

VOLVO XC70

OVERVIEW

The Volvo XC70 perfectly complements Volvo's XC90 by offering SUV standards of ground clearance (209mm), the extra stability and all-road ability of all-wheel drive, with a lower centre of gravity, in a Volvo estate car.

Produced in Volvo's Torslanda plant in Gothenburg, Sweden, the XC70 echoes the modern Volvo design themes introduced in the S80 and subsequently seen in the XC90 SUV and V50 Sportswagon, but asserts its own identity with its own unique, rugged styling with chunkier bumpers, body-side protection mouldings and larger door mirrors that all suit its 'cross country (XC)' role and status.

Inside, the XC70 is equally well designed with stylish, simple Scandinavian design and ergonomic dashboard, with emissions-free Öko-tex standard materials, room for five adults – with the option of two additional rear-facing seats in the load area – and the flexibility of estate car practicality for large loads.

Generous standard specifications, including leather upholstery, alloy wheels, alarm with immobiliser, and a superior audio system with an in-dash six CD autochanger and Dolby Pro Logic II Surround Sound, prove its premium status.

The engine line-up consists of two of Volvo's smooth, five-cylinder units – a choice of turbocharged petrol and diesel engines – both offering refined performance with the flexibility provided by generous low-end torque.

- Complements the XC90 in Volvo's XC ('Cross Country') range
- SUV-style ground clearance (209mm) and AWD with electronic Haldex coupling, with practicality of a Volvo estate
- Smart, modern Scandinavian design
- Öko-tex standard emissions-free interior, with versatile, flat load area
- High Volvo safety levels with SIPS, IC, WHIPS and DSTC standard, and BLIS and WRG now available
- Fully crash tested in Volvo Safety Centre
- Powerful 2.5T petrol and D5 turbodiesel engines available
- Volvo's second generation 'Four-C' active chassis now available
- Generous standard specifications, with SE and SE Lux trim levels
- Outsold the Audi Allroad in 2003

- 35,561 XC70 produced in 2003 in Volvo's Torslanda plant in Gothenburg, Sweden.
1,164 were sold in UK – 80.4 per cent diesel

When Volvo launched the original V70 XC ('Cross Country') in 1997, it was a new breed of car. Here was a vehicle that combined the luxury and dynamics of an estate car with the versatility of All Wheel Drive and the extra ground clearance that can handle rough terrain.

Volvo had developed an understanding of how people actually use their vehicles and developed a genuinely new alternative to a traditional SUV (Sports Utility Vehicle).

The 'XC' concept proved a great success and found favour with customers across the world – particularly in the US market which accounts for 49 per cent of all XC70 sales. Now known simply as the Volvo XC70, it complements the Volvo XC90 in the XC ('cross country') range.

The Volvo XC70 was never intended to rival the mud-plugging ability of dedicated off-roaders, but it's surprisingly capable and can comfortably traverse muddy fields or dirt tracks.

Design and Desirability

The styling, while based on the Volvo V70 estate, asserts its own identity with a rugged look that suits its cross country role and status. The front and rear feature chunkier bumpers, unique colour co-ordinated side mouldings with flared wheel arches. To complete the effect and to protect the bodywork on rough terrain, skid plates are fitted to the front and rear bumpers, and are complemented by bespoke alloy wheels and chunkier roof rails.

With the modern Volvo design cues of a V-shaped bonnet, and prominent, curved shoulders, the XC70 is still instantly recognisable as a Volvo. It also has the practicality of the V70's square-shaped rear and vertical tailgate to provide a spacious, well-shaped load area.

The increased ride height enhances the Volvo XC70's stance and all-road appeal. It has a ground clearance of 209mm, which is 69mm more than a Volvo V70 and comparable with many SUVs, including the XC90 which has 218mm ground clearance. Coupled with All Wheel Drive (AWD), using the latest, electronic Haldex coupling, and chunky Pirelli Scorpion STR tyres, it provides the Volvo with real all-terrain ability.

The interior of the Volvo XC70 uses classic, minimalistic Scandinavian style to provide an efficient, ergonomic dashboard, grab handle on the centre console for rough conditions, comfortable seats with unique, sailing-inspired visible stitching, and split-folding (60/40) rear seats with head restraints that fold away instead of having to be removed, to quickly and simply provide a flat loadspace. In addition, the front passenger seat folds forward to help

accommodate longer loads, and an optional rear-facing seat is available for an extra two passengers.

The rear seat also has two positions to allow flexibility to maximise load or passenger space, and can be specified with integrated child booster cushions, and to split 40/20/40, if preferred, to allow long loads to be carried between rear passengers or swap the centre section for an optional cooler or storage box.

Luxury Specifications

To reflect their higher standard specifications, the XC70 is available as SE or SE Lux.

Their high level of standard luxuries include a minimum of alloy wheels, leather upholstery, electronic climate control with Air Quality System and pollen filter, alarm and immobiliser, DSTC (Dynamic Stability and Traction Control), electric driver's seat and folding door mirrors with water repellent glass, load compensating suspension, and a high-performance audio system with six CD in-dash autochanger and Dolby Pro-Logic II with surround sound, nine speakers and 4 x 50W amplifier.

Additional items for the SE Lux include Walnut wood (or aluminium mesh, or black mesh) dashboard and door inlays, Bi-Xenon headlights with cleaning system, heated and electrically adjustable front seats.

Power and Performance

There are two five-cylinder engines to choose from for the XC70, both of which offer plenty of performance and refinement – a 210bhp, 2.5T petrol and the 163bhp D5 turbodiesel.

The 2.5T petrol engine, available with five-speed manual or Geartronic transmissions, uses a light pressure turbo to provide stirring performance – 0-62mph takes 8.1sec – with good mid-range torque of 320Nm from as low as 1500 rpm up to 4500rpm, and emissions of 244 g/km.

Strong mid-range urge and refinement are also some of the characteristics of Volvo's D5 common rail turbodiesel, which generates 163bhp, and with the standard six-speed manual achieves an average of 37.7mpg on the official Combined cycle, with emissions of 199 g/km. A five-speed Geartronic transmission is also available.

The XC70 combines its off-road abilities with on-road dynamics derived from the acclaimed Volvo V70 estate. The MacPherson strut front suspension and multi-link rear provide a cushioning ride with entertaining, failsafe handling.

Volvo's advanced, active 'Four-C' (Continuously Controlled Chassis Concept) was introduced as an option as part of the dynamic revisions for the 2005 models.

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.

Safety

As you'd expect from Volvo, the XC70 is packed with the latest safety features. Volvo's acclaimed SIPS (Side Impact Protection System) and WHIPS (Whiplash Protection System) are complemented by side airbags, twin front 'intelligent' airbags, an Inflatable Curtain (IC) that protects front and rear passengers, and three-point safety belts with pre-tensioners and head restraints for all five occupants.

More recently, to improve the driver's visibility and help prevent accidents, Volvo has introduced water repellent glass (WRG) for door mirrors and (laminated) side windows (optional), plus 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, 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 XC70'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 Volvo's five cylinder engines 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.