



A faultless friend for any journey

VOLVO

- Volvo S60 D2
- Engine: 1.6 turbo diesel
- Power: 115BHP
- 0-62mph: 10.9 secs
- Top speed: 121mph
- Combined miles per gallon: 65.7
- Transmission: six-speed manual
- CO2 g/km: 103

Data provided by
JATO Dynamics

UNDER orders, I'm told we are going on a road trip, so get a car that is comfy and make sure it is economical.

The secret destination is posh so a prestigious badge will help as well and in a flash of inspiration – it is white and hurtles by me on the A66 – there is only one car in the frame.

Volvo's coupe-like S60 remains a head-turner and the badge is associated with safety and quality in equal measure.

Not being greedy and ever conscious of pressures on the purse,

the D2 will provide the best blend of performance and economy, which it does in a magnificent manner.

The first element of the mystery tour traverses familiar territory, the A66 west. But instead of turning over the Stang it is onwards and upwards for a week-end in the Lakes.

Gravity then takes the family and the Volvo south, down the M6, in such comfort that the distance to Shrewsbury feels minimal.

The final leg runs cross-country, testing the S60's powerful motor, solid handling and tenacious grip,

particularly as we have left the good weather up north and the roads are as greasy as a student's cooker top.

Just outside Hereford lies a show house with a difference. It's a 'try before you buy' oak framed dream house courtesy of craftsmen Oakwrights and it is my next project once I sell my historic home.

It is divine in and out and the S60 fits perfectly on the gravel drive telling the sales lady that I will one day put my money where my mouth is and order one of her homes.

The long weekend over there's just a nasty blat up the M1

and A1 to look forward to and again the Volvo proves to be the car of choice eating up the miles with alacrity and leaving little time for the six year old in the back to demand "are we there yet?"

Like all Volvos long distances are dispensed with in blissful comfort that seems to shrink the country.

That diesel engine is a peach providing more than enough power to stay ahead of the game yet amazing economy. The trip reads 780 miles at the end of the foray, all on one tank of fuel with the distance to empty still reading 50 miles.

by Ian Lamming

That's astounding and equates to 60 miles per gallon.

There are few cars as accomplished on a road trip as the S60 and yet it is just as happy whizzing around the block or through town.

It really is a faultless friend for any journey you have in mind.