

## The Lexus NX 300h F-Sport



Lexus combines SUV attributes with edgy styling and superb build quality with the NX 300h F Sport which is available with an optional new-generation, Adaptive Variable Suspension.

Working in conjunction with Drive Mode Select (which adds Sport+ mode), it automatically adjusts suspension damping in all driving conditions to achieve the highest possible straight line ride comfort and high-speed stability, with less body roll and better cornering agility.

I have to admit day two into my test drive and I discovered over some challenging roads that this member of the Lexus family did rather well in the handling department. The ride is on the firm side and over some of our roads which are in need of some attention even this vehicle could not cushion driver or passengers.

What a mistake it would be to simply say that this vehicle is a hybrid crossover with SUV looks. Right at its heart is an intelligent electric all-wheel drive system that provides extra grip just when the driver needs it.

Light and compact, the clever technology also avoids the weight, packaging, emissions and fuel consumption penalties associated with larger, mechanical AWD systems.

This E-Four, the system uses an additional electric motor to drive the rear axle, providing more grip and better vehicle control on slippery surfaces. The front axle is propelled by power from the hybrid petrol engine or electric motor, or both in combination.

This system works intelligently, varying the amount of drive torque to the rear wheels in line with driving dynamics and road conditions, to secure just the right level of stability when pulling away or accelerating in low-grip conditions and operation is automatic. Yet a further bonus it saves energy and fuel as all-wheel drive is only engaged when it is needed.

Lexus has a huge focus on hybrid technology and the NX 300h F-Sport has power from two sources, a petrol engine and an electric motor.

Coming together to deliver performance, economy and low emissions (121g/km), the



2.5 litre Atkinson cycle petrol engine, the electric motor and the CVT automatic transmission.



Already noted the exterior styling and the interior is what you would expect from Lexus with plenty of room for driver and fellow travellers. The instruments bring a taste of the future with every thing simply at hand. Good luggage space is generous and practical, enough for four golf bags to be stowed sideways, rather than across the diagonal and more storage space is available under the luggage board, taking total luggage capacity to 555 litres in hybrid versions. The NX provides a variety of storage points around the cabin, including glove and

console boxes, a console tray, utility box, sunglasses hold, cup holders and door pocket holders for half-litre bottles.

What has always impressed me as regards Lexus is the sheer attention to detail and quality. Every switch and control operates like silk; quality is paramount with this brand.

The on the road price is £36,995, however my test vehicle had a number of options bringing the final figure to £40,385. The options fitted, Ultra Blue paint, adaptive variable suspension and the superb Lexus Premium Navigation.

Ian Lynas