



# Jaguar XKR Convertible

*Built in the tradition of great grand tourers, with state-of-the-art engineering, aerospace-inspired construction and outstanding driving dynamics, the XKR is the latest in a long line of legendary performance Jaguars.*

**S**leek and stunning, it is without doubt the best-looking model in its class; and as a supercharged sports convertible it is, in my opinion, unequalled as a fine weather cruising machine. The elegant form draws on the lineage of the original XK and E-type sports cars, and by blending this unmistakable Jaguar silhouette with contemporary flair its exterior forms a stunning blend of athleticism and definition.

Inside, forget about the back seat, because you're unlikely to find a person other than a three-year-old and a child seat (believe me, I've tried!) that fits into the tiny space. That aside, the cabin is nigh on perfect. The materials are outstanding with hide and wood everywhere. The seating position is ultra comfortable on lengthy journeys and Jaguar claims there's even room for two sets of golf clubs in the boot. I didn't try that because I don't play golf, but I reckon two might be pushing it.

The aluminium body architecture is strong and light-weight and with 510bhp of 5.0-litre supercharged V8 muscle under the hood, you have

to keep an eye on the speedometer, as the big cat is deceptively quiet and mind-bogglingly quick. It covers 0-60mph in 4.6 seconds and maxes out at an electronically limited 155mph. Unlimited, the car will reach 190mph. Torque is an almighty 625Nm, while a six-speed electronic auto transmission with Jaguar Sequential Shift and JaguarDrive gear selector are standard. The system consists of steering wheel-mounted paddles and a conventional automatic gearlever, allowing the driver to switch between three automatic or paddle-operated transmission modes.

The engine sounds incredible whether the roof is up or down, due to all the toil that has gone on under the pelt to make sure people inside (and outside!) the beast can enjoy the exhaust note in all weathers. The sympathetic suspension is better than ever, and every drive is a genuine joy. Acceleration can take you by surprise as the car replies instantly to any right-footed pressure, but the auto transmission shifts are split second and seamless.

When it comes to safety, there's a rollover protection system, adaptive restraint technology, emergency brake assist, together with sensors and alarms everywhere. Pedestrian Contact Sensing automatically releases the bonnet to reduce injury and dynamic stability control, electronic brakeforce distribution and active differential control are also included.

As you would expect with a handsome V8 brute, running costs aren't cheap. With emissions of 202g/km, the XKR is eligible for VED band M; it is also voraciously thirsty with only 23mpg on the combined cycle, and around 15mpg in town.

The screen price is £78,400 – nearly £10k more than a 180mph Porsche 911 3.6 Cabrio. But, I'd say the flagship big cat sports car impresses in all departments, so if you're someone who believes life's too short to keep all the money tied up, has taste, a passion for beautiful cars and loves an adrenaline rush, then you should buy one of these over a gaudy Porsche any day!

*Tim Barnes-Clay*