

New BMW iDrive coming to the Neue Klasse in '25

BMW iDrive continues to evolve to make driving simpler and safer. It's never-ending innovation soon will begin its next chapter.

The automaker is bringing a display-and-operating concept to its next vehicle generation that enables a new intuitive interaction paradigm between the driver and vehicle. This leap will follow in the Neue Klasse from 2025.

The future generation of BMW iDrive will transform the vehicle into a digital-experience space. The quintessential-user experience will include BMW Panoramic Vision, a multifunction-steering wheel, the new central display and an updated BMW 3D head-up display as the central display and operating elements.

This technological leap enables a modern, characteristically BMW interior design with a focus on touch and advanced-voice interaction. iDrive in the Neue Klasse is characterized by four central elements.

BMW Panoramic Vision is based on a new head-up display technology. It projects information at a height perfectly matched to the driver across the entire width of the **windscreen**.

BMW 3D head-up display complements Panoramic Vision. It's used for active-driving situations and displays the required information, such as assisted

driving or traffic guidance, with high precision 3D animations in the driver's line of sight.

The new multifunctional-steering wheel allows the display contents of Panoramic Vision and 3D head-up display to be individually controlled according to the principal eyes on the road and hands on the wheel. Operation is convenient and precise via the steering-wheel buttons and is enhanced by the active haptic feedback and multilayer technology.

This updated iDrive also focuses on the new central display with BMW styling and intuitive-touch function. The matrix backlight technology of the central display ensures a high resolution for the displays, vibrant colors and strong contrast, regardless of the specific-light conditions.

The future iDrive will continue to feature the QuickSelect concept introduced in 2023. The system in the Neue Klasse is based on a highly integrated software architecture and uses the next generation of the BMW Operating System. The vehicle's smart connectivity with the BMW Cloud, as well as the customer's digital ecosystem, creates an immersive user experience and brings a new dimension to the human-car interaction. It transforms the vehicles of the Neue Klasse into digital-experience spaces.

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Royal Caribbean introduces Hideaway Beach

First adults-only escape unveiled on Perfect Day at CoCoCay

Royal Caribbean has the *perfect* place for adults. In fact, it even has the word in its name.

Its Perfect Day at CoCoCay is a sanctuary in The Bahamas that offers an adults-only escape – Hideaway Beach. The beach-front paradise opened this month with the debut of the highly anticipated *Icon of the Seas*. Hideaway Beach is an all-day experience that includes a private beach and pools, dedicated spots for drinks and bites, exclusive cabanas, live music and more.

“Hideaway Beach is a completely new vibe and experience that vacationers are looking for on Perfect Day at CoCoCay,” said Michael Bayley, president and CEO, Royal Caribbean International. “Everything from its hidden-like location to the exclusive beach and pools to the private cabanas is designed for adults who want a day just for them.”

Hideaway Beach is tucked away on the northwest beach of Perfect Day at CoCoCay. For an entry charge, **guest** 18 and older can celebrate, cool off and relax across a private beach, two pools, 20 cabanas, seven open-air bars and spots to eat. Highlights include:

Hideaway Beach – The shore is more than an acre in length and is defined by The Bahamas’ white sand and turquoise waters. Guests can enjoy the beachfront views and light breezes of the resort-style



ALL GROWN UP – Royal Caribbean is adding an adults-only beach – Hideaway Beach – on its Bahamian island, Perfect Day at CoCoCay. *Image: Royal Caribbean.*

loungers and umbrellas or on the water hammocks and swings while playing beach games and listening to beats of a live DJ by the pool.

Hideaway Pool – Partygoers can engulf themselves with all-day tunes and a lively swim-up bar. They can take advantage of in-water seating and loungers throughout the heated

infinity-edge pool.

Hideaway Cabanas – Only steps away from the party, guests can enjoy their day in a paradise at 10 chic poolside cabanas that have a range of amenities like cabana-attendant service at the push of a call button, a mini-fridge, floating beach mats and charging outlets.

