

Toyota Auris a born leader

By Jonathan Crouch

Car & Driving

AURIS, Toyota's latest family hatchback, set out to be a class leader in every respect.

Take safety. It's the safest car in its class, awarded a best possible five-star crash safety rating from Euro NCAP.

Auris is very different to anything Toyota has offered in this sector before, on a completely new platform designed with Europe in mind.

Designed and built in Europe, it follows on from the success enjoyed by the Verso.

It forms the vanguard of a three-pronged assault, backed up by the Avensis and Yaris.

We know going in that it's going to be as reliable as an atomic clock, supremely well built, practical and cost-effective to run.

But it's much, much more. Toyota claims a whole series of clever design features, and if these are backed up by the usual reliability, strong residual values and exemplary safety provision, it could make real inroads in the Ford Focus-dominated family hatch sector.

Engineers started with the passengers and then worked outwards, maximising occupant space with a flat passenger floor and high window s.

The all-new platform has an overall length of 4,220mm

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incorporating a 2,600mm wheelbase, so the wheelbase represents 61.6 per cent of the car's total length.

The higher the percentage, the more space is afforded to people rather than oily bits. By contrast, the Ford Focus, generally

seen as an exemplar of smart packaging in this class, has a 58.5pc wheelbase to length. Even the latest SEAT Leon manages a mere 59.7pc.

At 1,515mm high and 1,760mm wide, the Auris is one of the biggest family hatches,

although the shape does much to disguise this bulk.

There are three-door and five-door styles and five engines. The two petrol engines are a 96bhp 1.4 VVT-i and a 122bhp 1.6-litre Dual VVT-i powerplant that raises

fuel efficiency and power.

Diesel buyers get the 1.4-litre D4-D, good for 89bhp, a 2.0-litre D4-D 130 engine with 124bhp and the 2.2-litre D4-D 180 which churns out 175bhp.

Six speed manual transmissions are standard to the two

more powerful diesels but a MultiMode system with paddle shifters is an option for the 1.4-litre D4-D 90 and the 1.6-litre Dual VVT-i engines.

PRICES £12,095-£18,495.

ECONOMY: 1.6, 31.4mpg urban, 39.8mpg combined.

0% APR TYPICAL*
(MINIMUM 30% DEPOSIT)



NEW Yaris TR from £9,895[^]

The new Yaris TR with 5 Star Euro NCAP safety rating, 9 airbags, 15" alloy wheels, Toyota Easy Flat seats and 6 speaker CD/radio with MP3 disc compatibility.

Auris TR from £13,495[^]

The Auris TR with 5 star Euro NCAP safety rating, 9 airbags, 16" alloy wheels, 6 speaker CD player with MP3 disc compatibility and a leather steering wheel with audio controls, air conditioning, ABS and front fog lamps.



▶ Visit pentagonsheffield.toyota.co.uk/moreforless to arrange a test drive

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Model and specification shown Yaris TR 1.3 VVT-i 3 door manual manufacturer's list price £9,895. Auris TR 1.6 VVT-i 3 door manual manufacturer's list price £13,495. [^]Metallic Paint £350 extra. *Advertised finance offer available on Yaris TR and Auris TR when ordered, registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services, on a 3 year Hire Purchase Drive Plan with minimum customer deposit of 30% between 1st January and 31st March 2008 at participating Centres. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Terms and conditions apply. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s only. Toyota Financial Services, Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5UZ. Prices correct at time of going to press and includes VAT, delivery charge, number plates, one year's road fund licence and £50 first registration fee. Subject to availability.

Yaris 1.3 VVT-i manual Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km), Urban 39.2 (7.2), Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3), Combined 47.1 (6.0). CO2 Emissions 141 g/km. Auris 1.6 VVT-i Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km), Urban 31.4 (9.0), Extra Urban 47.9 (5.9), Combined 39.8 (7.1). CO2 Emissions 166 g/km.