

Arizona

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Park Service - Arizona
http://www.nps.gov/state/az

Grand Canyon National Park
PO Box 129 • Grand Canyon AZ 86023
923-638-7888 Visitor Info Recorded Message

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
10 Organ Pipe Drive • Ajo AZ 85321-9626
520-387-6849 Visitor Information

Petrified Forest National Park
PO Box 2217
Petrified Forest National Park AZ 86028
928-524-66228 Visitor Information

Saguaro National Park
3693 South Old Spanish Trail
520-733-5153 Visitor Info Rincon Mtn District

Wupatki National Monument
Flagstaff Area National Monuments
6400 N. Hwy 89 • Flagstaff AZ 86004
928-679-2365 Visitor Information
928-526-1157 Visitor Information, HQ

PARKS AND OUTDOORS

Chiricahua State Park
HCR 2, Box 6500 • Willcox AZ 85643
520-824-3560

Lake Havasu State Park
699 London Bridge Dr. • Lake Havasu AZ 86403
928-855-2784

TOURISM - LODGING - EVENTS

Travel Sites To Be Seen
www.sedona.net
www.thecanyon.com
www.flagstaff.com
www.prescott.com
www.scottsdale-phoenix.net

Greater PHX Convention & Visitors Bureau
400 E. Van Buren Street, Suite 600 • PHX 85004
877-CALLPHX • 602-254-6500 • phoenixcvb.com

Nevada

TOURISM - ATTRACTIONS - EVENTS

Las Vegas Tourism Bureau
6120 W. Tropicana Ave. • Las Vegas NV
www.lasvegastourism.com

AUTOMOTIVE

Imperial Palace Auto Collections
Imperial Palace • Las Vegas NV
702-794-3174 • imperialpalace.com/auto.html

National Automobile Museum
Harrah Collection • 10 Lake Street South • Reno
775-333-9300 • www.automuseum.org

California

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Park Service - California
http://www.nps.gov/state/ca

TOURISM - ATTRACTIONS - EVENTS

Disneyland
Anaheim • 714-781-4565 • www.disneyland.com

Palm Desert Visitor Information Center
72-567 Highway 111 • Palm Desert CA 92260
800-873-2428 • www.palm-desert.org

San Diego Convention & Visitors Bureau
2215 India Street • San Diego CA 92101
800-359-6205 • www.sandiego.org/nav/Visitors

AUTOMOTIVE

Petersen Automotive Museum
6060 Wilshire Blvd. (at Fairfax) • LA CA 90036
323-930-CARS • www.petersen.org

New Mexico

TOURISM - ATTRACTIONS - EVENTS

New Mexico Department of Tourism
800-733-6396 x 0643 • www.newmexico.org

Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 1928 • Santa Fe NM 87504
8380 Cerrillos Rd. Suite 302 • Santa Fe NM 87507
505-983-7317 • www.santafechamber.com

RESORTS AND LODGING

Inn on La Loma Plaza
315 Ranchitos Road • Box 4159 • Taos NM 87571
800-530-3040 • www.VacationTaos.com

Inn on the Alameda
303 East Alameda • Santa Fe NM 87501
505-984-21221 • www.innonthealameda.com

Utah

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Park Service - Utah
http://www.nps.gov/state/ut

PARKS AND OUTDOORS

San Juan County Tourism
117 S. Main Street • Monticello UT 84535
800-574-4386 • www.southeastutah.org

Southern Utah Scenic Tours
PO Box 1113 • Cedar City UT 84720
888-404-8687 • www.utahscenicstours.com

RESORTS AND LODGING

Desert Rose Inn & Cabins
701 W. Highway 191 • Bluff UT 84512
888-475-7673 • www.DesertRoseInn.com

Colorado

TOURISM - ATTRACTIONS - EVENTS

Colorado Activity Centers, Inc.
PO Box 129 • Frisco CO 80443
800-777-8642 • www.coloradoinfo.com

AUTOMOTIVE

Shelby American Collection
5020 Chaparral Court • Boulder CO 80308
303-516-9565 • .shelbyamericancollection.org

