



2006

COMPLETE DINGHY ROUNDUP

MotorHome Magazine's annual compilation of the newest cars, trucks and SUVs suitable for flat towing

SUZUKI GRAND VITARA



THE SUZUKI GRAND VITARA HAS BEEN REDESIGNED FROM THE GROUND, UP: NEW UNIBODY CHASSIS WITH BUILT-IN LADDER FRAME; NEW 103.9-INCH WHEELBASE, NEW 185-HP, 2.7-L 24-VALVE DOHC V-6 — AND NEW LINES, INSIDE AND OUT. THE DRAMATICALLY RESTYLED 4-DOOR ALSO SPORTS SIX AIR BAGS, AND A FULL-TIME FOUR-MODE 4WD SYSTEM (ONE OF TWO 4WD OPTIONS AVAILABLE) THAT PREPARES THE GRAND VITARA FOR FOUR-WHEELS-DOWN TOWING IN A SNAP.



JUST ONE OF THE THINGS
YOU MAY NO LONGER NEED.



With an impressive list of upscale amenities and innovative design features, the all-new Itasca Ellipse™ will have you spending a lot less time at home. There's the innovative breakfast bar in the 36LD. A dining room set and floor-mounted entertainment center comparable to those found in your home in the 40FD. Higher ceilings throughout give the Ellipse an airy openness while the well-positioned storage areas make getting at your belongings about the most difficult chore you'll encounter.

For a brochure and dealer nearest you, call **1-800-643-4892** or visit winnebagoind.com.

©2005 Winnebago Industries, Inc.



COMPLETE DINGHY ROUNDUP

Once again, we are pleased to present the latest edition of *MotorHome Magazine's* annual Dinghy Towing Guide — a roundup of most current-model passenger cars, trucks, vans and SUVs that are approved by their respective manufacturers to be flat-towed with all wheels rolling for a reasonable distance (at least 200 miles) at a reasonable speed (at least 55 MPH).

Where applicable, the chart also lists any special equipment, procedures or restrictions imposed by the manufacturer.

As in most previous years, certain of the more popular dinghy vehicles are notably absent from these charts. In some cases, this omission isn't due to any mechanical trait of the vehicle itself, but rather to corporate legal concerns, minimum



SATURN VUE

ALTHOUGH THE VUE BENEFITS FROM SUBSTANTIAL RESTYLING FOR 2006, ONE THING THAT HASN'T CHANGED IS THE SUV'S USE OF DENT-RESISTANT POLYMER BODYSIDE PANELS, MAKING IT A POPULAR CHOICE FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN. FLAT-TOWABLE IN 4- OR 5-SPEED AUTOMATIC OR 5-SPEED MANUAL MODES (ALL WITH OD), A 143-HP, 2.2-L INLINE 4-CYLINDER IS STANDARD; A 250-HP, 3.5-L V-6, PREVIOUSLY USED IN THE RED LINE MODEL, IS NOW OFFERED ACROSS THE BOARD.

CHEVROLET HHR

CONTINUING THE "RETRO LOOK" INTRODUCED LAST YEAR WITH THE SSR, THE HHR SPORTS A SIMILAR STYLE — BUT WITH THE ROADSTER'S TRUCK BED ENCLOSED. ONE OF 11 CHEVY TRUCKS AND SUVs CONFIRMED FLAT-TOWABLE, THE ALL-NEW HHR IS AVAILABLE WITH A 143-HP, 2.2-L (STOCK) OR OPTIONAL 172-HP 2.4-L; BOTH ARE INLINE FOURS. LIKE THE COBALT SEDAN WITH WHICH IT SHARES ITS PLATFORM, THE HHR IS FLAT-TOWABLE WITH 4-SPEED AUTOMATIC OR 5-SPEED MANUAL.



SUZUKI XL-7



AS ITS NAME SIGNIFIES, SUZUKI'S BIGGEST SUV HAS THE ABILITY TO CARRY SEVEN PEOPLE (WITH OPTIONAL THIRD REAR SEAT), MAKING IT A POPULAR CHOICE FOR RVERS WHO NEED THE EXTRA ROOM. SPORTING SLIGHTLY REFINED STYLING, THE XL-7 IS POWERED BY A 2.7-L, 185-HP V-6 AND 5-SPEED AUTOMATIC, WITH ABS NOW STANDARD ACROSS ALL MODELS. TWO MODELS ARE OFFERED, IN TWO DRIVE CONFIGURATIONS; ONLY 4 × 4 MODELS ARE FLAT-TOWABLE.

