



## Volvo XC90 4x4 full review

### Performance

If performance takes precedence over running costs, the powerful 3.2 six-cylinder and 4.4-litre V8 petrols – which come with a six-speed auto box - will be up your street. Most buyers go for the D5 turbodiesel, however. It's hesitant at low revs, especially with the optional five-speed auto 'box, but it's just about strong enough and makes a lot more financial sense.

### Ride & Handling

The XC90 disguises its bulk and doesn't feel cumbersome on country roads. It's not as sharp as a Mercedes M-Class or BMW X5, however, and the steering is numb. Supple suspension gives a smooth ride on most roads. The four-wheel drive system automatically normally sends most power to the front wheels, but varies the ratio if it senses a wheel is starting to slip.

### Refinement

The XC90 does not suffer from the excessive wind and road noise that plagues some 4x4s. While there's a little more noise than with other Volvos, it remains a refined machine. Engine noise on the petrol cars is also kept to a respectable level, but the diesel is unacceptably boomy.

### Buying & Owning

The XC90 undercuts its key rivals on price. It holds on to its value well, too, especially in diesel form. The petrol models' fuel economy is frightening, though, and carbon dioxide emissions put every XC90 into a high company car tax bracket.

### Quality & Reliability

It might lack the style of an Audi Q7, but the XC90's cabin is sturdy and uses quality materials. It feels built to last and should stand up to the rigours of family life. Much is borrowed from the rest of the Volvo range, so it should be hardy.

### Safety & Security

Volvo's first 4x4 was awarded a maximum five stars in Euro NCAP's crash test thanks to twin front and side airbags, cabin-length window airbags, a strengthened roof and anti-whiplash front head restraints. Anti-lock brakes and stability control aim to prevent crashes, and excellent security kit should make the XC90 as theft-resistant as other Volvos

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## Behind The Wheel

Although the XC90's centre console is very busy, it is well ordered and fuss-free. The driver's seat is comfortable and features a good range of adjustment, while a two-way adjustable steering column makes it easy to find the right position at the helm. Visibility is good, although the raised bonnet makes placing the front corners tricky.



## Space & Practicality

The XC90's seven-seat cabin is MPV-like in its space and versatility. Space in the front two rows is plentiful, but the rear pair is only for kids. The rearmost seats fold under the floor when not in use to create a massive boot. The three middle seats also slide individually and are easy to fold flat.

## Equipment

Volvo hasn't left much off the XC90's standard equipment list. Climate control, a CD player, cruise control and alloy wheels are standard on S-spec cars, while SE and SE Lux trim add leather upholstery, a CD multichanger, plusher trim and electric folding mirrors. Executive trim adds sat-nav and a fridge to the standard kit list.

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