

Press Kit: Škoda Kushaq – Monte Carlo



Š K O D A

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Range-topping Monte Carlo model joins Škoda Kushaq Middle East line-up

- › New Monte Carlo model designed to celebrate Škoda's rally heritage
- › Versatile compact SUV built to European standards for the value-driven customer
- › Distinctive Monte Carlo features include eye-catching bodywork, highlighted by exterior Monte Carlo badging, and stylish dual-tone interior design in red and black
- › Well-equipped model offers cutting-edge infotainment system with SmartLink technology, ample space and numerous practical features
- › Reassuring list of safety features contribute to a 5-star Global NCAP safety rating
- › Efficient TSI engine with 6-speed gearbox for optimal drivability and economy



Dubai, February 2024 – Škoda has added extra style and desirability to its Kushaq compact SUV range with the range-topping Kushaq Monte Carlo model. Launched in the Middle East in early 2024, this motorsport-inspired model sits atop the Czech car manufacturer’s Kushaq range, appealing in particular to younger buyers – the everyday explorers – who are looking for an affordable SUV with a sporty style, European standards of build quality and great value list of equipment.

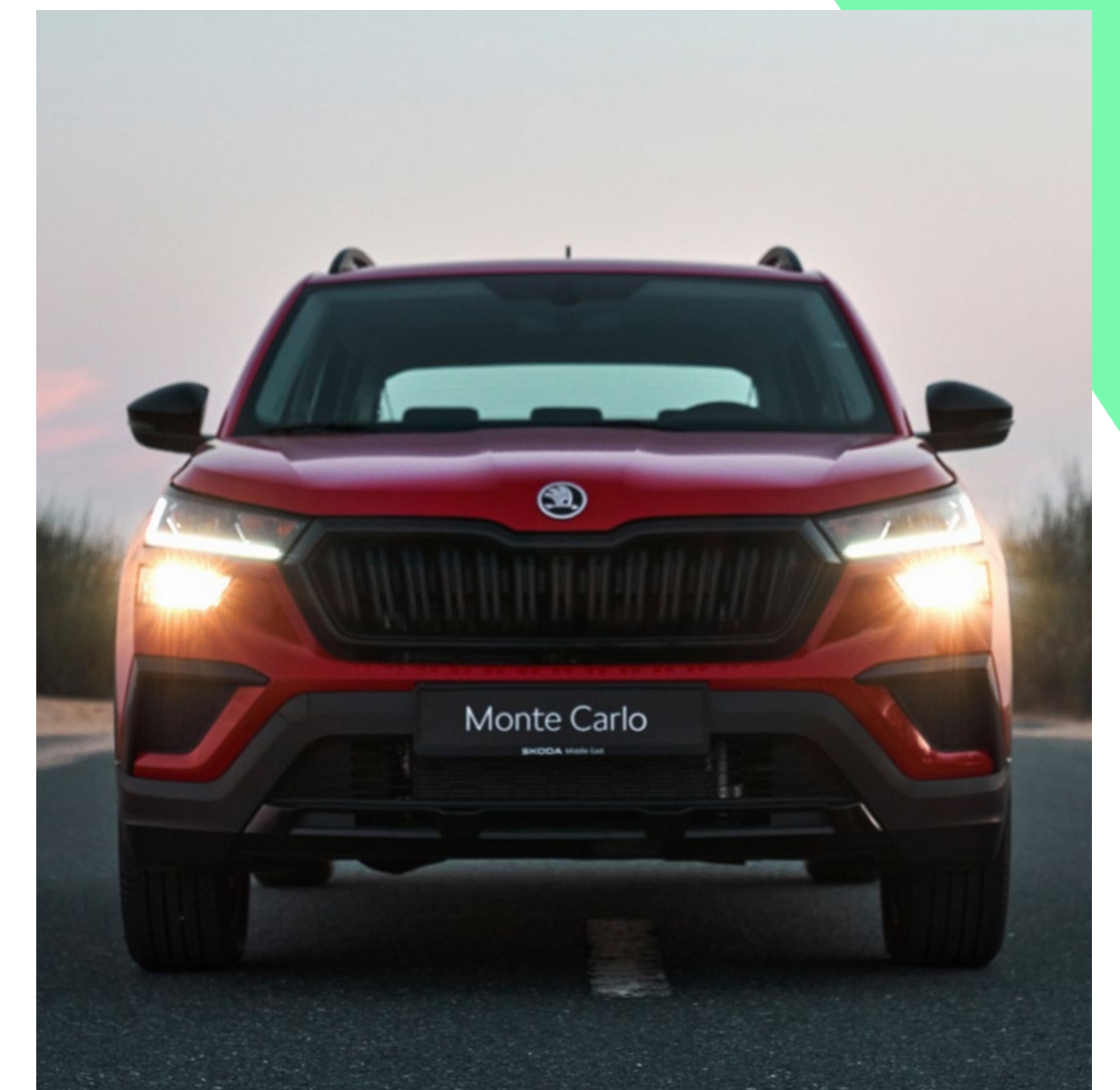
The newest addition to the Kushaq line-up, the motorsport-inspired Monte Carlo variant is the first Škoda in the region to be adorned by the coveted badge. The Monte Carlo designation has appeared on Škoda cars for 86 years, having been introduced to celebrate the company’s success and passion for motorsport from the prestigious Monte Carlo Rally in 1936. Monte Carlo is a special trim level that offers a sporty design that takes its cues from the style and emotion generated by top quality motorsport, and combines this with the brand’s renowned blend of value for money, practicality, comfort and convenience.

