

The New Nissan Qashqai



The pioneer of the crossover, the Nissan Qashqai moves into a second generation. Since its launch in 2007 more than 1.5 million have been sold in Europe.

The crossover is a vehicle with the key merits of a SUV but more compact, one which is attractive to a wide buying audience.

When the Qashqai arrived on the scene it was unique, however now it has some 14 competitors in a very highly competitive sector of the market where customer demands are high.

The new model is more evolution than revolution and the Nissan designers and engineers have built on the success of the first generation model to provide a vehicle of high standard.

While there are subtle design changes to the exterior including a front dynamic V shape the emphasis is very much on the interior. It is more versatile with added space and storage.

Innovative technologies are a major feature which puts the driver right at the heart of the action. There are numerous comfort, convenience and safety systems allowing the driver easy access to controls.

Thanks to a single interface you are able to perfectly tailor the functions to your needs. Each menu and display is logically shown on the new display located between the analogue speedometer and tachometer and controlled by steering wheel mounted switches.

A new TFT colour screen and a new connect sat nav system and clever use of apps is going to make this a very popular choice with those in our midst who are into technology. Add the likes of DAB, Google Send-to Car etc.

Customers who purchased the first generation model praised the versatility of the Qashqai, the good news is that with the second generation model which is longer and wider load space has been enhanced with a tailgate which now opens 150mm wider and there is a dual floor system.

I like the luggage boards which feature a wipe clean surface on one side and soft carpet in the other. Boot space has been increased by 20 litres up to 430 litres.

Powering the newcomer a mix of petrol and diesel engines with power outputs ranging from 110 to 130PS and a more powerful 163PS engine will be added in late summer.



Nissan like so many manufacturers major on economy and the CO2 figure can be as low as 99g/km and economy can be as high as 74mpg.

A new Xtronic CVT transmission is available on the 1.6 dCi which mimics traditional multi ratio gearboxes with stepped changes under hard acceleration.

Features such as Stop Start and less weight than the previous model assist in delivering improved fuel economy.

The new Qashqai scores with aerodynamics being more efficient in this respect than a Ferrari F360.

I drove the new Nissan in Spain with quite a spell in Madrid and I tried a 1.2 litre petrol version and a 1.6 litre diesel version. The small engined petrol version did surprise, much better than I had expected.

With the new Qashqai comes a high level of safety items including Front Collision Avoidance, Driver Attention Support, Traffic Sign Recognition etc.

One safety item I must highlight, Moving Object Detection. I am quite sure you have experienced this, you are parked in a supermarket, you start to reverse and someone walks behind your vehicle, this new system provides a warning-well done Nissan.

In conclusion the new Qashqai takes the crossover to new heights and there is no doubt Nissan will conquest with this vehicle.

Four grades are available, Visia starting from £17,595, Acenta from £19,145, Acenta Premium from £20,995 and the range topping Tekna from £23,145.

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