

Karoq Another Success for Skoda

by Ian Lynas

The Kodiaq has a new baby brother, the Karoq which further enhances and strengthens the Skoda presence in the SUV market.

The new compact SUV takes over from the successful Yeti which proved to be a firm favourite in many markets including Northern Ireland.



With prices starting at £20,875 and a choice of three trim levels, SE, SE L and Edition I have been to the island of Sicily to put the new Karoq through its paces. Earlier this year I got an early taste of the new Skoda model in Sweden.

Not only do you get an excellent choice of trim levels, but a good choice in terms of power units, both petrol and diesel, two of each with power ranging from 115-150PS.

Right away I was struck by the build quality and if you have ever driven on some of the roughest roads in Europe that Sicily presents, there was not a single rattle and the well

proportioned Skoda dealt with all at ease.

The routes also included motorways and there was the opportunity to go off road, a gentle course representative of what a driver might ever experience. In my times in this role I have discovered that such vehicles never venture off road.

Looking in more depth at the range, the entry level model comes with 17 inch alloys, privacy glass, LED rear lights, dual zone climate control, front assist, pedestrian monitor and driver fatigue sensor.

Move up a step to SE L and you get quite a lot for £23,165. Wheel size goes up an inch, sat nav with a large inch screen of the touchscreen variety. Such goodies as Smartlink +, keyless entry and start/ stop.

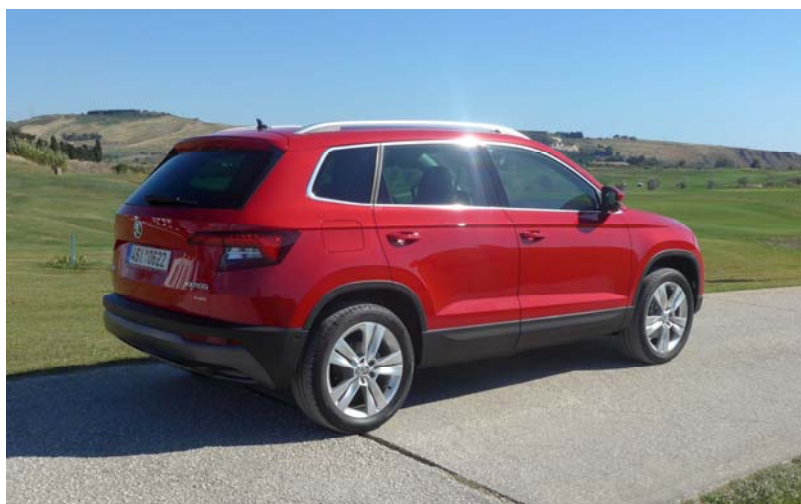
Keeping everyone safe at night full LED headlights with adaptive front system, etc.

For those challenging Tesco car parks, a rear view camera and front and rear parking sensors are part of the package.

Eye-catching chunky 19 inch alloys identify the range topper which comes with an array of standard equipment, adding a touch of luxury, a standard which is normally found on more expensive vehicles.

One surprise was the inclusion of a sunroof and it was much appreciated in the sunshine if Sicily. Leather upholstery a sign of luxury, a Columbus sat nav with a huge 9.2 inch screen, LED ambient lighting and one further nice touch, an electrically operated boot. The Edition models range from £27,110.

All variants come with a high level of safety and security equipment.



Returning to the power aspect of the new Karoq, the renowned DSG transmission is a worthwhile option, otherwise it is a standard six speed manual transmission.

My brief time on the launch exercise permitted me to explore two models, one with the trusty two litre diesel and one with the truly amazing one litre petrol. The latter you would expect to be best suited to a small hatchback; however it works richly with the Karoq.

The most powerful variant the 2.0 litre TDI 150PS is available with four wheel drive.



Right across the range fuel figures are wallet pleasing ranging from the low 50 to 60 plus mpg. Also the CO2 figures are good ranging from 117-138.

At the beginning I described the newcomer as compact, which it certainly is, yet it offers generous space for all who travel and their luggage. The SE L and Edition models feature the Varioflex seating system, optional on the SE. Should the need arise to transport large items, then you have 1,810 litres to work with.

Summing up the Karoq is much more than a worthy successor to the long serving Yeti and I for one would certainly delight in taking ownership - nice one Mr Skoda.

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