The trim of the Škoda Kushaq Monte Carlo has been restyled to add an even greater sense of individuality and sporty character to the Kushaq’s identity. The new variant features numerous exclusive style tweaks compared to the other trim levels, including new 17-inch dual-tone Vega alloy wheels with silver callipers, Monte Carlo badging on the side fender garnishes and scuff plates, as well as a radiator grille, front and rear diffusers and door mirror casings in glossy black.

On the inside, the stylish cabin centres around a free-standing, 8.25-inch touchscreen infotainment system, which enables smartphone integration via SmartLink technology for wireless Apple CarPlay and wireless Android Auto connection. In addition, the Monte Carlo model expresses that sporting essence via numerous bespoke style elements, such as the dual-tone design elements in red and black, and soft-touch materials that populate the surrounding surfaces.

The compact exterior dimensions make it the ideal urban car for a variety of uses including office commutes, family hauling and everyday explorations with a cabin large enough to accommodate five adults in comfort and a boot offering a commendable 385 litres of luggage space (1405 L with fully folded seats). There are also numerous Simply Clever solutions, like a non-slip base cup holder and bag hooks in the boot.

The Monte Carlo offers all the features found on other Kushaq models including a 6-speaker sound system, a selection of charging options as well as a new Virtual Cockpit with a red theme. It is also equipped with a host of standard driver-focused and safety features such as six airbags, a tyre pressure monitoring system, park distance control, Hill Hold Control, and a rear view camera. Added peace of mind comes with the Kushaq’s 5-star Global NCAP rating – the highest possible score for both adult and child occupant safety.



Powering the Kushaq is a versatile and efficient 1.0 Turbo engine that develops a healthy 85 kW (114 HP). The torque is multiplied using a modern, quick-shifting 6-speed automatic transmission and then transferred to the road using a lightweight front-wheel drive configuration. Together they work in unison to provide exceptional driveability while being able to return an impressive fuel economy figure of 16.8 km/L.

Lukáš Honzák, Managing Director of Škoda Middle East, said: “The unique blend of sporty aesthetics, outstanding design, top safety features, ample boot space, and exceptional fuel economy positions the Kushaq Monte Carlo trim as the ultimate road companion for young Škoda customers navigating bustling urban environments in the Middle East, eager to enrich their lives with a sporty-looking, great value car that reflects the rally heritage and individuality of the brand.”

The name of this compact SUV is derived from the ancient Indian language Sanskrit. In the ‘language of the gods’, still used today, the word ‘kushak’ denotes a king or an emperor. This complements the powerful appearance of the new Škoda Kushaq. Spelling the name with the letter ‘K’ at the beginning and the letter ‘Q’ at the end is in keeping with the distinctive nomenclature for the brand’s other internationally successful SUVs like the Kodiaq, Karoq and Kamiq.



