

Skoda heads off the beaten track with capable new Yeti 4x4

Skoda's snow joke

SKODA YETI

Skoda's Yeti offers the style and utility of a 4x4, without the compromises that this choice usually involves. Skoda says its 'crossover' will compete with the popular Ford Kuga and Honda CR-V, both highly rated by Which? Car.

Prices start at £13,750 for a turbocharged 1.2 TSI petrol version in base trim, rising to £22,120 for an Elegance-spec four-wheel drive 2.0 TDI diesel with 170bhp. Both the 1.2 and 1.8 turbo petrol engines are smooth and refined. The cheapest 110bhp

2.0 TDI diesel is also a fine drive, and it feels smoother than the more expensive 140bhp model.

The optional 4WD system is disengaged until conditions get slippery enough to demand power through the rear wheels. We found it worked seamlessly.

Where the Yeti really scores is in its flexibility. Each of its three rear seats folds forward, then tumbles further forward, or can be removed

completely, giving estate-car levels of space.



If you don't need to go off road, you can save £1,650 by avoiding the 4x4 variants, though not all engines are offered with two-wheel and four-wheel drive. The 2WD versions have better fuel economy, too.



Audi unleashes soft-top version of the popular A5

Open-top A5 breezes in

AUDI A5

The Audi A5 Cabriolet shares the same style as the hard-top A5, and is powered by the same range of engines and gearboxes. It replaces the outgoing A4 Convertible; prices start at £29,530 for a 2.0 TDI diesel A5 cabrio, rising to £42,245 for the range-topping supercharged S5 model.

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The car has a folding fabric roof that opens in 15 seconds. This could be popular with family drivers because of the relatively generous amount of boot space on offer, even when the roof is down.

The Audi faces a tougher challenge in driver appeal – an area where BMW seems to have cornered the market. On looks and performance, the A5 Cabriolet is a credible rival to the BMW 3 Series Convertible, but it may not remain popular with owners if it isn't reliable.

VERDICT Classy Cabriolet looks the part, but is considerably pricier than the regular A5 coupé and not as good to drive as BMW's 3 Series Convertible.



This month

Visit www.which.co.uk/cars to view our new video  test drives, including the perky little Fiat Abarth 500. You can also read detailed first drive reviews for dozens of new cars.

Fiat Abarth 500

If you like your city cars with a little extra pep, the Abarth 500 could be what you're looking for. It packs 135bhp into a tiny 3.55m body, but it's not cheap at £13,605. Watch our video review at www.which.co.uk/abarth500.



Ford Fiesta auto

The Fiesta is now offered with self-shifting transmission, but it's an old-school setup, unlike the automated manual boxes offered on some rivals. Currently it's only available with 1.4 petrol power from £13,795. Read the review at www.which.co.uk/fiestaauto.



Nissan GT-R

With a top speed of 194mph, the Nissan GT-R offers Ferrari-style performance for little more than the price of a BMW M3. It also has four seats, four-wheel drive and a decent-sized boot, plus a G-force meter. Find out more at www.which.co.uk/nissangtr.



Insignia Sport Tourer

The pretty Insignia is available in estate form, but don't expect much extra space – our measurements show its boot is actually smaller than the hatchback, though access is improved by the large tailgate. Go to www.which.co.uk/insigniaestate to get the lowdown.

