

# Forceful & Frugal

**Ian Lamming** makes a frugal friend out of Range Rover's latest Evoque

**Q** UESTION? How do you get 52.2 miles per gallon out of a Range Rover Evoque?

Answer? You have 20 miles left to empty on the tank and the nearest petrol station is 18 miles away. Now that's going to be cutting it fine.

Just as well I packed my ballet shoes as I stroke the throttle of the Evoque with the force of a butterfly floating on a summer's breeze.

Lift off and free wheel where I can, carry the speed through the bends and use the stop/start in traffic.

Arriving on the forecourt of the fuel station comes as a great relief but a glance at the trip computer raises a smile. It registers a creditable 41 most of the week so the 52.2mpg is most impressive.

It's been a while since I've been at the wheel of the Evoque, not since its launch in fact, and the original would never have been able to achieve that level of economy.

The new 2.0 TD4 is forceful and frugal. There is still 180HP and 430Nm of torque, nice, but the official combined fuel figure of 55.3 is actually almost achievable on real roads.

It is impossible not to like Evoque and apart from being a great car technically and

dynamically, it is a simply brilliant piece of marketing, using every trick in the book to appeal, including shape, texture and technology.

The interior is peerless, a masterpiece of design and just plain lovely to be in. The touchscreen boasts that incredible two-way view feature. So I glance left and can only see satnav map, but the boy, who has begged to ride up front, can watch the TV or a DVD even when the Evoque is rolling down the road. How clever is that?

The other major strength over the opposition is that Evoque is the proper job. It's no soft-roader. It will get you out of any situation, cross the plains, traverse the mud, ford the deepest floods and rivers, revealing in a second its Land Rover heritage.

On the tarmac, it is an involving drive too rounding bends on rails, cruising effortlessly along the motorway, sprinting supremely through the twists and turns of country roads. It is even happy in town with its timeless designer looks.

It is happy everywhere and so am I, particularly when the fuel station rolls into sight.

## Fact File

- Range Rover Evoque HSE Dynamic Lux
- Engine: 2.0 diesel
- Power: 180HP
- 0-60mph: 8.5 secs
- Top speed: 121mph
- Combined MPG: 55.3
- Transmission: Nine speed automatic
- CO2 g/km: 134