Exterior

Restyled look for enhanced individuality and sportiness

- › New variant features numerous exclusive style tweaks compared to the other trim levels
- › These include new 17-inch dual-tone Vega alloy wheels with silver callipers, and Monte Carlo badging on the side fender garnishes and scuff plates
- › Radiator grille, front and rear diffusers and door mirror casings in glossy black
- › Robust bodywork with optimal space, ideal for aspirational young drivers and families
- › European quality at affordable prices
- › The Kushaq's design is testament that SUV buyers don't have to sacrifice style for practicality



Where the Škoda Kushaq is a fresh take on the Middle East's ever-growing compact SUV segment, designed to exceed owners' expectations, the Monte Carlo is a specific model at the top of the Kushaq range that offers a sporty design while losing nothing of Škoda's renowned practicality. The Monte Carlo is therefore not focused on extreme driving performance, but rather on creating an enjoyable, sporty atmosphere while preserving both driving and user comfort and convenience.

The Kushaq has entered the market aimed at value-driven customers who spend much of their time in an urban environment, and who desire a car manufactured to European standards of quality, allowing them to take on the world boldly without compromising style for substance. The Kushaq is testament that style is not independent of the segment.



Sportiness and sophistication in one appealing design package

The Monte Carlo model delivers a fresh take on the distinctive front end and prominent bonnet of the Kushaq. The wide, signature Škoda grille is adorned with a glossy black surround, to complement the gloss black vertical ribs that are standard on all Kushaq models and which separate the split headlamp clusters. A new front diffuser and L-shaped elements in glossy black are also fitted.

The already strong road presence of the Kushaq Monte Carlo is amplified by the eye-catching 17-inch dual-tone Vega alloy wheels with silver callipers. From the side these are supplemented by glossy black door mirror casings, dark chrome door handles, Monte Carlo special edition fender garnishes and Monte Carlo-inscribed scuff plates, all unique to this top-of-the-range model. A straight roof line as well as a tornado line at the level of the door handles helps augment the visual size of the Kushaq, making it appear longer than it is.

The structured rear end is characterised by the elongated roof spoiler, while the rear diffuser and trunk garnish are finished in glossy black, to distinguish them from the other models in the range. The Škoda and Kushaq inscriptions at the rear are also in glossy black, while the Kushaq Monte Carlo also comes with black roof rails.

The Monte Carlo model is available in two distinctive exterior paint schemes - Tornado Red or Candy White.

Škoda Crystalline LED headlights

Giving the Kushaq Monte Carlo unmistakable character on the road are the Škoda Crystalline LED headlights with daytime running lights, featuring a two-part design. This headlight design consists of an LED module set behind a clear lens for both low beam and high beam, and a thin, L-shaped LED module for the daytime running lights. The indicators are equipped with classic bulbs blink, as are the fog lights located in the lower valance. At the rear, the reflectors in the bumper combine with the rear lights that feature the Škoda-typical Crystalline structures to form a C-shape.

A European quality SUV for first-time buyers and young adults with an urban lifestyle

The Kushaq Monte Carlo is designed to be an urban SUV, but with dimensions that make it a driver-friendly companion for the Middle East's bustling metropolises. This compact SUV stretches 4,221 mm bumper to bumper, is 1,760 mm wide at the hips and stands at a relatively tall 1,612 mm for uncompromised visibility of the road ahead and a rugged SUV stance. It has a wheelbase of 2,651 mm, which is among the longest in the segment, ensuring an uncompromised ride quality, while a ground clearance of 188 mm helps minimise scratches and dents to the underbody.



Interior

Sporty two-tone interior for high-quality and practical cabin

- › Kushaq Monte Carlo offers a range of features rarely found in the segment, including ventilated leather front seats, sunroof and a virtual cockpit
- › Unique Monte Carlo style elements include two-tone “red & black” seats, and door handles, armrests and steering wheel with red stitching
- › The modern interior that centres around a free-standing, infotainment display and the use of quality materials
- › Climatronic air conditioning with touch control panel as standard
- › Škoda-typical Simply Clever solutions and practical storage



In keeping with the interior of all Kushaq models, the stylish and spacious cabin of the Monte Carlo centres around a free-standing, 8.25-inch touchscreen infotainment system, while also offering an array of Simply Clever features and a multitude of storage options. But the Monte Carlo model provides a more sporty take by incorporating numerous other sporty style elements, including a range of dual-tone design elements in red and black.

