

citroen c5 ii

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Citroen C5 II: A Comprehensive Guide to the Stylish French Mid Size Sedan

When you think of European luxury that doesn't break the bank, the Citroen C5 II is a standout name. Launched in 2014 as the second generation of the beloved C5, this vehicle blends avant garde styling, advanced technology, and practical performance. In this guide, we dive deep into every facet of the Citroen C5 II—from exterior design to everyday ownership costs—so you can decide if this French sedan is the right choice for your next car.

Design & Exterior: A Bold Statement on the Road

The Citroen C5 II carries forward the brand's signature "French flair" with a bold front fascia, a sweeping roofline, and a distinctive rear spoiler. The large, angular grille and integrated LED daytime running lights give the car an unmistakable presence. Inside, the cabin feels spacious thanks to a low beltline and generous headroom.

- **Front Fascia:** The new C5 II features a wide, sculpted grille paired with a sharp LED headlamp cluster.
- **Roofline:** A sleek, curving roof enhances aerodynamics and interior headspace.
- **Rear Design:** Dual exhausts and a subtle spoiler add a sporty touch.

Exterior Colour Options & Trim Levels

Citroen offered a range of vibrant and subtle paint choices, including the iconic "Blue Sky" and the more understated "Silver Cloud." Trim levels such as the base "Essential," the more refined "Exclusive," and the high end "Premium" allow buyers to tailor the vehicle to their taste and budget.

Interior & Comfort: French Luxury Meets Practicality

The cabin of the Citroen C5 II is a blend of contemporary aesthetics and functional design. Soft-touch materials, ergonomic seating, and an intuitive layout create an environment that feels both premium and approachable.

Seat Comfort & Materials

The front seats feature adjustable lumbar support and optional heated and ventilated functions. The rear seats provide ample legroom, making long journeys comfortable for all passengers. The upholstery options range from high quality leather to durable fabric, ensuring durability without compromising style.

Infotainment & Connectivity

At the heart of the interior is the 8 inch touchscreen infotainment system, which supports Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, and Bluetooth connectivity. A separate 4 inch instrument cluster displays essential driving data. The C5 II also offers a premium sound system option for audiophiles.

Space & Practicality

- **Boot Capacity:** 530 /liters, expandable to 1,030 /liters with the rear seats folded.
- **Door Handles:** Integrated into the bodywork for a clean silhouette.
- **Storage:** Multiple cup holders, door pockets, and a central console with a USB charging port.

Powertrain & Performance: Smooth, Efficient, and Ready for Any Road

The Citroen C5 II was offered with a choice of petrol and diesel engines, each paired with a 6 speed manual or a 7 speed dual clutch automatic gearbox. The car's powertrain lineup reflects Citroen's focus on efficiency without sacrificing driving pleasure.

Engine Options

1. 1.6 /L Turbo Petrol: 120 /hp, 190 /Nm torque, ideal for city commuting.
2. 1.8 /L Turbo Petrol: 180 /hp, 250 /Nm torque, for those who crave a sportier feel.
3. 1.5 /L Turbo Diesel: 115 /hp, 260 /Nm torque, perfect for long distance driving.
4. 2.0 /L Turbo Diesel: 180 /hp, 400 /Nm torque, delivering robust performance.

Transmission Choices

The 7 speed dual clutch automatic, known as the "DSG," offers lightning quick gear changes and improved fuel economy compared to traditional automatics. The 6 speed manual remains a favourite for drivers who enjoy a more engaging experience.

Suspension & Handling

The C5 II employs a MacPherson strut front suspension and a multi link rear setup, providing a smooth ride over uneven roads. The car's chassis is tuned for stability, making cornering both safe and enjoyable. The optional "Sport" suspension lowers the ride height for a more dynamic stance.

Safety Features: Advanced Technology for Peace of Mind

Safety is a top priority in the Citroen C5 II. The vehicle is equipped with a suite of active and passive safety systems designed to protect occupants and mitigate risks.

Driver Assistance Systems

- Lane Departure Warning: Alerts the driver if the car drifts out of its lane.
- Adaptive Cruise Control: Maintains a set distance from the vehicle ahead.
- Emergency Braking: Automatically applies brakes when a collision is imminent.
- Blind Spot Monitoring: Detects vehicles in adjacent lanes.