Mexico

RESORTS AND LODGING

Puerto Peñasco Mexico Online
Beachfront home rentals in Rocky Point.
623-935-0507 • www.puerto-penasco.com

TOURISM - ATTRACTIONS - EVENTS

Baja California State Tourism Office
Blvd. Diaz Ordaz s/n
Edificio Plaza Patria Nivel 3
CP 22400 Tijuana BC • (66) 81-9492

Chihuahua State Tourism Office
Calle Libertad No. 1300
Edificio Agustin Melgar, 1er Piso
CP 31000 Chihuahua, Chihuahua • (14) 29-3421

Sinaloa State Tourism Office
Av. Camarón Sabalo esq. Tiburon
Edificio Banrural 4 Piso
CP 82100 Mazatlán, Sinaloa • (69) 16-5160

Sonora State Tourism Office
Centro de Gobierno
Edificio Estatal Norte 3er Nivel
Comonfort y Paseo Río -
CP 83280 Hermosillo, Sonora • (62) 17-0076

Of national interest

AUTOMOTIVE

Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village
20900 Oakwood Blvd. • Dearborn MI 48124
www.hfmgv.com • 313-271-1620

Imperial Palace Auto Collections (see Nev.)

Motorcycle Hall of Fame Museum
Pickerington OH 43147
www.motorcyclemuseum.org • 614-856-2222

National Automobile Museum (see Nev.)

National Corvette Museum
350 Corvette Drive • Bowling Green KY 42101
www.corvettemuseum.com • 800-53VETTE

Petersen Automotive Museum (see Calif.)

Shelby American Collection (see Colorado)

TEST DRIVE : 2007 HYUNDAI AZERA LIMITED

Hyundai Azera moves into flagship spot

by Barbara and Bill Schaffer
photos by Joe Sage

The Hyundai Azera offers a lot of safety features, especially given its price. This sedan has a total of eight airbags—including advanced dual front airbags, front and rear seat-mounted side-impact airbags and roof-mounted side curtain airbags for both front and rear outboard seat occupants.

Hyundai never ceases to amaze us. (We say the same thing every time we drive one.) This time they have replaced the more than acceptable XG350 with the incredible Azera. This new full-size four-door sedan offers high-end styling, a spacious interior, quality materials and luxurious appointments—at a price as amazing as the vehicle itself.

In the animal world, when people talk about “dog years,” one year of a dog’s life is the equivalent of seven years in the life of a human. In the automotive industry, there is a similar equation developing, which we will call “Hyundai years.”

It works this way: for every one year of the auto industry, Hyundai progresses two years. Since the Korean automaker started selling cars in the US 20 years ago, they have progressed from the relatively primitive Excel to the sophisticated and competitive Azera. Most other auto companies have taken 40 years to advance that same distance. Each new Hyundai we’ve driven over the last four or five years has been dramatically better than the previous one we drove, whether it is the entry level Accent, the Santa Fe SUV or the large Azera.

The Azera has a sleek modern design

with European styling cues, but it won’t stand out in the crowd. It is aerodynamically efficient to reduce wind noise and maximize stability.

The interior is as spacious as the Mercedes S-Class and Toyota Avalon, and offers features and appointments that rival many of the premium brands.

The two-tone instrument panel is made of high quality vinyl. It’s topped by a darker color and is separated from the lighter color front panel by a simple dark woodgrain strip. To make the cockpit feel

KEEP RIGHT >>



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even more spacious, the dash fits close to the windshield. Instruments are conveniently mounted high on the center console so the driver doesn't have to look down to control audio or climate functions. The console is finished in a metallic look.

The most impressive change from the

XG350 was the all-new, all-aluminum 3.8-liter engine. The DOHC V-6 produces 263 horsepower and 255-lb.ft. of torque using a Continuously Variable Valve Timing and Variable Intake System. The transmission for the front-wheel-drive sedan is a five-speed automatic with Shiftronic® manual

control for those, like us, who like to manually shift their automatic transmissions from time to time.

