



VW Touran 1.2 TSI

02.03.15, Geneva VW's MPV keeps in the game despite forthcoming generation

VERDICT

Overall: 6/10

A practical and comfortable MPV with excellent basic equipment. A good car to buy despite forthcoming generation

PROS

- Comfort driving
- Solid cabin
- Good basic equipment

CONS

- Little space in the boot when using the 7 seats
- Expensive to upgrade to mid specs

VW UNVEILED THE SECOND generation of Touran five years ago, but the time doesn't run for the German MPV. Thanks to the excellent comfort driving capabilities and a decent kit of accessories even incorporated in the lowest-spec this car keeps in the game.

As usual in VW, this vehicle offers a practical, smooth and quality interior. On the driver's position, everything feels on its place. The three-spoke steering wheel with backlit dials helps you to control easily the basic equipment while you are chatting with your family. The only negative part are some unclear controls in the ventilation system panel.

Except for that, the central console with some chrome highlights looks great and it is easy to deal with. Precisely in this part of the dashboard is where you find the screen display that shows the rear-view camera. Together with the parking sensors, there is

no need for an expensive other optional driving aids like park assist. The interior quality continues in the backseats of the Touran, which are roomy and comfortable.

However, in terms of versatility this car offers two faces. VW says that each seat weights 17kg, which makes them easy to move as required. When travelling with 5 passengers the car offers plenty of space, but place the last row of seats and you will realize that you can't travel long distances with 7 people. There is almost no space left in the boot and the way the backseats fold to give access to the third row leaves a lot to be desired.

When talking about the powertrain, it is worth saying that the turbocharged 1.2 petrol will be adequate for most buyers. It is a smooth and progressive engine. Quiet and easy to run. Nevertheless, when travelling loaded up you feel that 103hp are not enough to pull the extra weight. On the other hand, in the green BlueMotion

Technology form from VW this car is completed with Stop/Start and battery regeneration systems, lowering the CO2 emissions to an estimated 149 g/km.

One of the highlights of the Touran is its suspension. Incorporated for the first time in the MKV Golf generation, it makes an extraordinary job in the MPV. It features a completely new four-link independent rear suspension system and a strut-type front suspension arrangement. This set-up optimises the acoustic and dynamic properties of the vehicle and delivers a pleasant journey to the passengers.

The Touran is a good family car. It is not as roomy as its competitors, but this fact is counterposed by great driving comfort performance, high quality interior and a good bunch of accessories on the basic kit. Although the new version is about to be launched, it is a car good to buy. Jan Conesa



The Touran offers a great comfort drive in any road conditions; the interior is as good as any other VW

VW TOURAN 1.2 TSI

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| Price | £19,790 |
| Top Speed | 115mph |
| 0-62mph | 11.9 sec |
| Economy | 44.1mpg (combined) |
| CO2 | 149 g/km |
| Engine | 1197cc, 4 cylinder, petrol TSI |
| Power | 103bhp at 5000rpm |
| Torque | 129 lbs ft at 1550-4100rpm |
| Gearbox | 6-spd manual |