



Kia Sportage GT

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 325,000 times. Tim aims to boost his subscribers from 300 to over 1,000.

Hybrids are constantly improving. The Kia Sportage GT Line reinforces this fact.

I take it for a trip to Jersey where the tight country lanes and island speed limit that does not exceed 40mph provides perfect conditions to put it through its paces.

We drive to Poole to catch the Condor ferry and so are able to cruise at 70mph on the M27. All good and competent. My only criticism is that I cannot find the cruise control and even at the end of the test it escapes me. There are however, paddleshifts either side of the steering wheel for more engaging driving, if required. As we wait in the queue to board the ferry, EV mode kicks in, which means that emissions are cut to zero. I half expect the car alarm to go off during the crossing but this does not happen either on the outbound or return journey.

Arriving at St Helier EV mode continues to delight. It is necessary to use the sat nav to find our way round the island but it quickly becomes apparent that this is going to be problematic. At first attempt the system just doesn't recognise any Jersey related search. We then have to reassess our search terms to nurse the system along to try to help us. It takes us 15 minutes to

finally find the name of the hotel we are looking for. This problem rears its ugly head every time we have a new destination to find on the island but thankfully it does eventually play ball. The directions are generally reliable but little warning is given for making turnings, which causes challenges for the driver.

Other than that, the Sportage can't be faulted for its efficiency, ride comfort or quality of fittings. All occupants are happy throughout any journey and the large panoramic glass sunroof is a necessity on a hot summer's day.

Externally, it looks the part, too. I like the purposeful front, no doubt enhanced by the black finish. The boot is large enough to fit our luggage with ease and the electrically operated bootlid is easy to use. As are the power folding wing mirrors.

While driving down a particularly narrow lane, we come to an abrupt stop to wait for a mother pheasant and her chicks as they desperately try to cross the road but make a complete hash of it so we have to carefully herd them with our car. Fortunately, there's no oncoming traffic until just after this event. Immediately afterwards as we make our way round the tight bend, an oncoming taxi refuses to reverse back down the hill. I therefore have to rely on

the very useful reversing camera to slowly reverse up the hill out of his way. Once this is over and we finally manage to make our way down the hill we discover that he could very easily have reversed down into a lay-by.

Thankfully our travels around the island from St Helier to St Aubin are less eventful and I am able to park on the roadside without a problem and we are extremely grateful for the fast working air conditioning as the outside temperatures reach the high 30s..

Facts at a glance

- Top speed: 120mph
- 0 to 60mph: 7.7secs
- Power: 226bhp
- Economy: 48.7mpg



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