



## 1953 Bentley R Type Saloon

# POA

### Overview

Mileage 1,000 miles

Fuel Type Petrol

Engine Size 4.6 l

Bodystyle 4 DOOR SALOON

Transmission Manual

Exterior Colour Blue

Previous Owners 4

Registration NXH77



### Description

The 1953 Bentley R Type represents a fascinating period in Bentley's history—a time when the marque was transitioning from its sporting pre-war identity to the refined luxury grand touring cars for which it would later become famous.

#### Origins of the R Type

The R Type was introduced in 1952 as the successor to the successful Bentley Mark VI. At first glance, the two cars looked very similar, but the R Type incorporated a significantly enlarged boot, addressing one of the Mark VI's most common criticisms.

The "R" in R Type stood for "Roadholding", reflecting Bentley's emphasis on improving the car's touring capabilities. Production continued until 1955, when it was replaced by the Bentley S1.

#### Bentley in the Early 1950s

By 1953, Bentley had been owned by Rolls-Royce for over twenty years. The financial difficulties of the early 1930s had led to Bentley's acquisition by Rolls-Royce in 1931, fundamentally changing the character of the company.

The famous pre-war "Bentley Boys" era of Le Mans victories had given way to a more refined philosophy. The post-war Bentleys shared much of their engineering with Rolls-Royce models, offering luxury and craftsmanship combined with slightly

sportier performance and handling.

## Engineering Excellence

The 1953 R Type was powered by Bentley's smooth and durable 4,566cc inline six-cylinder engine. Although Rolls-Royce famously described power output as "adequate," estimates place it at around 130–150 horsepower depending on specification.

Key features included:

4.6-litre overhead inlet/side exhaust six-cylinder engine

Four-speed manual gearbox

Independent front suspension

Hydraulic brakes

Robust chassis designed for long-distance touring

Despite weighing nearly two tons, the R Type could comfortably cruise at modern road speeds and was considered one of the finest touring cars of its day.

## Coachbuilt Elegance

While most R Types left the factory with Bentley's standard steel saloon body, a number were delivered as rolling chassis to renowned coachbuilders such as:

H.J. Mulliner

Park Ward

James Young

Hooper & Co.

These bespoke cars are among the most desirable Bentleys today, each reflecting the tastes and requirements of its original owner.

## The Birth of the R Type Continental

Perhaps the most important chapter in the R Type story arrived in 1952 with the introduction of the legendary Bentley R Type Continental.

Developed with lightweight coachwork by H.J. Mulliner, the Continental became the fastest four-seat production car in the world at the time. It could exceed 115 mph while carrying four adults and luggage in complete comfort.

Many historians regard the R Type Continental as the ancestor of every modern Bentley grand tourer, including the Bentley Continental GT.

## Ownership and Prestige

A 1953 Bentley R Type was expensive when new and attracted successful business owners, industrialists, aristocrats and professionals. Unlike more ostentatious luxury cars, Bentleys appealed to buyers who wanted understated prestige combined with excellent driving characteristics.

Owners appreciated:

Exceptional build quality

Long-distance comfort

Quiet operation

Reliability

Strong resale values  
Collectability Today

Today, the standard R Type saloon remains one of the most accessible entry points into classic Bentley ownership. It offers:

- Elegant 1950s styling
- Strong parts support
- Excellent club backing
- Comfortable modern-road usability

The coachbuilt cars and especially the R Type Continental occupy a completely different market, often commanding values many times greater than standard saloons.

### Why the 1953 Model Matters

The 1953 Bentley R Type captures a unique moment in British motoring history. It combined traditional hand-finished luxury with practical post-war engineering and laid the foundations for Bentley's modern identity as a builder of high-speed luxury touring cars.

For many enthusiasts, it represents the perfect balance between the pre-war Bentley spirit and the refined grand touring Bentleys that followed—a car equally at home outside a country house, on a continental tour, or gliding effortlessly down a motorway seventy years after it was built.

## Location

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<b>Classicmobilia</b>	Monday	Appointment only	Tuesday	Appointment only
Braystone House, Salford Road, Aspley Giuse, Milton Keynes, MK17 8HY	Wednesday	Appointment only	Thursday	Appointment only
	Friday	Appointment only	Saturday	Appointment only
<b>07889 805432</b>	Sunday	Appointment only		

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