

Fourth Generation SEAT Ibiza Even More Fun to Drive

SEAT brand is relatively new brand in the world of motoring. The first car to carry the badge was a 1400, a saloon used to transport Spanish government officials.

Today SEATs are sold in some 77 countries and in our market sales have continued to increase year on year and the new Ibiza is a car for the young or the young at heart.

So easy to forget that this popular car first took to the roads 30 years ago and to date worldwide sales have topped the 5 million mark.



In company with the Leon it spearheads sales for the brand in our market and with the new arrival it is unique in its market sector in that it offers three distinct body styles and prices start as low as £10,000.

The opportunity came my way to try hatchback versions with a choice of petrol and diesel engines and clearly there is a renewed interest in petrol power especially with the small capacity high power units. However in the Northern Ireland market we will probably still favour diesel.

My advice if you are considering buying a new Ibiza do take a test drive and explore a petrol version, you are in for a surprise.

For example the one litre petrol with 75PS can easily deliver 50 miles per gallon and despite its modest capacity can reach 62mph from rest in a whisker over 14 seconds. Of course if it is performance you desire, the 1.4 Eco TSI can reach 62mph in 7.6 seconds and on to a top speed of 137mph where legal to do so.

The engine line up numbers seven, five petrol and two diesels, this gives an indication that perhaps petrol is proving more popular. All of this sees an increase in efficiency as much as 32 percent.

Looking at transmissions I was able to try both a five speed and a six speed manual, I tend to favour the latter. The dual clutch DSG gearbox is also available.

With the new Ibiza much has been done to provide driver and fellow passengers with a quality cabin and one which has the focus very much on the driver.

The fourth generation model has a Leon- style dashboard and centre console, steering wheel and upholstered.

Connectivity is yet another key element of this new SEAT, linking your mobile phone is easy and opens up a whole new world. Full Link, Mirror Link, Apple Car Play and Android Auto, seamless future proof Smartphone integration, regardless of the handset.

Right across the range as standard. Touchscreen infotainment and there are added options including SEAT Sound, a 6.5 inch colour touchscreen, sat nav system and a number of options packs.



The Ibiza has always been famed for its handling and with the new model it is improved thanks to new suspension set ups and steering is precise. The new Ibiza is a fun car to drive as I discovered.

A wide choice of trim levels adds further to the appeal of the newcomer, you can select from, E, S A/C, SE, VISTA, CONNECT,FR and FR Red addition.

So what is the competition for the new SEAT? The Fiesta, Corsa and Clio as it enters a very busy and extremely popular sector of the market.

Today the small car has to offer the buyer a lot, just as much as the large car as the trend to downsize continues.

With the arrival of the new Ibiza success is assured and next year the company will offer a SUV for the first time, which will be something of a landmark.

Ian Lynas