

LUXURY LINER

WITH SPEED BOAT AGILITY

BY JOE SAGE

Kia's people mover has the general shape and tell-tale sliding doors of a minivan, and that's what the prior Sedona was. But they've taken a new angle on the machine, and thus the term, now calling the Sedona a multi-purpose vehicle—an MPV. With its unmistakable family face, from the front it could almost be taken for a Sorento crossover, or maybe even an Optima midsize sedan. From the driver's seat, this sizable ride can easily be taken for a performance sedan. That's what Kia promised us when the new Sedona was introduced, and we'd say they delivered.

On the road or in tight spots, it feels much smaller than it is. Maneuverability is tops, with a turning circle just 16 inches wider than a MINI in a vehicle 50 inches longer. The traditional minivan experience of being the unwitting pilot of a barge is completely gone

from the Sedona. Yet, it still has 142 cubic feet of cargo space behind the front row, 40.9 inches of legroom in front and a generous 40.6 in the second row, with Slide-N-Stow seating that quickly folds upright for cargo—or up to 51.4 inches with phenomenal “First Class lounge” reclining seats. The third row retracts completely into the flat cargo floor.

The new Kia Sedona is a very well-executed vehicle, with top-notch interfaces and controls. The UVO screen and surround cameras offer a clean layout and a clear image.

We had no specific need for a, well, minivan-equivalent during our week with the Kia Sedona, yet we greatly enjoyed just driving it.

Lean and nimble as this is, other drivers may still treat this aggressively, as they often do a minivan. But with the 276-hp Sedona in your hands, you can deal with it. ■

SPECIFICATIONS

ENGINE	3.3L DOHC GDI V6, alum heads/block
DRIVETRAIN	FWD
HP/TORQUE	276 hp / 248 lb-ft
TRANSMISSION	electronic 6-spd auto/Sportmatic
STEERING	rack mounted electronic p/s
SUSPENSION ...F:	MacPherson struts, coils, anti-roll bar; R: multi-link w/struts, coils, PLD dampers.
WHEELS	6.5Jx19 chrome alloy
BRAKES	F: 12.6 vented / R: 11.9 solid disc
SEATING	7 / optional 8
CARGO CAPACITY	33.9 / 78.4 / 142.0 cu ft
LENGTH/WHEELBASE	201.4 in / 120.5 in
TURNING CIRCLE	36.8 ft
WEIGHT / DISTRIBUTION	4656 lb / 57/43 F/R
TOWING CAPACITY	3500 lb
FUEL / FUEL TANK87 octane regular / 21.1 gal
MPG	17/22/19 (city/hwy/comb)

BASE PRICE	\$39,900
SXL TECHNOLOGY PACKAGE:	Xenon HID headlights w high beam assist, lane departure, forward collision warning, surround view monitor, smart cruise control, chrome side sill trim, luggage zone 115V power inverter
REAR SEAT ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM	1095
DESTINATION CHARGE	895
TOTAL	\$44,690

