

Volkswagen Touran MPV

WhatCar? verdict



For:

The Touran has a roomy cabin and classy build. Its resale values are strong, too, and the drive strikes a fine balance between comfort and control

Against:

Newer rivals offer more versatile seating, the cheaper engines are a bit underpowered and refinement is disappointing



On the road verdict

Performance



Offered with a wide range of engines

The Touran is available with two petrol engines – a 101bhp 1.6-litre unit and a 138bhp 1.4-litre that's turbocharged and supercharged. There are 1.9-litre diesel units with 89- and 104bhp, or 2.0 litres with 138- and 168bhp. A six-speed manual gearbox is standard across the range. VW's semi-auto DSG 'box is an option on more powerful cars.

Ride and handling



Firm edge to town ride; body control is superb

The Touran's ride is a little firm at low speed, but the trade-off is fine body control that helps to prevent your passengers feeling queasy. Handling is easy and fluent and the steering impresses, feeling suitably light around town, yet weighting up reassuringly as the speed increases.

Refinement



Noisy diesel engines let the side down

The Touran's cabin is well insulated from external noises. Road noise is well suppressed, and there's not too much wind roar. The 1.6 petrol is boomy when revved and the diesels are not as refined as the class best.

In the cabin verdict

Behind the wheel



Fine driving position and clear controls

The dashboard layout is sensible and the driving position is good thanks to the two-way steering adjustment and driver's seat-height movement, but the cabin is short of styling flair.

Ownership verdict

Buying



Strong residuals; affordable running costs

The desirability of that VW badge on the nose should ensure that resale values remain strong. Both diesels better 45mpg on the combined fuel cycle, although 2006's tax changes mean they no longer enjoy an advantage for company car drivers.

Quality



Feels well built, but owners have some complaints

The Touran's interior is made from tough stuff and is well assembled to stand up to the rigours of family life. VW mechanicals traditionally cope well with high mileages. However, owners raised concerns with the exterior bodywork in the 2007 JD Power Customer Satisfaction survey.

Safety and security



Good safety kit and a five-star crash rating

Every Touran has head and side airbags for the front passengers, as well as curtain 'bags which run the length of the cabin to provide better side protection. Anti-lock brakes and electronic stability control are also a standard fit. Like all MPVs, the Touran does not provide a secure boot, although an alarm is fitted to all but the base S model.

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New and Used Cars and commercial SuperCars Part Exchange	Contract hire Finance lease Hire purchase Conditional purchase	Live vehicle tracking Timesheets Site reports Mileage	Internal and external Supagard Autoglym DiamondBrite	Dents Scatches Alloy Wheels Repairs	Pay as you go Fixed Fleet support Breakdown recovery

The controls are well laid out, though, and there are 39 separate storage areas. Forward visibility is poor, however, due to broad, intrusive windscreen pillars and a small windscreen.

Space and practicality



Seats seven at a push, or five and their luggage

The Touran has a versatile seating layout with a spacious middle row of seats that slides, folds and can be removed easily. The rearmost row is adequate for adults on short journeys, although luggage space suffers. Folded flat to the floor it creates a large boot.

Equipment



Plenty of toys on all models

The whole range is generously kitted. All models have remote central locking, air-conditioning, a CD player, alloy wheels, electric front windows and mirrors, plus seat-height and two-way steering adjustment. SE models gain cruise control and rear electric windows, while the range-topping Sport has climate control. A Park Assist system, which helps parallel park the car for you, is optional.

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