering. Customers can also purchase additional service and warranty plan extensions from their nearest Toyota dealer with an impressive 220 outlets nationwide.

ABOUT NARESH MAHARAJ

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