



1953 MG TD Convertible

£24,995

Overview

Mileage	31,433 miles
Fuel Type	Petrol
Engine Size	1.3 l
Bodystyle	Convertible
Transmission	Manual
Exterior Colour	Red
Previous Owners	5
Registration	XXS173



Description

The 1953 MG TD is a classic British sports car that holds a special place in automotive history. It was part of the MG T-series and represented a blend of traditional British design with mechanical innovations aimed at the American market. Here's the story and history behind it:

Background: The MG T-Series

MG (Morris Garages), a British carmaker established in the 1920s, was known for producing small, sporty, affordable cars. After World War II, the company resumed car production with the MG TC (1945–1949), which was a hit with American servicemen stationed in Europe. Many brought TCs back home, helping ignite the postwar sports car craze in the United States.

Development of the MG TD

The MG TD was introduced in 1950 and produced until 1953, replacing the TC. It was a significant step forward in terms of comfort, performance, and technology, without straying too far from the classic pre-war MG styling.

Key Innovations of the TD:

Independent front suspension (borrowed from the MG Y-type sedan): Improved ride quality and handling.

Rack and pinion steering: Provided better control and feel.

Wider body and track: Made the car more stable and comfortable, especially for American buyers.

Bumper bars and disc wheels: More practical and modern than the wire wheels of earlier models.

12-volt electrical system: More reliable and capable than the 6-volt systems of its predecessors.

Engine:

1250cc XPAG inline-four engine

Produced around 54 horsepower

Top speed: ~78 mph (125 km/h)

0–60 mph in about 22 seconds – modest by today's standards, but thrilling at the time for such a lightweight car

A Car for the American Market

While the MG TD was a British car through and through, it was clearly aimed at American buyers:

More than 80% of MG TDs were exported to the United States.

American drivers appreciated its nimble handling and “European” charm.

It helped establish the British roadster as a symbol of affordable sports car fun in the U.S.

Legacy and Influence

The MG TD's success helped solidify MG's presence in North America and inspired many imitators. Its influence can be seen in:

The growth of sports car clubs and racing in the U.S.

The later development of the MG TF, and eventually the MGB.

Continued interest in “pure” driving experiences with light, simple, rear-wheel-drive cars.

End of the Line: The Final 1953 TDs

1953 marked the final production year for the MG TD before it was succeeded by the MG TF, which was more of a facelifted TD than a true redesign.

In total, 29,664 MG TDs were produced between 1950 and 1953.

Among these, the TD Mark II (or TD2), introduced in 1952, had more power and was a rarer, higher-performance version.

Cultural Impact & Collector Status

Today, the 1953 MG TD is beloved by collectors and classic car enthusiasts for its:

Timeless looks

Mechanical simplicity

Direct driving feel

Historical importance in popularizing sports cars in postwar America

It remains one of the most iconic and charming British roadsters ever built.

Location

Classicmobilia

Old Farm Park, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK7 8RE

07889 805432

Monday	Appointment only	Tuesday	Appointment only
Wednesday	Appointment only	Thursday	Appointment only
Friday	Appointment only	Saturday	Appointment only
Sunday	Appointment only		

