

## Ireland electric vehicle range

Range anxiety was, and in many cases still is, an issue for those considering an electric car, but as we all know, a great deal can change in the course of a year. That includes how far an electric vehicle (EV) can travel. Now we have a Mercedes capable of driving nearly 1770km between charges, for example. A range between 400- and 600km is rapidly becoming the norm.

If you are considering an EV and have so far been put off by range issues, then you should be pleasantly surprised by our list of the ten EVs available or coming to Ireland in 2023 with the greatest driving range.

Not surprisingly, many of the EVs with the best range are larger models; after all, they have more space for batteries and can command a higher price. So, we start with the new Mercedes-Benz EQS, the first EV from the brand that has been designed and engineered to be electric from its inception. It is a four-door coupe in the style of the original Mercedes CLS, but with way more technology and a one-charge range of up to 768km. You can buy an EQS SUV now too, with seven seats but less range.

The ID.7 hasn't quite gone on sale yet, but it is arriving soon, and it will be the longest-ranged Volkswagen EV of them all thanks to a 85kWh battery pack that will give it a range of just over 700km. There's also a standard 77kWh version with a healthy 636km range.

The EQE is just like the bigger, more expensive EQS (it's actually pretty hard to tell the two apart just by glancing at them) and thanks to its big 90kWh battery and low-slung bodywork, it'll take you for more than 660km on one charge. We've driven the EQE from one end of the island to the other, and even at motorway speeds it'll do 500km between charges. The taller SUV version is roomier, but less efficient.

BMW's big luxury saloon wants to take on the Merc EQS, but it doesn't have the range to do so, in spite of a massive battery. In fact, its official 625km range is pretty optimistic -- 500km is more like it in real-world driving. That said, the i7 has its compensations as it's more fun to drive than the EQS, and has a nicer interior, too.

The iX will always be controversial for having "that" face, and it's sure not the prettiest car around, but it does pack some serious range in its big 111kWh battery. Getting more than 600km out of a charge will require some skill, but 450-500km should be doable, and the iX is terrific to drive too, as all BMWs should be. The shorter-ranged, smaller-battery xDrive40 version is much more affordable but struggles to top 400km in daily driving.

Model 3 fans probably expected it to be higher up the list, but with a range of 602km it's not the top dog anymore. Maybe the incoming new "Highland" model will unleash more range, or maybe there's some sort of over-the-air-update that Elon Musk will instigate by pressing a button on his laptop to stretch the battery

ever-further.

Not only has the Volvo C40 been updated with a bigger 82kWh battery, but it has also switched from front-wheel drive to rear-wheel drive, which is apparently more efficient. You get a big jump in official range thanks to that, although the real-world range is likely to be closer to round 450km. A really pleasant car to drive, though, and of course being a Volvo, it's hugely safe too.

Your electric car options have been multiplying for 2022. There will be over 100 vehicles on the market, ranging from battery-electric vehicles (BEV) and plug-in hybrid-electric vehicles (PHEV) to hybrid-electric vehicles (HEV). We have visited the dealers and researched the various options so read on if you are looking to buy in 2022.

There are a lot of supply chain problems in the car industry right now with significant delays for many car companies due to Covid, parts shortages, and logistics so your showroom may have significant delays in getting you your new car in 2022.

The following alphabetical list is a starting reference for electric cars on the market in early 2022. The vehicle type is shown as coupe (c), crossover (x), estate (e), hatchback (h), liftback (l), saloon (s), people carrier (P) or SUV (V).

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