The Škoda Kushaq Monte Carlo is equipped with a powerful and self-regulating Climatronic air conditioning with a touch control panel. Further ultra-modern features include ventilated front seats, KESSY keyless entry, an electric sliding glass roof and an auto-dimming rear view mirror.

Cabin exudes uniquely Monte Carlo look and feel

On the inside, the Kushaq Monte Carlo oozes stylish refinement and a feeling of energy befitting a model inspired by the excitement and passion of the brand's motorsport heritage. Evidence of this can immediately be seen in the front and rear head restraints, which are inscribed with the Monte Carlo logo, as well as the sports-style aluminium pedals.

In the front, the Monte Carlo is fitted with ventilated, two-tone red and black leather seats with side bolsters for optimum comfort and style. The two-tone theme continues right around the cabin: Ruby red metallic inserts adorn the dashboard, centre console and door handle surrounds, while the leatherette armrests and steering wheel are finished with red stitching. Red ambient lighting in the dashboard line adds to the feeling of exclusivity – there are also LED reading lights in the front and rear – as do the rear leatherette seats that are finished in red and black.



Modern interior and up to 26.2 litres of interior storage space in total

Within the sophisticated cabin of the Škoda Kushaq Monte Carlo is ample space for five occupants and their luggage, with the boot providing up to 385 litres of space with the rear seats in place. The interior of the car centres around a free-standing 8.25-inch infotainment touchscreen, with a character line running below, mimicking the silhouette of the Škoda grille. A multifunction two-spoke steering wheel in the latest Škoda styling, upholstered in leather, is also fitted.

All models offer a variety of storage compartments with a total capacity adding up to 26.2 litres. These include a special recess on the dash, a 6.1-litre glove compartment, which is air-conditioned to keep beverages cool, and a 2.2-litre Jumbo Box in the centre console. In the front and rear door panels there is room for storing bottles and other knick-knacks. A cup holder can be found in the armrest of the rear seat, which folds down in a ratio of 60:40.



Simply Clever features for everyday convenience

Keeping practicality in mind Škoda has equipped the Kushaq Monte Carlo with numerous Simply Clever solutions, which are essentially details, features and innovations - some patented - to improve the quality of occupants' everyday motoring lives. These include bag hooks in the boot, a non-slip base in the cup holder in the centre console and a ticket holder on the A-pillar. There is also a Phone Box in the front, in which a smartphone can be charged inductively, and smartphone storage pockets on the front seatbacks.

Wireless Charging

Seamless Connectivity on the Move with Wireless Phone Charging.



12V Power Socket In Front Centre Console

A 12V power socket is provided in the front centre console to give ease of use on the go.



Adjustable Rear A/C Vents

The adjustable rear A/C vents ensure comfort for all passengers on-board the Škoda Kuchaq.



Climatronic A/C with Aircare Function

Climatronic automatic air conditioning with electronic regulation of cabin temperature to ensure that everyone in the car enjoys maximum comfort.



Kessy

The Keyless Entry Start & Stop System enables convenient locking and unlocking of the car.



Rear View Camera with Static Guidelines

To make driving and parking a breeze, the car is equipped with a rear camera.



Cruise Control

Along with your pre-set speed, cruise control allows speed adjustments without pedal use.



Two USB-C Socket In Front and Rear

Charge your devices with ease with two USB-C sockets in the front and rear.

Connectivity

Modern infotainment system with SmartLink technology

- > Colour, 8.25-inch touchscreen
- > Smartphone integration via SmartLink technology, for wireless Apple CarPlay and wireless Android Auto connection
- > Škoda sound system with six speakers



The Škoda Kushaq Monte Carlo is equipped with a modern infotainment system with 8.25-inch colour touchscreen, which enables smartphone integration via SmartLink technology, for wireless Apple CarPlay and wireless Android Auto connection.