COMPLETE DINGHY ROUNDUP

ground-clearance standards, or uncertainty about how the installation of an aftermarket tow bar and/or baseplate will affect the vehicle's structural integrity and crashworthiness. As a matter of policy, some automakers simply regard all of their vehicles to be unsuitable for flat-towing.

Transmission choice is a major factor in determining a vehicle's towability, and thus is

noted wherever appropriate in this guide.

Manual transmissions are often designed so that the gears that normally provide splash lubrication continue to rotate when the vehicle is towed in NEUTRAL, thereby ensuring an adequate supply of oil to internal parts. Conversely, many automatic transmissions lack an oil pump on the output shaft. Thus, there is no lubrication whenever the engine



FORD RANGER

WITH THREE SIZES, TWO CAB STYLES, THREE ENGINE CHOICES, TWO TRANSMISSIONS, SIX TRIM LEVELS AND 2WD OR 4WD, THE RANGER (AND ITS MAZDA 2300-SERIES SIBLINGS) ALLOWS FOR A LOT OF PERSONALIZATION. MOTORHOMERS WILL REQUIRE THE 5-SPEED MANUAL GEARBOX VARIANT FOR FLAT-TOWING, BUT THAT STILL ALLOWS FOR A LOT OF CUSTOM TOUCHES ON THE OPTIONS SHEET. POWER CHOICES RANGE FROM A 2.3-L, 143-HP 4-CYLINDER TO A 4.0-L, 207-HP V-6 DELIVERING 238 LB-FT OF TORQUE.

HUMMER H3

ONCE THE POSTER VEHICLE FOR CONSPICUOUS CONSUMPTION, THE HUMMER CAME IN A DOWNSIZED VERSION IN 2004 — AND FOR 2006,

IT'S BEEN RESCALED

AGAIN. THE ALL-NEW H3 SUV IS POWERED BY A 3.5-L, 220-HP INLINE 5-CYLINDER, MATED TO A 5-SPEED MANUAL (STANDARD)

OR OPTIONAL 4-SPEED AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION — THE FIRST HUMMER TO OFFER A CHOICE — AND BOTH VERSIONS

OF THIS 4-DOOR/5-PASSENGER LUXURY SUV ARE FLAT-TOWABLE.



JEEP COMMANDER

TAKING A PROVEN IDEA TO NEW HEIGHTS, THE NEW COMMANDER IS BUILT ON THE SAME PLATFORM AS THE VENERABLE GRAND CHEROKEE, ALTHOUGH IT'S SLIGHTLY LONGER AND DRAMATICALLY TALLER (BY FOUR INCHES). THE REAL DIFFERENCE, HOWEVER, IS INSIDE — IT'S THE FIRST JEEP TO BOAST A THIRD ROW OF SEATS. UNDER THE HOOD, AVAILABLE POWERPLANTS RANGE FROM A 3.7-L V-6 TO THE POTENT 5.7-L HEMI V-8. CHOICES ALSO INCLUDE THREE FULL-TIME 4WD SYSTEMS.

COMPLETE DINGHY ROUNDUP

isn't running. Generally, the only way to safely tow these vehicles is on a dolly, or by installing an external lube pump or driveshaft disconnect.

While every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this guide, automakers have been known to make changes prior to a product introduction.

*It is your responsibility to verify the suitability of any vehicle before buying or attempting to tow it — and that requires more than querying the dealership's salesperson. The ultimate determination of that suitability will be found in the owner's manual — ask to read it *before* you sign on the dotted line.*

ISUZU I-350

SPORT TRUCKS WERE ONCE THE SOLE DOMAIN OF DOMESTIC MANUFACTURERS; NOW, EVEN ISUZU IS BRINGING A PAIR OF COMPACT HAULERS TO MARKET (ALTHOUGH THEY DO SHARE CHEVROLET UNDERPINNINGS). THE I-350 IS THE LARGER OF THE TWO, A CREW CAB STRETCHING 207 INCHES. POWER CHOICE IS LIMITED TO A 3.5-L, 220-HP INLINE 5-CYLINDER MATED TO A 4-SPEED AUTOMATIC WITH OVERDRIVE; INSTA-TRAC 4WD IS LIKEWISE STANDARD.



HYUNDAI SONATA

EXPANDING ON A POPULAR IDEA, THE REDESIGNED-FOR-2006 HYUNDAI SONATA IS LONGER (188.9 INCHES) AND WIDER (72 INCHES) THAN ITS PREDECESSOR.