The Hideout – It’s just close enough

to the buzz but carves out an exclusive experience. In one of 10 Hideout Cabanas, those seeking a more VIP, chill vibe can relax in a heated infinity-plunge pool and enjoy cabana-attendant service, among other things.

Laidback bites and drinks can be found at a host of places, including:

On the Rocks – An al fresco bar along the rocky shore serves a vibrant scene of live musicians, TVs to watch live sports and memorable ocean views, as well as refreshing cocktails.

Hideaway Bar – The swim-up bar at Hideaway Pool is a popular spot. It includes two levels. Guests can take their drinks poolside without leaving the water.

Slice of Paradise – The new rustic pizza joint has a bar and its complimentary dishes include fresh favorites from the oven, island twists like a Bahamian guava barbecue chicken option and more.

Snack Shack – A staple on the island, this new location offers the popular menu of complimentary chicken sandwiches, burgers, fried mozzarella sticks, fresh salads and more. Take advantage of the shaded seating and Adirondack chairs and tables on the sand.

Beach Bars – Putting a bow on the experience are a pair of full-service bars located on both sides of the new location, making sure a drink never is too far away.

Not all fluid flushes are created equal

Avoid add-ons during vehicle’s routine maintenance

The rising cost of new vehicles have kept more late models on our highways. Automotive technology has them requiring less maintenance and fewer repairs, lessening the pain on consumers’ wallets.

But improved technology shouldn’t be an excuse for not having your vehicle regularly maintained. Preventive maintenance keeps our vehicles running smoothly. It’s smart and vital but don’t let a shop fool you into purchasing something you might not need.

Car owners often are offered additional fluid and flush products and services when taking in their vehicles for an oil change. These could include automatic transmission, coolant and brake-system fluid exchanges or flushes.

All are legitimate maintenance items but be aware that they could be offered at intervals more frequent than recommended by the manufacturer. The California Bureau of Automotive Repair coined the term “wallet flush” for services that regularly provide little to no benefit to the vehicle but are primarily performed to boost the revenue of a repair shop.

Services like air-conditioning evacuation and recharge don’t need to be routinely addressed. And others like power-steering fluid changes and fuel-injector and fuel-system cleaning might not be recommended at all. AAA research found that using a fuel that meets top-tier standards keeps engines as much as 19 times cleaner.



FLUID MOVEMENT – Having your vehicle’s oil changed regularly is vital to keeping it running smoothly. *Image: romaset. Adobe Stock.*

AAA recommends these maintenance mainstays:

- Your owner’s manual was written by people who built your vehicle. It contains the most accurate information about how to care for it. Take the time to read it to understand manufacturer-recommended services, and when they are due. Some services might not be recommended and could void your warranty.
- On-board maintenance reminders are accurate, making the 3,000-mile oil change largely a thing of

the past. Following the reminder’s oil change intervals is sufficient to maintain the new-car warranty.

- Repair shops that display the AAA Approved Auto Repair sign can be trusted.

AAA Members are entitled to the following benefits at AAR shops:

- All repairs, parts, labor and components are guaranteed for 24 months or 24,000 miles under normal-operating conditions.
- Priority service with Roadside Assistance to a AAA Approved Auto Repair facility with prompt

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vehicle evaluation within 60 minutes of AAA tow arrival and assistance in obtaining alternate transportation.

- Enjoy a 10% discount (up to \$50) upon member request on regularly priced parts and labor through the AAA Discount and Rewards® program.
- You will be provided a written estimate of the cost of all work to be performed on your vehicle. The final cost may not exceed the estimate by more than 10% unless authorized by you in advance.
- The return of replaced parts if requested.
- Should a AAA member be unsatisfied with the service or repairs received at a AAA Approved Auto Repair facility, the facility has agreed to accept the decision instructed by AAA in order to correct the member’s concern.

Preventive maintenance is money well spent – as long as you’re not paying for something you don’t need.