Staying connected while on the move

Monte Carlo occupants enjoy the benefits provided by the high quality infotainment system that has the same functionalities as are common for smartphones and an external microphone for hands-free phone calls. On top of this, the system supports the Mobile Phone Interface - Smartphones can be paired and accessed without the need for a cable using wireless SmartLink technology. In addition to MP3 and WMA, the infotainment system can also play AAC and FLAC media files

There are two USB-C ports in the centre console and another two in the rear for connecting and charging mobile devices via cable on the go to facilitate owners' fast-paced lives. The Monte Carlo model is also equipped with a Phone Box in the front which allows smartphones to be charged inductively.

High-performance Škoda sound system

The Škoda Kushaq Monte Carlo comes with six high-performance speakers as standard – two separate tweeters and bass speakers in the front and two two-way speakers in the rear – providing a wide frequency range and the best listening experience.



Safety

Six airbags and various assistance systems ensure safety on fast roads

- › 5-star rating in Global NCAP crash tests
- › Extensive range of features for exceptional active and passive safety
- › ESC, Hill-Hold Control and tyre pressure monitoring as standard equipment
- › High Strength Steel Frame and Electronic Differential Locking System
- › ISOFIX and top tether anchor points enable safe installation of child seats



The Škoda Kuchaq Monte Carlo comes with an impressive range of standard active and passive safety features, which have led to it being awarded a maximum 5-star rating in the Global NCAP crash tests for both adult and child occupant safety. There are features such as Hill-Hold Control and a tyre pressure monitoring system, while occupants are protected by six airbags, and the standard ISOFIX and top tether anchor points provide maximum safety for babies and toddlers.

With its comprehensive range of active and passive safety features and numerous convenient assistance systems, the Škoda Kuchaq safety is ensured at all times by the Electronic Stability Control (ESC) system, which is a standard feature. The Multi-Collision Brake prevents potential follow-on collisions in the event of an accident.