OFFERING UP A MORE CONTEMPORARY PROFILE, THE 4-DOOR IS AVAILABLE IN THREE TRIM LEVELS, WITH A 2.4-L, 162-HP 4-CYLINDER (STOCK) OR 3.3-L, 235-HP V-6; BOTH EARNED AN ULTRA LOW EMISSIONS VEHICLE RATING. ONLY MODELS WITH THE 5-SPEED

MANUAL GEARBOX AND 4-CYLINDER ARE RATED FOR FLAT-TOWING.



SCION xA

WHEN A COACH-AND-DINGHY COMBO IS PROPERLY SET UP AND CORRECTLY WEIGHTED, IT'S COMMON TO HEAR THE REFRAIN "I HARDLY KNEW IT WAS BACK THERE." THAT HOLDS TRUE ESPECIALLY FOR THE SCION xA; AT JUST 2,340 POUNDS, IT'S THE SECOND-LIGHTEST CAR RATIFIED FOR FLAT-TOWING (WITH MANUAL TRANSMISSION). POWERED BY A 108-HP LOW EMISSIONS 4-CYLINDER, THIS 4-DOOR HATCHBACK IS ALSO ONE OF THE LEAST-EXPENSIVE DINGHIES — YET STILL OFFERS ABS AND SUCH NICETIES AS STEERING WHEEL-MOUNTED STEREO CONTROLS.



This guide addresses only 2006 vehicles. Guides for earlier model years are available online at motorhomemagazine.com, or can be ordered as reprints by calling (805) 667-4341.

COMPLETE DINGHY ROUNDUP

Passenger Cars

Model	Base Curb Weight	Speed/Distance Limits	Towable with Manual Trans.	Towable with Auto. Trans.	Mileage City/Hwy.	Approx. Retail Price Range
Chevrolet						
Cobalt Sedan/Coupe	2,780	65 MPH/None	Yes	Yes	23/29	\$14,200 - \$22,000
Malibu/Malibu Maxx	3,175	65 MPH/None	N/A	Yes	24/35	\$19,800 - \$25,200
Chrysler/Dodge						
Neon ⁽¹⁾	2,581	None	Yes	No	27/33	\$13,800 - \$20,700
PT Cruiser	3,075	None	Yes	No	21/29	\$14,000 - \$28,500
Sebring/Stratus Coupe	3,135	None	Yes	No	21/28	\$20,900 - \$31,760
<i>⁽¹⁾ 2005 Model.</i>						
Ford						
Focus	2,605	None	Yes	No	26/35	\$14,000 - \$19,000
Hyundai						
Accent	2,355	None	Yes	No	29/33	\$10,000 - \$12,000
Elantra	2,635	None	Yes	No	27/34	\$13,600 - \$15,500
Sonata	3,255	None	Yes	No	24/34	\$17,900 - \$22,900
Tiburon	2,940	None	Yes	No	24/30	\$16,300 - \$20,300
Infiniti						
G35 Sport Sedan	3,470	60 MPH/500 MI ⁽¹⁾	Yes	No	18/25	\$31,000 - \$33,300
G35 Sport Coupe	3,415	60 MPH/500 MI ⁽¹⁾	Yes	No	18/26	\$33,000 - \$33,700
<i>⁽¹⁾ Idle engine in Neutral for several minutes every 500 miles.</i>						
Nissan						
350Z	3,215	60 MPH/500 MI ⁽¹⁾	Yes	No	20/26	\$27,000 - \$39,700
Altima	3,000	60 MPH/500 MI ⁽¹⁾	Yes	No	23/29	\$17,700 - \$29,700
Maxima	3,450	60 MPH/500 MI ⁽¹⁾	Yes	No	20/29	\$27,800 - \$30,500
Sentra	2,515	60 MPH/500 MI ⁽¹⁾	Yes	No	28/35	\$13,000 - \$18,200
<i>⁽¹⁾ Idle engine in Neutral for several minutes every 500 miles.</i>						
Pontiac						
G6	3,380	65 MPH/None	Yes	Yes	23/32	\$21,300 - \$30,000
Vibe	2,700	None	Yes	No	29/36	\$17,700 - \$21,000
Saturn						
ION Quad Coupe	NA	NA	Yes	Yes	NA	\$13,490 - \$19,990
ION Sedan	2,690	65 MPH/None	Yes	Yes	26/35	\$12,000 - \$21,500

COMPLETE DINGHY ROUNDUP

Model	Base Curb Weight	Speed/Distance Limits	Towable with Manual Trans.	Towable with Auto. Trans.	Mileage City/Hwy.	Approx. Retail Price Range
Scion						
xA	2,340	55/200 ⁽¹⁾	Yes	No	32/38	\$12,700
xB	2,395	55/200 ⁽¹⁾	Yes	No	31/35	\$13,900
tC	2,905	55/200 ⁽¹⁾	Yes	No	22/29	\$16,200

⁽¹⁾ Idle engine for three minutes every 200 miles.

