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WHAT CAR?

ELECTRIC CAR AWARDS 2026



BEST PLUG-IN HYBRID 7-SEAT SUV

MGS9 Plug-in Hybrid

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Premium

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When was the last time you heard someone use the phrase 'it's the bargain of the century'? Perhaps it gets used more often than it should be, but it's undoubtedly the most appropriate way to describe the MGS9 Plug-in Hybrid.

Even the range-topping version has a sub-£40k list price, and if you buy via [whatcar.com/new-car-deals](https://www.whatcar.com/new-car-deals), it's available for less than £31k. That means it undercuts a lot of five-seat family SUVs, even though the MGS9 Plug-in Hybrid is a seven-seater.

At this price level, you'd perhaps expect the third-row seats to be a token gesture, but they actually offer enough head room for six-footers to sit comfortably, and most will find enough leg room without sliding the middle bench forwards. Just bear in mind that, with no Isofix fittings, the third row isn't suitable for child seats.

Alternatively, folding the third row down makes for a positively vast boot. It can accommodate nine carry-on suitcases below the parcel shelf – one more than the similarly value-focused Chery Tiggo 9. What's more, the storage area under the boot floor is large enough to store your charging cables. That's handy; cables can get grimy, and not all rivals give you somewhere to keep them away from the rest of your luggage.

So, the MGS9 Plug-in Hybrid is practical, but what's it like for the driver? Well, they get a commanding driving position and very good visibility all round, thanks to large side windows. There are also parking sensors front and rear, while a clear 360-degree camera display helps out with low-speed manoeuvres.

With a mixture of soft plastics and padded, leather-like materials on the dashboard, doors and centre console, the MGS9 Plug-in Hybrid feels surprisingly upmarket inside,

given its bargain price. It's also extremely well equipped, with three-zone climate control and front seats that are both heated and ventilated, as well as having a massage function.

Yes, some rivals are quicker, but the MGS9 Plug-in Hybrid has more than enough shove to keep up with traffic. In its pure electric mode, the MGS9 Plug-in Hybrid can travel in relative silence for up to 62 miles (officially) on its 23.2kWh battery, and that's almost twice as far as the previous winner in this category, the Hyundai Santa Fe, promised. You'll barely feel or hear the petrol engine cutting in, either, and the MGS9 Plug-in Hybrid is hushed at cruising speeds.

The Santa Fe feels more agile on a twisty road, and its ride is plusher, but the S9 is by no means poor to drive, so we can't justify recommending you spend the extra £20k needed to get a new Santa Fe plug-in hybrid.

KEY FACTS

List price	£37,995
Best price	£30,999
Engine	4cyl, 1496cc, turbo, petrol, plus electric motor
Power	295bhp
Torque	406lb ft
Gearbox	1-spd automatic
0-62mph	9.6sec
Top speed	124mph
Fuel economy	353.1mpg
CO₂, tax band	18g/km, 7%

OFFICIAL ELECTRIC RANGE

62 miles