

Time Traveller

Ian Lamming drives the Hyundai i40 Tourer

SOME days are just like that, others not so much. After losing six car parking spaces to quicker drivers I gave up trying to go for a coffee in Barnard Castle and drove to the Lakes.

Conversely, how about this for good luck? On the last day in the company of Hyundai's sleek new i40 Tourer I was due to meet the collection driver at roughly teatime.

Sounds easy enough? Thing is, he had to leave Tilbury and drive to Glasgow then catch a train from Edinburgh to Darlington and a bus to Richmond, where he was overnighing at the Kings Head Hotel.

My journey started in the Lake District, went south to Manchester for a last look round Coronation Street before they knock it down, then headed back to Richmond to meet the driver.

Yet as I pulled up outside the Kings Head, who should be walking towards the door but the driver. Amazing or what? But then the i40 does seem to have mystical powers.

With its bold new look the big, and I do mean big, estate fools you into thinking that it is something else; possibly from Germany, with interlocking rings on the badge. It's a doppelganger moment when it flies past on the road.

Touring is a striking looking car. The old one was handsome but the new nose, lights and grille are exceptional. From the

front the estate stretches back to the horizon; it's incredibly long, which helps in the car park as you easily spot its neb sticking out of the space it was reversed into.

Interior space remains like an airport lounge with room for bodies, long loads and luggage galore – it is vast.

Yet on the road i40 feels lithe and dynamic. There can't be many big cars that are so rewarding to drive.

The ergonomics help with excellent dash and instruments, perfectly placed pedals and excellent build quality. The ride is comfortable, handling is controlled and the steering nice and sharp.

Under the bonnet is a powerful 1.7 litre diesel offering great performance and economy and the gearbox – a dual clutch sequential with auto mode, so there is no clutch pedal – is stonking and reminiscent of a certain marque, possibly from Germany, with interlock rings on the badge. Wicked.

This all combines to make the i40 simply brilliant on long journeys and the time flies by to the point where you get to your destination much quicker than you could have thought possible.

Fact File

- Hyundai i40 Tourer
- Engine: 1.7 litre turbo diesel
- Power: 141PS
- 0-62mph: 10.8 secs
- Top speed: 126mph
- Combined miles per gallon: 56.5
- Transmission: seven-speed auto
- Insurance: 16E
- CO2 g/km: 129