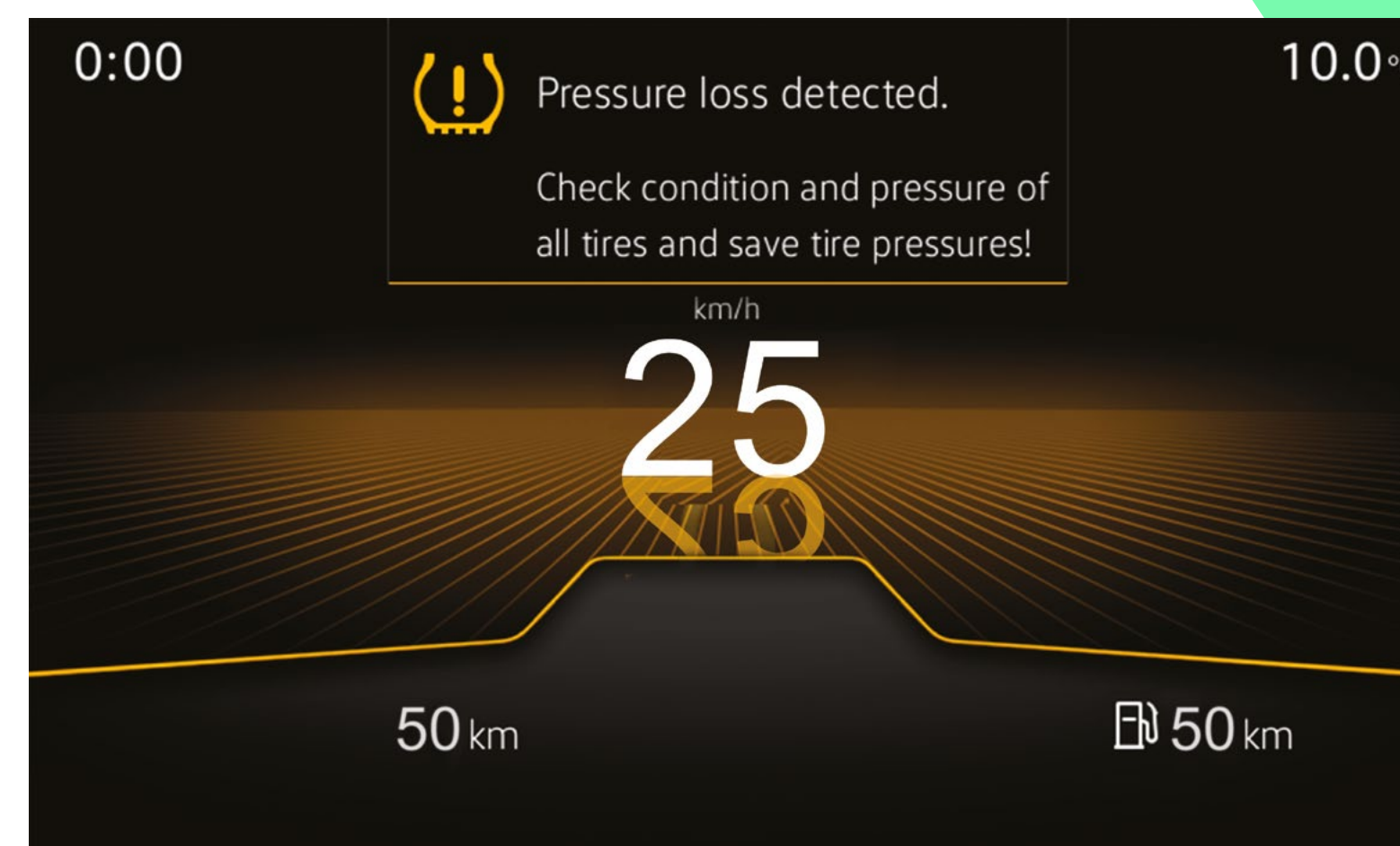
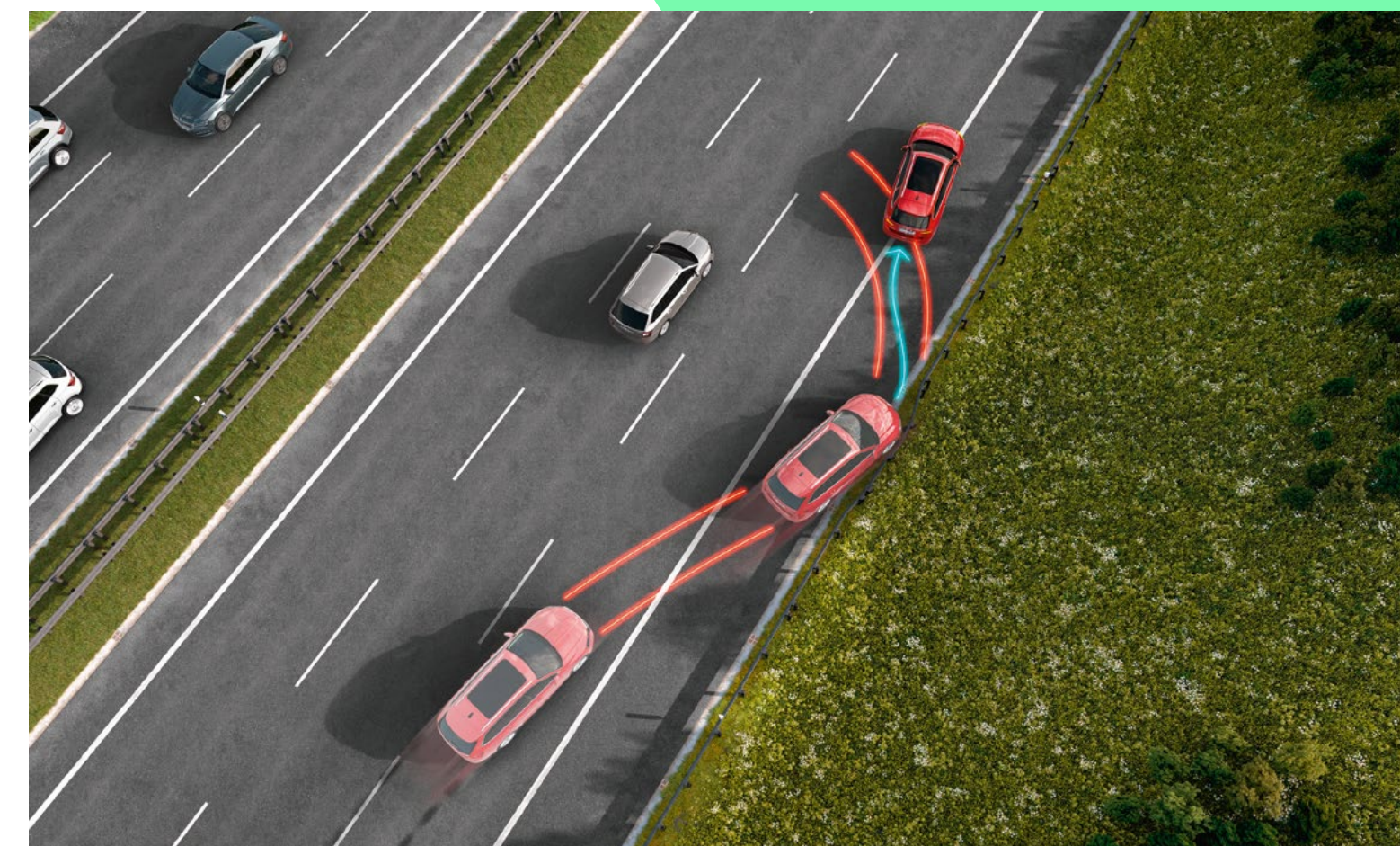
Should an accident occur, the vehicle's occupants are protected by six airbags, including front side airbags and curtain airbags. All headrests are height-adjustable, and the centre seat in the rear is also equipped with a three-point seat belt. ISOFIX and top-tether anchor points on the rear seats to fit child seats come as standard.



