

BMW Has Topless Appeal

There is something special about a large convertible and the latest BMW 6 Series is a perfect example. Just the sort of car to go on a grand tour of Europe.

I am afraid I had to restrict my tour to counties Armagh, Tyrone, Fermanagh and Donegal.



The convertible is a member of a family comprising in addition Coupe and Gran Coupe and all have benefited from external styling revisions which provide even more on road presence and at the same time the interiors take on a more sporting luxurious finish thanks to new trim materials, centre console surfaces and lighting, and there is a more extensive range of standard and personalisation features.

From the exterior styling to the interior the 6 Series Convertible is simply luxury

to use but a single word.

The BMW Connected Drive navigation and infotainment package is fitted to every model, while Concierge Services accessed through an embedded SIM card allow drivers to set up a bespoke supply of information and connected-car services.

You are greeted by a huge screen which serves many purposes; I found the sat nav amongst the best of any car currently available.

The standard leather dashboard with contrast stitching is an immediate clue to the enhanced quality and luxury of this BMW. A modern, stylish high-gloss black finish on the centre console around the switches for the climate control system and audio system.

This complements the iDrive system's more precise Control Display with its chromed surround, the new multi-functional instrument panel and the LED lights to illuminate the footwells, door openings and glovebox.



There are a choice of engines and my test example had the three litre 313bhp turbo diesel engine and in company with the similar capacity 320bhp petrol engine in 640i versions are now more fuel-efficient thanks to the latest EfficientDynamics features and aerodynamic improvements.

The end result CO2 emissions are as low as 139g/km on the 640d SE Coupe and every model in the range can achieve the 0-62mph sprint in 5.5 seconds.

Earlier I may have given the impression that the 640d Convertible was simply a grand cruiser, in the best traditions of BMW it has the sporting character which the brand is renowned for.

That sporting feel really shines through once behind the wheel; the suspension systems have been honed to the character of the individual models and can be further personalised through options like Dynamic Damper Control, which varies its



responses electronically according to where and how the car is being driven.

Adaptive Drive, which includes roll stabilisation; and Integral Active Steering, introduces an element of rear-wheel steer to reduce the amount of turning effort needed while enhancing agility.

While the 640d Convertible is a vehicle of generous proportions it handles like a much smaller sports car.

This BMW is quite a head turner, striking looks riding on eighteen or twenty inch alloy wheels and a choice of five new colours, Jatoba, Cashmere

Silver, Glacier Silver, Mediterranean Blue and Melbourne Red.

Alas the sun only shone for a brief period and on only one occasion did I experience open top motoring. A touch on a lever simply lowers and raises the roof.

A stunning car from BMW in every sense of the word.

Ian Lynas