

The Practical Verso from Toyota

The compact Verso MPV joins Auris to strengthen Toyota's presence in the family/compact car market and it offers maximum choice for the buyer available in three grades, Active, Icon and Excel.

With the blend of a car-like drive and added practicality this member of the Toyota line-up is perfect as a family means of transport.



The more I drove this Toyota the more I was impressed especially with its equipment

The range consists of eight models including a five-seat entry level model, alongside seven-seat versions with Toyota's quick and simple Easy Flat rear seat folding system.

With this system you can transform the load carrying capacity of the Verso.

The Entry model uses a 1.6 Valvematic petrol engine with a six-speed manual transmission. However for our market in Northern Ireland I suspect that the diesel engine will be the number one choice.

Even the entry level model features front fog lights, air conditioning, electric front windows, Hill-start Assist Control and on the seven-seat version, the already noted Easy Flat folding system for the rear seats.

Icon benefits from a more extensive range of features with the addition of cruise control, a DAB digital tuner, rear privacy glass and a folding function on the electrically adjustable door mirrors. Icon models also gain new two-tone, machine-finished 16-inch alloy wheels.

The Excel models come with new-design 17-inch alloy wheels and a raft of premium features, including new leather seat bolsters, Smart Entry and Start, roof rails and automatic headlights and windscreen wipers.

New styling aligns it closely with the stronger design language displayed by the new Auris. With striking front treatment where the Toyota family design elements are evident in the keen-edged headlamp units, the narrow, full-width upper grille, and the larger trapezoidal lower grille.

New door mirrors and new-design wheels are also among the more than 300 detail changes that have been made to this vehicle.

Moving to the well appointed interior and the perceived quality has been raised with new trim materials and a consistent approach to the lighting and graphics used for the instruments and controls.

In addition a number of new upholstery designs are featured.

The engine line-up has been carried forward, but with engine and transmission choice adjusted within the range in line with customer preferences.

The 2.0 D-4D diesel engine has been revised for better torque delivery at low revs and quieter running and this engine's CO₂ emissions have been reduced by 10g/km to fall below 130g/km.

I spent some time with the new Verso and not only did I find it a very practical form of transport, but one with character and a good all round drive.

One of my journeys during my period took me to the North Coast and its brisk performance and fuel economy shone through.

Ian Lynas