

Land Cruiser is king of the hill

As members of the serious 4x4 brigade continue to challenge for the unofficial "King of the Hill" or "King of all Roads" title, Toyota has just upped the stakes with the latest model in the Japanese carmaker's Land Cruiser line.

This is the eighth generation of Toyota's Land Cruiser replacing the Amazon and, says the company, the traditional body-on-frame construction makes it a "true, go anywhere 4x4," a thoroughbred off-roader which remains true to its heritage.

Powered by Toyota's first eight-cylinder diesel engine, the 4.5-litre V8 D-4D pulling 282bhp, it is paired with a six-speed auto box with sequential manual mode. Said to be one of the most advanced four-wheel drive vehicles ever produced, the Land Cruiser V8 is also full-time all-wheel drive with a new transfer unit governing torque distribution between front and rear wheels while the transfer shift system operated via a switch on the dash enables the driver to move from high ratio to low gearing on the move at up to 30mph. This flexible seven-seater Land Cruiser boasts a luxury spec in a plush cabin plus many world first technologies and it is

priced at £55,995. High spec and high value are also the maxims for the new RAV4 XT-R with Toyota hoping to see this newcomer become the most popular version of Europe's best-selling SUV. Offering customers an upgraded spec, the kit provided going beyond that of the XT4 model, the XT-R comes with total added value over the XT4 of £1,565 while costing less. The RAV4 XT-R offers a pair of engines from which to choose - the 2.0 VVT-i petrol and 2.2 D-4D diesel - and standard features include dual zone climate control, heated door mirrors, six-speaker audio system with six CD autochanger, sunroof, Bluetooth for hands-free phone operation, cruise control, rear parking sensors, 17-inch alloys and rear privacy glass.

Going on the road from £19,995, the RAV4 XT-R comes with part-time four-wheel drive and the rear-mounted spare wheel is replaced by a tyre repair kit to leave a wide-opening tailgate to gain entry to the highly accommodating boot.

Also joining the Toyota springtime saunter is the Yaris TR which comes complete with its own brand of value-for-money set-up, offering an extra £1,050 of customer value compared with

the regular Yaris T3 model.

The new Yaris TR range is led by the 1.3-litre VVT-i three-door model which weighs in at £9,895 and extra features include 15-inch alloys and chrome boot trim.

Finally, Toyota has unveiled its new flagship version of the Auris.

The sport-focused Auris SR 180 boasts many eye-catching features including lower red suspension and a rear spoiler giving the car a ground-hugging stance on its 17-inch alloys.

The standard kit package includes automatic dual-zone air con, dusk sensing headlamps, rain sensing wipers and cruise control while driver safety aids fitted as standard include Vehicle Stability Control (VSC) and Traction Control (TC).

Far from being all-show and no-go, the Auris SR 180 is powered by the 175bhp 2.2-litre D-4D engine paired with a smooth-slitting six-speed manual gearbox with 0-62mph coming in eight seconds and Toyota's official figures showing a 45.6mpg return over the combined cycle driving.

Available in three and five-door versions, the Toyota Auris SR 180 models are priced at £17,995 and £18,495 respectively.



The Land Cruiser V8 (above) is said to be one of the most advanced four-wheel drive vehicles ever produced. Left, the Toyota Yaris TR

0% APR

TYPICAL*
(MINIMUM 30% DEPOSIT)



Auris TR
from £13,495[^]

The Auris TR with 5 star Euro NCAP safety rating, 9 airbags, 16" alloy wheels, 6 speaker CD player with MP3 disc compatibility, leather steering wheel with audio controls, air conditioning, ABS and front fog lamps.

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from £19,995

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Model and specification shown, Auris TR 1.6 VVT-i 3 door manual manufacturer's list price £13,495. *Metallic Paint £350 extra. RAV4 XT-R 2.0 VVT-i 5 door manual manufacturer's list price £19,995. ^Advertised finance offer available on Auris TR and RAV4 XT-R when ordered, registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services, on a 3 year Hire Purchase Drive Plan with minimum customer deposit of 30% between 1st January and 31st March 2008 at participating Centres. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Terms and conditions apply. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status over 18s only. Toyota Financial Services, Great Bugh, Rugh Heath, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5UZ. Prices correct at time of going to press and includes VAT, delivery charge, number plates, one year's road fund licence and £50 first registration fee. Subject to availability.

Auris 1.6 VVT-i Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km), Urban 31.4 (9.0), Extra Urban 47.9 (5.9), Combined 39.8 (7.1). CO2 Emissions 166 g/km. RAV4 XT-R 2.0 VVT-i 5 door manual Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km), Urban 25.7 (11.0), Extra Urban 39.2 (7.2), Combined 32.8 (8.6). CO2 Emissions 202 g/km.