Subaru						
Impreza 2.5i Sedan/ Sport Wagon/ Outback Sport	3,016	None	Yes	No	22/29	\$18,200 - \$32,500
Legacy Sedan/Wagon	3,200 ⁽¹⁾	None	Yes	No	23/28	\$19,200 - \$33,700

⁽¹⁾ 2005 Model.

Suzuki						
Aerio S/GS Sedan/Wagon	2,660	55 MPH/200 MI	Yes	No	25/31	\$14,000 - \$17,800

Toyota						
Camry	3,110	None	Yes	No	24/33	\$18,400 - \$25,800
Camry Solara	3,175	None	Yes	No	21/29	\$19,400 - \$29,800
Corolla	2,505	None	Yes	No	32/40	\$13,800 - \$17,600
Corolla Matrix	2,680	None	Yes	No	30/35	\$14,900 - \$18,900
Echo	2,035	None	Yes	No	35/42	\$10,400 - \$14,800

Trucks/SUVs

Model	Base Curb Weight	Speed/Distance Limits	Towable with Manual Trans.	Towable with Auto. Trans.	Mileage City/Hwy.	Approx. Retail Price Range
Chevrolet/GMC						
Avalanche 1500 4WD	5,678	None	N/A	Yes	13/17	\$37,000
Avalanche 2500 4WD	6,642	None	N/A	Yes	NR	\$38,400
Colorado/ Canyon 4WD	3,656	None	Yes	Yes	18/25	\$19,100 - \$24,900
HHR	3,155	None	Yes	Yes	22/27	\$15,400 - \$16,400
Silverado/ Sierra 1500 4WD	4,508	None	Yes	Yes	15/18	\$21,400 - \$39,500
Silverado/ Sierra 2500 4WD	5,398	None	Yes	Yes	NR	\$28,900 - \$40,300
Suburban/ Yukon XL 1500 4WD	5,219	None	N/A	Yes	13/17	\$41,600

COMPLETE DINGHY ROUNDUP

Model	Base Curb Weight	Speed/Distance Limits	Towable with Manual Trans.	Towable with Auto. Trans.	Mileage City/Hwy.	Approx. Retail Price Range
Suburban/ Yukon XL 2500 4WD	5,796	None	N/A	Yes	NR	\$42,800
Tahoe/Yukon 4WD	5,050	None	N/A	Yes	14/18	\$39,500
TrailBlazer/ Envoy 4WD	4,594	None	N/A	Yes	15/21	\$28,900 - \$31,400
TrailBlazer EXT/ Envoy XL 4WD	4,954	None	N/A	Yes	15/18	\$30,600 - \$32,800
Dodge						
Dakota 4WD	4,450	None	Yes	Yes	16/20	\$22,500 - \$29,000 ⁽¹⁾
Durango 4WD	5,132	None	N/A	Yes	13/18	\$30,300 - \$35,900 ⁽¹⁾
Ram 4WD	4,900	None	Yes	Yes	13/17	\$24,500 - \$30,700 ⁽¹⁾
⁽¹⁾ 2005 Model.						
Ford/Mercury/Mazda						
Escape/Mariner/ Tribute	3,176	55 MPH/None	Yes	No	24/29	\$19,995 - \$27,245
Explorer 4D 4WD	4,615	55 MPH/None	N/A	Yes ⁽²⁾	14/18	\$27,175 - \$36,585
Explorer Sport Trac 2WD ⁽⁴⁾	4,135	55 MPH/None	Yes	No	16/21	\$24,300 - \$28,800
Explorer Sport Trac 4WD ⁽⁴⁾	4,349	55 MPH/None	Yes	Yes ⁽¹⁾	11/15	\$27,100 - \$31,700
F-150 4WD	5,004	55 MPH/None	Yes ⁽³⁾	Yes ⁽³⁾	14/18	\$25,750 - \$37,300
F-250/350 SD 4WD	5,970	55 MPH/None	Yes ⁽³⁾	Yes ⁽³⁾	NR	\$23,300 - \$46,090
Ranger/B2300/2300	3,012	55 MPH/None	Yes	No	24/29	\$15,085 - \$27,305
⁽¹⁾ With dealer-installed Neutral Tow Kit (part no. 3L2J-7H332-AA).						
⁽²⁾ With dealer-installed Neutral Tow Kit (part no. 1L2J-7H332-AA).						
⁽³⁾ Manual transfer case only.						
⁽⁴⁾ 2005 Model.						
Note: Different vehicles have different restrictions and towing procedures. Contact your Ford dealer for complete details.						
Honda						
CR-V FWD/AWD	3,400	Legal/None	Yes	Yes ⁽¹⁾	23/29	\$20,400 - \$25,400
⁽¹⁾ Recirculate transmission fluid every eight towing hours.						
Hummer						
H2	6,400	None	N/A	Yes	NR	\$53,000
H2 SUT	6,400	None	N/A	Yes	NR	\$53,000
H3	4,700	None	Yes	Yes	16/20	\$28,900
Hyundai						
Tucson 2WD	3,270	Legal/None	Yes	No	21/26	\$17,500 - \$19,000

