



OFFICIAL

Leon look for sharper



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AG THE supermini market is fiercely competitive, with new versions of the Nissan Micra, Ford Fiesta and Volkswagen Polo coming this year. And they're set to be joined by an all-new, fifth-generation SEAT Ibiza, revealed here for the first time. It's based on a completely new platform, and brings the model right up to date in terms of engines and technology.

The car has been built from the ground up to move the game on with its safety, design, performance and comfort, according to SEAT. It uses the VW Group MQB platform – more specifically the new A0 version set to underpin the smallest models in the group.

While the fundamentals of this Ibiza are new, the design isn't a huge change from the previous car, with similar light shapes and SEAT's trademark sharp lines along the bodywork. However, there's more of a

- **Smart new supermini revealed**
- **Now based on MQB platform**

mini-Leon look to it, linking the supermini more closely to SEAT's family hatch.

The interior has had a more extensive overhaul, with a completely new dash and centre console. There's a large infotainment screen in the centre, with buttons and controls for the most important functions. The new model is 87mm wider than the previous car, while the wheelbase is 95mm longer, too, creating extra room inside. The wider body also means larger seats have been fitted for improved comfort.

Its larger size means there's a bigger boot as well; the 355-litre space with the rear seats in place is 63 litres larger than before, and among the best in the supermini class.

The new platform means the Ibiza is lighter and more rigid, which should improve handling, performance and fuel economy. There are three engines to choose



**DESIGN**

There are hints of Leon family hatch in stylish lines on side of body, and the wheelbase is 95mm longer than before. Dash has a smarter, higher-quality look



Ibiza

CABIN

Larger interior means more space for bigger, comfier seats. There's more headroom than in the previous Ibiza as well

from in the UK range. Kicking things off is the 1.0-litre TSI with either 94bhp or 113bhp and a five-speed manual gearbox. A 1.6-litre TDI diesel will also be available, offering 79bhp or 94bhp.

Later on in 2017, a new 1.5-litre TSI turbo petrol will join the range; this is a four-cylinder engine delivering 148bhp. A six-speed manual box will be used with this unit, although there's the option of a seven-speed dual-clutch automatic as well.

Four models will make up the UK line-up when the Ibiza goes on sale later in 2017: the S, SE, FR and Xcellence.

There are no details on prices or specs yet, but we do know that FR trim benefits from a sporty look and adaptive suspension with four driving modes (Comfort, Eco, Sport and Individual).

The Xcellence version will be focused more on luxury, so it features a softer suspension set-up and LED ambient lights inside. Other equipment on the new Ibiza



It sits on new platform, but Ibiza isn't that different visually from current car (below)

includes a wireless smartphone charger along with a beats audio system.

SEAT has fitted the newcomer with a host of new safety gear as well. Adaptive cruise control, parking sensors at both the front and rear plus a rear view camera are all included.

We expect the new Ibiza to cost from around £13,000 in the UK when it arrives in July. That's only a small increase in price over the previous version, but changing currency markets could push it a bit higher.

