

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Mileage \_\_\_\_\_ Price \_\_\_\_\_ Seller \_\_\_\_\_

**What matters most:** The timing chain is the main concern. Pre-2020 engines are more affected. Arrange a cold start and listen for metallic rattle in the first 10 seconds.

### BEFORE THE VIEWING

#### Recall status (check with VIN)

This Kona has multiple safety recalls, including one for fuel filter paper degrading and damaging the high-pressure pump (21D091, 2018-2021 models). Call a Hyundai dealer with the VIN to confirm all are completed.

#### Service records and oil changes

Ask the seller for full service history before visiting. The G3LC engine needs oil changes every 15,000 km or once a year. Skipped or delayed changes accelerate timing chain wear.

#### Arrange a cold start visit

The most revealing check on this car is hearing the engine start cold, after sitting overnight. Ask to visit first thing in the morning so the engine has not been warmed up beforehand.

### AT THE CAR

#### Tyres and exterior condition

Standard tyre size is 205/60 R16. Check tread depth and look for uneven inner-edge wear, which can point to alignment issues common on lowered or potholed Konas. Note the tyre age from the DOT date code.

#### Cold start engine sound

Start the engine yourself if possible. Listen for a metallic rattle or chain slap in the first 10-30 seconds. A brief tick that fades within 2 seconds is normal. Anything lasting longer can point to timing chain tensioner wear.

#### Oil condition on the dipstick

The dipstick has a yellow handle on the front of the engine. Pull it and wipe the oil on a white cloth or tissue. On pre-2020 engines, look for a gritty texture or tiny metallic specks, which can point to chain cover grinding.

#### Air conditioning cooling

Turn the AC to maximum cold and let it run for a few minutes. This car uses R1234yf refrigerant, which is expensive to refill. Weak or warm airflow can point to a refrigerant leak or compressor wear, costing up to 1,200 euros.

### DURING THE DRIVE

#### Wastegate rattle under acceleration

In 3rd gear around 2,000 rpm, accelerate gently. A distinct metallic ticking or rattle from the engine bay can point to wastegate actuator play. This is separate from the timing chain and is a known issue on the turbo.

#### Sudden power loss or limp mode

Accelerate firmly through the rev range a few times and drive at highway speed if possible. If the car suddenly loses power and limits speed to around 65 km/h, it can point to turbo control or software issues.

#### Dashboard warnings and battery

Watch for the EPC light or check engine warnings during the drive. On 2018-2019 models, also ask the seller if the car has ever failed to start after sitting for a few days, which can point to the known battery drain issue.

### NOTES

#### THIS CAR AT A GLANCE

Compact petrol crossover, built 2017-2023. Manual gearbox is reliable, but the 3-cylinder engine has timing chain and wastegate concerns. Pre-2020 models need closer inspection.

#### KNOWN WEAK POINTS

##### Timing chain tensioner

Cold start rattle, chain stretch  
€800-2,200

##### Turbo wastegate rattle

Actuator play, possible limp mode  
€150-1,500

##### Ignition coil failure

Misfires from 25,000 km onward  
€150-500

##### 12V battery drain

Parasitic drain on 2018-2019 cars  
€150-300

##### AC compressor wear

Gradual cooling loss, R1234yf system  
€300-1,200

