



REVIEW OF THE SUZUKI E-VITARA

by Fraser Lucas

LOOKS

Suzuki's refusal to be beholden to a uniform face across its range has earned my admiration, so the fact that its debut electric car is its own thing makes it instantly appealing. The eVitara still has those earnest, chunky features you'd expect from the brand, with a touch of sportiness to mix it up a little.

HANDLING AND PERFORMANCE

There is a nice comfort to the eVitara's softly sprung ride, though driving about lacks a bit of unique engagement. The good part, though, is that because it's got that Suzuki badge, it's still engineered to frolic about off-road like a pig in a mud bath. Your choices of battery include a gentle 142 BHP base version with a 213-mile range, a 172 BHP option, featuring a bigger battery with 264 miles of range, and a 181 BHP four-wheel drive variant. The extra grunt and power for all wheels means you get 245 miles of range, but you do wind up with a very capable mud pluggier.

PRACTICALITY

One can say the interior lacks a vibrant character, but there's something I find sort of endearing about the modernised, utilitarian way the eVitara is presented. The asymmetric vents and buttons are a curious choice, but there is a sense of Suzuki being a little more aspirational here. What's a nice surprise is the roominess inside. The exterior design seemingly hints at cosy rear seating, yet it's perfectly adequate.

COST

Prices start at £29,999 for the least powerful, base spec version. For more range and power, that'll cost £32,999, while the all singing and dancing, four-wheel drive option comes in at £34,999. Bear in mind, Suzuki does have an electric car grant that does shave off significant cash off the bill. Plus, there's a wealth of standard kit and, as long as you service it with Suzuki, a 10-year warranty to boot.

Verdict

Suzuki is a sort of unsung hero as a master in cheap and cheerful motoring, so it's both interesting and pleasing to see its take on electric runabouts. The eVitara is straightforward; what you see is what you get. A rugged workhorse with a sense of good value that's difficult to ignore.