Passive Safety

The C5 II features multiple airbags, reinforced body panels, and a robust crumple zone. The car's safety rating from Euro NCAP earned it a 5 star rating, confirming its effectiveness in crash scenarios.

Fuel Efficiency & Emissions: A Practical Choice for the Environmentally Conscious

Citroen's focus on sustainability is evident in the C5 II's impressive fuel consumption figures. Depending on the engine and transmission, the car averages between 4.0 /L/100 /km and 5.5 /L/100 /km in combined driving conditions.

- Petrol Engines: 4.0 /L/100 /km (1.6 /L) to 4.7 /L/100 /km (1.8 /L).
- Diesel Engines: 3.9 /L/100 /km (1.5 /L) to 4.5 /L/100 /km (2.0 /L).

These figures translate into lower CO₂ emissions, making the Citroen C5 II an eco friendly option for commuters and families alike.

Driving Experience: A Balance of Comfort and Sportiness

Whether you're navigating city streets or cruising on the motorway, the Citroen C5 II delivers a refined driving

experience. The steering feels light and responsive, while the suspension absorbs bumps with minimal effort.

- City Driving: The car's compact turning radius and responsive brakes make it easy to manoeuvre.
- Highway Travel: The aerodynamic profile keeps wind noise to a minimum, and the automatic gearbox offers smooth gear changes.
- Sport Mode: When engaged, the throttle response sharpens, and the suspension stiffens for a more engaging feel.

Ownership Costs: What to Expect Over Time

Understanding the total cost of ownership helps you make an informed decision. The Citroen C5 II's affordability extends beyond the purchase price to include maintenance, insurance, and fuel.

Insurance

Insurance premiums for the C5 II are moderate, thanks to its safety features and reputation for reliability. The exact cost will vary based on location, driving record, and coverage levels.

Maintenance & Repairs

Routine maintenance—oil changes, filter replacements, and tire rotations—cost less than many competitors in the same class. Citroen's network of service centers offers genuine parts at competitive prices. The car's modular design also simplifies component replacement.

Resale Value

Citroen's resale values have historically held up well, especially for models that have received the "Premium" trim level. Proper care and documentation can help you recover a significant portion of the initial investment.

Common Issues & Maintenance Tips

While the Citroen C5 II is generally reliable, certain issues have been reported by owners. Addressing them early can prolong the vehicle's life.

Common Problems

- Electrical glitches: Occasional dashboard warning lights may appear due to sensor faults.
- Brake wear: Some drivers report accelerated brake pad wear, especially on the front wheels.
- Suspension noise: A rattling sound under hard braking can indicate worn bushings.

Proactive Maintenance

1. Regularly check and replace the engine coolant every 60,000 /km.
2. Inspect brake pads and rotors every 20,000 /km.
3. Replace suspension bushings every 80,000 /km to avoid noise and handling issues.

Comparison with Competitors: How Does the C5 II Stack Up?

In the mid size sedan segment, the Citroen C5 II competes with models like the Peugeot 508, Skoda Superb, and Volkswagen Passat. Here's a quick snapshot:

Feature	C5 II	Peugeot 508	Skoda Superb	Volkswagen Passat
Engine Options	Petrol & Diesel, 1.6 2.0 /L	1.4 2.0 /L	1.4 2.0 /L	1.5 2.0 /L
Fuel Economy (L/100 /km)	4.0 5.5	3.8 5.2	3.9 5.0	4.0 5.4
Infotainment	8 3 touchscreen, Apple CarPlay/ Android Auto	8.5 3 touchscreen, Apple CarPlay/ Android Auto	7.5 3 touchscreen, Apple CarPlay/ Android Auto	8 3 touchscreen, Apple CarPlay/ Android Auto
Price Range (UK)	£22,000 £30,000	£23,000 £32,000	£23,000 £31,000	£24,000 £33,000

Pros & Cons: Weighing the Decision

Pros

- Stylish French design that stands out in a crowded segment.
- Comfortable, spacious interior with high quality materials.
- Strong safety suite with advanced driver assistance.

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