

VOLVO S60

OVERVIEW

The Volvo S60 is a sports saloon designed to look like a coupe and echoes today's sleek Volvo design trends introduced in the large S80 saloon and subsequently continued in the compact Volvo S40 saloon.

The S60 fits in Volvo's 'S' range of saloons between the S40 and S80 saloon, and has been one of Volvo's most popular models with over 90,000 sold around the world in 2003 – even outselling the legendary Volvo V70 estate.

Powerful turbo engines are a key feature of the S60 range, topped by the awesome T5 and S60 R, and complemented by Volvo's refined turbodiesel and Bi-Fuel models.

Available in S, Sport and SE trims, the S60 features high standard specifications, including powerful audio systems, alloy wheels and electronic climate control, plus the expected, comprehensive Volvo safety systems. These include DSTC (Dynamic Stability and Traction Control), SIPS (Side Impact Protection System), WHIPS (Whiplash protection system), Inflatable Curtain (IC), airbags and seatbelt pretensioners. Volvo's latest safety features to aid driver visibility are also available, including water repellent glass for door mirrors and side windows, and BLIS (Blind Spot Information System).

- Premium, sports saloon
- Range of powerful turbo engines (petrol and diesel) plus Bi-Fuel
- High-performance S60 R: 300bhp with AWD and Four-C active chassis
- Smart, clean Swedish design
- Modern Volvo design with Coupe-like styling – with four doors
- Öko-tex standard emissions-free interior
- High standard specifications (compared to other premium brand rivals)
- High Volvo safety standards – fully crash tested in Volvo Safety Centre
- Produced in Volvo plant in Ghent, Belgium
- S, Sport and SE models available
- Volvo's most popular model in 2003 with global sales of over 90,000

The S60 fits in Volvo's 'S' range of saloons between the compact S40 and large S80 saloon, and is one of Volvo's most popular models with over 90,000 sold in its five biggest markets around the world in 2003 – even outselling the legendary Volvo V70 estate.

Style and Desirability

Designed under Volvo's then Executive Design Director, Peter Horbury, the Volvo S60 mixes sporting design with executive levels of luxury, comfort and driving pleasure.

The sloping roofline, for example, deliberately echoes that of the Volvo C70 Coupe, but there's still headroom for three adults in the rear. The egg-crate grille, v-shaped bonnet, strong curved shoulder lines and distinctive, shapely rear lights also provide a strong visual link with the rest of the latest Volvo range.

The design of the uncluttered and logically laid-out dashboard also follows Volvo's typically smart and simple, Swedish style, and in the Volvo S60 it's angled towards the driver, reflecting the car's sporting intent.

Luxury Standard Specifications

The S60 is available with S, Sport and SE trim levels – all usually offering better standard specifications and value than other premium brand rivals.

A high level of luxury equipment is fitted as standard to every model, including Electronic Climate Control with Volvo's Air Quality System (AQS), alloy wheels, a performance audio system with CD player and at least six speakers, plus information centre, fog lights and DSTC (Dynamic Stability and Traction Control).

For added style, the Sport model gains body-coloured lower bumpers, side mouldings and rear spoiler, and larger 17in alloy wheels. Internally, sports leather/textile upholstery and aluminium trim including 'Spaceball' gear lever for manual models add a sporty environment, plus there are further specification enhancements including electric folding door mirrors with water repellent glass, cruise control, and grocery bag holder in the boot.

Upgrading to the SE specification offers electric driver's seat, sports leather upholstery, wood or aluminium trim, a high-performance audio system with 6 x CD and Dolby Pro Logic II Surround Sound with nine speakers and 4x50w amplifier.

For further style and desirability, a comprehensive range of optional items includes a luxurious Sovereign Hide soft leather interior, Bi-Xenon headlights, heated seats, integrated telephone and satellite navigation system.

Power and Performance

The Volvo S60 range has a strong emphasis on power and performance with a range of five-cylinder engines combined with a sophisticated chassis and the Volvo's Four-C active chassis available, too.

This is clearly demonstrated by no less than four turbocharged petrol engines all with high torque levels at low rpms for maximum flexibility – starting with the entry-level, 180bhp 2.0T, to the 210bhp 2.5T, the 260bhp T5 and the awesome 300bhp Volvo S60 R.