Driver assistance systems for more control

Numerous assistance systems support drivers of the Škoda Kuchaq Monte Carlo and offer added peace of mind. These include Hill-Hold Control and a cruise control system, as well as light and rain sensors, which automatically switch on the low beam or windscreen wipers when required. Park distance control and rear-view camera come as standard, as does a tyre pressure monitoring system to keep an eye on the air pressure.

The fitment of Traction Control, ABS, Roll Over Protection, Electronic Differential Locking system and Motor Slip Regulation further contributes to provide optimal reassurance for both driver and occupants.



Powertrain

Versatile 1.0 TSI engine

- › Punchy and highly efficient TSI petrol engine provides a max. output of 85 kW (114 HP)
- › Fuel economy of 16.8 km/l
- › 6-speed transmission, with hydrodynamic torque converter, for seamless shifting





The Škoda Kuchaq Monte Carlo is equipped with an advanced 1.0 Turbo engine which can deliver peppy performance, achieve remarkable fuel economy and meet stringent emission standards.



Efficient 1.0 TSI engine

The efficient direct-injection turbo petrol engine produces a maximum output of 85 kW (114 HP) at 5000 - 5500 rpm and 175 Nm of maximum torque between 1750 - 4500 rpm. This puts the Kuchaq Monte Carlo's specific power rating at an incredible 114 HP/litre. At the same time, it minimises fuel consumption, with an official fuel economy figure of 16.8 km/l.

Smooth-shifting transmission and lightweight FWD configuration

Power is transmitted from the 1.0 Turbo engine to the lightweight front-wheel drive configuration by a state-of-the-art 6-speed automatic transmission with a hydrodynamic torque converter. The seamless power delivery of this gearbox helps cut transmission losses resulting in effortless acceleration.

The gearbox's characteristics also help the Kuchaq Monte Carlo achieve commendable fuel economy and emission ratings. It is also equipped with a 50 litre fuel tank (which includes a 7 litre reserve) for outstanding range.

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Škoda Middle East

- > established its first dedicated Middle East head office at the end of 2023 in Dubai, UAE
- > markets currently include UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar
- > currently offers customers a range of passenger cars: the Scala, Octavia and Superb as well as the Kamiq, Karoq, Kodiaq and the latest model, Kushaq.
- > dealerships have been selling Škoda cars in the region for the past 15 years

Škoda Auto

- > is successfully steering through the new decade with the Next Level – Škoda Strategy 2030.
- > aims to be one of the five best-selling brands in Europe by 2030 and is emerging as the leading European brand in important growth markets such as India or North Africa.
- > has been a member of the Volkswagen Group for 30 years. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world.
- > independently manufactures and develops not only vehicles but also components such as MEB battery systems, engines and transmissions in association with the Group.
- > operates at three sites in the Czech Republic; has additional production capacity in China, Slovakia and India primarily through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine with a local partner.
- > employs over 40,000 people globally and is active in over 100 markets.