COMPLETE DINGHY ROUNDUP

Model	Base Curb Weight	Speed/Distance Limits	Towable with Manual Trans.	Towable with Auto. Trans.	Mileage City/Hwy.	Approx. Retail Price Range
Isuzu						
Ascender 5 Pass. 4WD	4,612	Legal/None	N/A	Yes	15/20	\$27,959
Ascender 7 Pass. 4WD	4,967	Legal/None	N/A	Yes	15/20	\$31,193
I-350 4WD	3,802	Legal/None	Yes	Yes	18/25	\$27,300
Jeep						
Commander 4WD ⁽¹⁾	4,783	None	N/A	Yes	17/21	\$29,300 - \$38,200
Grand Cherokee 4WD ⁽¹⁾	4,441	None	N/A	Yes	17/21	\$28,300 - \$34,600
Liberty 4WD	4,044	None	Yes	Yes	20/24	\$21,000 - \$25,300
Wrangler	3,200	None	Yes	Yes	18/21	\$18,100 - \$28,500
⁽¹⁾ With NV245 transfer case (Quadra-Trac III/Quadra-Drive II option).						
Kia						
Sorento 2WD	4,149	55 MPH/400 MI	Yes ⁽¹⁾	No	16/20	\$18,995 - \$24,200
Sorento 4WD	4,345	55 MPH/400 MI	Yes ⁽¹⁾	No	16/20	\$21,000 - \$26,100
⁽¹⁾ Idle engine for several minutes every 400 miles.						
Nissan						
Frontier 2WD	3,675	60 MPH/500 MI ⁽¹⁾	Yes	No	22/25	\$15,600 - \$18,500
Frontier 4WD	4,307	60 MPH/500 MI ⁽¹⁾	Yes	No	15/20	\$21,200 - \$24,800
Xterra 2WD	4,081	60 MPH/500 MI ⁽¹⁾	Yes	No	17/22	\$20,800 - \$23,200
Xterra 4WD	4,290	60 MPH/500 MI ⁽¹⁾	Yes	No	16/21	\$22,900 - \$25,500
⁽¹⁾ Idle engine in Neutral for several minutes every 500 miles.						
Saturn						
VUE	3,207	65 MPH/None	Yes	Yes	23/28	\$17,400 - \$23,000
Subaru						
Baja	3,610 ⁽¹⁾	None	Yes	No	21/27	\$22,200 - \$27,100
Forester 2.5X	3,090 ⁽¹⁾	None	Yes	No	22/29	\$21,800 - \$27,900
⁽¹⁾ 2005 Model.						
Suzuki						
Grand Vitara 4WD	3,582	55 MPH/NONE	Yes ⁽¹⁾	Yes ⁽²⁾	19/23	\$20,200 - \$24,400
XL-7 4WD	3,759	55 MPH/NONE	Yes ⁽¹⁾	Yes ⁽²⁾	17/22	\$23,200 - \$26,700
⁽¹⁾ Every 200 miles, rev engine with transfer case in Neutral, transmission in gear.						
⁽²⁾ Every 200 miles, rev engine with transfer case in Neutral, transmission in Drive.						
Toyota						
RAV4 2WD	2,897 ⁽²⁾	None	Yes	No	24/30	\$18,750
RAV4 4WD	3,119 ⁽²⁾	55 MPH/200 MI ⁽¹⁾	Yes	No	22/27	\$20,200
⁽¹⁾ Idle engine for 3 minutes every 200 miles.						
⁽²⁾ 2005 Model.						