These are complemented by Volvo's acclaimed and refined 163bhp, 2.4-litre D5 turbodiesel, which uses common rail direct injection technology to combine 340Nm of mid-range pull from as low as 1750rpm, with low emissions of 166g/km and an average consumption of 44.8mpg on the official Combined fuel test cycle.

Another interesting engine choice for the range is the 2.4 litre Bi-Fuel, which underlines Volvo's commitment to alternative fuels and the environment. Built on the same production line as the rest of the range, fully crash tested and with the usual Volvo Car UK three year warranty, the Bi-Fuel is available to run on either (cheaper) LPG or CNG, with a smaller petrol tank as the reserve fuel. The Bi-Fuel engine produces lower and cleaner emissions when running on gas, and smoothly switches from either fuel source at the touch of button. Apart from fuel cost savings (especially for Companies that 'bunker' their own fuel), once registered, Bi-Fuel models are exempt from paying London's Congestion Charge.

Chassis, Ride and Handling

There are MacPherson struts with lower wishbones at the front and an independent, multi-link set-up at the rear. This sophisticated system, coupled with a standard sports chassis, exceptional torsional rigidity and one of the widest tracks in its class, ensures that the Volvo S60 offers enjoyable handling.

An optional Sports Handling Pack is also available offering larger 18in BBS split rim alloy wheels, speed dependent steering and Volvo's advanced, second generation Four-C (Continuously Controlled Chassis Concept) active chassis with a choice of two settings: Sport and Comfort.

The advanced Four-C technology continuously analyses huge amounts of information up to 500 times a second and responds instantly by adjusting each of the shock absorbers individually to suit road and driving conditions. It also interacts with the DSTC (Dynamic Stability and Traction Control) – the engine, brakes, steering and other functions – to maximise the car's response and handling. This all happens quickly and smoothly, and will step in to help control the car in an emergency situation no matter which chassis mode is currently selected.

The Four-C active performance chassis is standard on the range-topping S60 R with the extra choice of Advanced Sport as well as Sport and Comfort settings, and works in conjunction with the car's All Wheel Drive system and electronic Haldex coupling.

Safety

As you'd expect from Volvo, the S60 has a full complement of Volvo's safety features. Dual-stage front airbags, SIPS (Side Impact Protection System), WHIPS (Whiplash Protection System), IC (Inflatable Curtain) and five three-point safety belts combine to offer class-leading occupant protection.

In addition, Volvo has introduced a passenger airbag cut-off switch to enable child seats to be carried in the front of the car, and also offers integrated booster seats for the rear, plus ISOFIX mounting points.

Little wonder that the S60 achieved a four star EuroNCAP crash test rating when first tested, a maximum 100% score for side impact protection, and tops its league in the Consumers Association annual safety ratings.

More recently, to improve the driver's visibility and help avoid accidents, Volvo has introduced water repellent glass for door mirrors (standard on some models) and (laminated) side windows (optional), and its innovative BLIS (Blind Spot Information System) technology available which uses digital camera technology beneath the door mirrors to monitor and alert the driver to other vehicles around the sides of the car.

Environment

Volvo's 'clean inside and out' environmental programme reflects its continuing commitment to the environment. Its plants are some of the automotive world's cleanest factories, and 85 per cent of each car can be recycled, and every new Volvo is backed by an environmental declaration examined and verified by Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance Limited (LRQA) of London. Volvo's annual Corporate Citizenship report is available on www.volvocars.com/citizenship.

Like all Volvos, the S60's interior is free from allergy inducing emissions, and an active carbon filter ensures dust and exhaust particles do not enter the cabin, while an Air Quality System (AQS) shuts down the air input if outside air is too dirty.

All the five cylinder petrol engines in the Volvo S60 range feature Volvo's PremAir® - a special catalytic coating on the radiator which converts up to 75 per cent of the harmful ground-level ozone passing through it into pure oxygen. In addition, they already meet the stringent EU 2005 and ULEV (Ultra Low Emission Vehicle) emissions requirements.