

VW Crossover Gets Better

Volkswagen's Updated Taos Delivers More Performance for 2025

By Derek Price

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The 2025 Volkswagen Taos represents a meaningful evolution of an already solid compact crossover.

After spending a week with the updated model, it's clear that Volkswagen addressed the most pressing concerns from earlier versions while maintaining the vehicle's core strengths.

The most significant improvements center on the powertrain. The revised 1.5-liter turbocharged four-cylinder now produces 174 horsepower, up from 158 in previous models. More importantly, the new eight-speed automatic transmission replaces the problematic dual-clutch unit in all-wheel-drive models, eliminating the clunky behavior that plagued earlier Taos vehicles.

These changes deliver noticeable real-world benefits. The uncomfortable jolting when pulling away from stops has disappeared, replaced by smooth acceleration that makes city driving more pleasant.

The transmission no longer hunts awkwardly between gears during traffic crawling or highway merging situations. While 0-60 mph acceleration remains modest rather than thrilling, the improved power delivery makes the Taos feel more responsive in everyday driv-



The 2025 Volkswagen Taos features updated styling and available 19-inch black wheels while maintaining its practical proportions and efficient footprint.

ing.

At \$34,695 for the SEL trim, the Taos presents compelling value. The interior feels generous for the compact crossover class, with passenger space that rivals vehicles a size larger.

Standard features impress across the lineup. Even base models include heated steering wheels and Volkswagen's comprehensive IQ.DRIVE suite of driver assistance

technologies.

The SEL adds niceties like ventilated front seats, 10-color ambient lighting and premium materials that enhance the ownership experience.

On the road, the Taos delivers handling that feels more engaging than typical Toyota or Hyundai competitors. Steering provides decent feedback, and the suspension manages cor-

ners confidently without excessive understeer.

Cargo capacity proves adequate for most compact crossover duties. The 27.9 cubic feet behind the rear seats handles typical needs without drama.

Fuel economy of 25 mpg in the city and 33 on the highway for front-wheel-drive models remains competitive in the segment, while the improved power-

train delivers better performance without significant efficiency penalties.

The 2025 Taos succeeds as an inoffensive, well-rounded choice that avoids major flaws while delivering genuine utility.

It's particularly well-suited for buyers seeking a compact crossover that feels substantial without the premium price of luxury alternatives.

AT A GLANCE

WHAT WAS TESTED?

2025 Volkswagen Taos SEL (\$34,695). Options: 19-inch black alloy wheels (\$395). Price as tested (including \$1,425 destination charge): \$36,515

BY THE NUMBERS

Wheelbase: 105.9 in.
Length: 175.8 in.
Width: 72.5 in.
Height: 64.5 in.
Engine: Turbocharged 1.5-liter four cylinder (174 hp, 184 lbs. ft.)
Transmission: Eight-speed automatic
MPG: 25 city, 33 highway

RATINGS

Style: 8
Performance: 5
Price: 9
Handling: 7
Ride: 6
Comfort: 6
Quality: 7
Overall: 7

WHY BUY IT?

The 2025 Taos offers improved powertrain performance, generous interior space and strong standard equipment in an efficiently sized package.

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The Taos interior emphasizes space and functionality with materials and technology features that feel more premium than the compact crossover price suggests.

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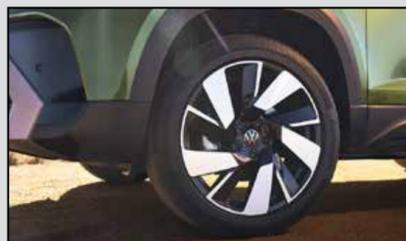
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A CLOSER LOOK



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FACTS, FIGURES AND RATINGS

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