



Genesis GV80



Tim Saunders is an advanced motorist and journalist. He has always been passionate about motoring and regularly reviews cars from the leading manufacturers. His Youtube channel videos have been watched more than 315,000 times. Tim aims to boost his subscribers from 300 to over 1,000.

A unique car that arouses curiosity and introduces you to new people.

Traditionally those seeking the wow factor of owning a vehicle that few others do, had to spend a small fortune on the likes of a Bentley, an Aston or similar.

There is a new contender that is causing a real stir at a fraction of the price. Enter the Genesis. Hyundai's luxury division. They've taken the lead from Toyota's Lexus range but added something that you can't quite put your finger on.

We sit in a car park at Battle and watch as passers-by of all ages stop and inspect the Genesis, digesting the emblem and the enormous chrome effect grille. One gentleman scratches his head as he appreciates the GV80. Men and women, boys and girls all take a shine to it. The youngsters particularly so, taking photos on their phones. While eating fish and chips inside it at another car park in New Milton, this time with grandma accompanying us, a man cannot take his eyes off it. He walks up to me and we have a natter through the window. "What is it then?" he enquires.

At the bottle bank a fellow recycler again asks: "What is it then? An Aston?"

Not one of the 200 cars I have driven has ever created so much interest. This is the car to get if

you want to become more popular and widen your social circle. Hats off to Hyundai because this car has something that all others do not. It's like hanging around with the most popular kid in school. That charisma and charm. And the Genesis has it in spades.

The driver's seat seems to hug you the faster you go and then releases its embrace as you slow down. The seatbelts seem to tighten and loosen in a similar way to the Bentley Flying Spur, too. The eight-speed automatic gearbox is responsive and it will hurtle from standstill to 60mph in just over seven seconds. The children seem comfortable and Henry (6) likes to sit in the third row of seats where there is a good amount of legroom.

When I open the power boot to put the third row of seats up and to clean the boot, the lid comes back down without any warning and nearly knocks my block off. This makes me particularly wary when my children are anywhere near.

"It's packed with technology," says David, the enthusiastic delivery driver, who has just retired from JLR after more than 30 years. "Do you know you can even press a button on the keyfob and drive the vehicle remotely?" He pushes the buttons but they refuse to work. Apparently it's ideal for extricating it from tight spots where the driver can't open the door. Is there really such a need for this?

When would a driver park in such a stupid fashion? Another piece of flash technology to wow the other senseless accountants and solicitors in the car park at lunch time, I suspect!

We visit Southwick and go into St James' Church where the Bible is open on Genesis and Heidi (9) questions: "Is that where the name for the car came from?" Hyundai would certainly welcome a religious following.

Or was Phil Collins more the inspiration?

Facts at a glance

- Genesis GV80 SUV
- Priced from: £56,715
- Engine: 2.5-litre petrol, 4 cylinder, 16 valve
- Power: 300bhp
- Economy: 25mpg approx
- 0 to 60mph: 7.1secs
- Top speed: 147mph



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