Hyundai's flagship Azera comes in two well-equipped models—the SE and Limited. The SE comes standard with dual auto temp control, AM/FM stereo with CD and

MP3, 16-inch alloy wheels, cruise control, all the power equipment associated with higher-level cars, keyless entry, and manual tilt and telescoping steering column—all for \$24,995 including destination charges.

The Limited model adds leather upholstery, woodgrain steering wheel, power electric rear sunshade, electronic stability control, power tilt and telescoping steering wheel, 17-inch alloy wheels, plus additional features for \$27,495. Some of our favorite options include power sunroof with shade, AM/FM/Cassette/6-disc CD changer and MP3, memory system for driver's seat/outside mirrors/power steering column.

The Ultimate Package (\$2,495) adds driver's memory system, power folding outside mirrors, adjustable pedals, power tilt and telescoping wheel, rain-sensing wipers, heated front seats, moonroof, 6-disc CD changer and Infinity speakers. Fully loaded, the Limited tips the scale at \$30,000. We told you it was incredible.

Benchmarking the best cars in this category, Hyundai engineers built the flagship Azera from a rigid unibody platform, attaching it to the ground with four-wheel independent suspension. The combination produced a solid feel with smooth, quiet ride. The handling was very good, with an acceptable level of body lean and softness commensurate with a vehicle in this class.

For a vehicle in this price range, it's pretty well equipped with safety features,

including front seat passenger and driver advanced airbags, front and rear seat side airbags, roof-mounted side curtain airbags, active head restraints, electronic stability control plus four-wheel anti-lock brakes and front seat belts with adjustable shoulder belt height.

The Azera's acceleration is an amazing 6.5 second, from 0 to 60 mph, and it has a top speed of 145 mph. Acceleration is very well behaved, too: there is no torque steer and only a little chirp from the tires during hard acceleration, thanks to the traction control.

We recorded 78 mph in our unofficial acceleration test, which we run from where we pull onto the main highway and accelerate full-throttle to a landmark in about one-eighth mile.

The EPA rates the Azera's fuel economy at 19 mpg for city driving and 28 mpg on the highway. We averaged 22.2 mpg during our week of mixed driving.

This vehicle is like a good movie, you just want everyone to see it. It's everything most of us want in a full-size sedan and maybe even more, plus it's an incredible value.

The Hyundai is an amazing value and an enjoyable car to drive. Fuel economy was a little weaker than we expected, but we imagine it would improve with a little more responsible driving on our part. The decisive factor, though, has to be the outstanding 5-year/60,000-mile bumper-to-bumper warranty and 10-year/100,000-mile powertrain warranty. ■

Hyundai Azera Limited

STANDARD EQUIPMENT

Electronic stability control; Traction control, Active head restraints; 17-Inch alloy wheels; Remote keyless entry and alarm; Heated seats; Power rear sunshade; AM/FM audio with CD & MP3 player; Power windows, locks and keyless entry; Cruise; Woodgrain steering wheel.

Base Price \$26,835
Options: Premium package (sunroof, Infinity audio and 6-disc in-dash CD changer) \$1,500
Total Options \$1,500
Freight \$660
Price as Tested \$28,995

DIMENSIONS

EPA Size Large car
Weight 3,629 lb.
Wheelbase 109.4 in.
Length 192.7 in.
Width 72.8 in.
Height 58.7 in.
Fuel Capacity 19.8 gal.
Cargo Capacity 16.6 cu. ft.

MECHANICAL

Engine 3.8L DOHC V-6
Horsepower 263@6000
Torque 255@4500
Transmission 5-Spd. Auto
Drive Front wheel
Brakes Disc ABS
Tires 235/55R17

PERFORMANCE

0 to 60 mph 6.5 sec.
Speed to 1/8 mile 78 mph
Top speed 145 mph
EPA economy rating 19/28 mpg
Our actual fuel economy 22.2 mpg

COMPETITORS

Buick Lucerne, Chevrolet Impala, Chrysler 300, Dodge Charger, Ford Crown Victoria, Hyundai Sonata, Kia Amanti, Mercury Grand Marquis, Toyota Avalon. ■

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