

Variety pack

by Joe Sage

Kia's exponential growth is rooted not just in product, but in value, and this SUV in the mid-upper 40s is no exception. In this top-trim SX-Luxury (or SXL) V6 AWD sample—with Nappa leather, dual-zone automatic climate (including family-coveted rear controls), 10-speaker surround sound, a full range of driver assist tech, advanced surround cameras, 290-horse V6 and 5,000-pound tow capacity—the Sorento SXL competes with alternatives that cost tens of thousands more. All from the brand that has topped the JD Power Initial Quality Study for the past two years running. That's value.

What's more, you have plenty of choices. There are 13 models—L, LX, EX, SX and SXL; three engines (a regularly aspirated 185-hp four, a 240-hp turbo four and our sample's 290-hp V6); and choice of FWD or AWD on all but the FWD-only L trim. Tow capacity is 5000 pounds on any with both V6 and AWD, 3500 on most others, 2000 pounds with the 185-hp

four. You can get into the Sorento for as little as \$25,600, for a FWD Sorento L; a midrange front-drive EX turbo is just \$31,700.

We took ours to Sedona, easily conquering the rapid altitude gain and necessarily opportunistic lane changes of the Interstate. Its stance provides near-sports-sedan handling. We rocked our return trip with the Infinity sound system, which is so potent we found the equalizer was happy right near neutral defaults. Around town, we'd get a good punch in sport mode, but with 290 hp on tap, we didn't always even think of that. We didn't take our Sorento four-wheeling—few would—but it's able to handle the best gravel road camping, fishing or byway sightseeing trips. On the Sorento's launch drive a couple of winters ago in the High Sierra west of Reno, it handled extreme snow and high wind conditions handsomely—all while getting 23 mpg highway (25 with FWD) on regular gas.

Ours had three-row, seven-passenger seating, as do a range of the higher trims. For 2018, the third row will also become standard on LX all-wheel-drive models. ■

SPECIFICATIONS

ENGINE	3.3L DOHC dual-CVVT GDI V6
DRIVETRAIN	full-time AWD, sport/eco modes
HP/TORQUE	290 hp / 252 lb-ft
TRANSMISSION	6-speed automatic
SUSPENSION	F: indep MacPherson, coils, stblzr bar R: indep multilink, stblzr bar, dual flow dampers
STEERING	rack mounted motor driven
BRAKES	F: 12.6" vented / R: 12.0" solid discs
WHEELS/TIRES	19x7.5 / 235/55 R19
LENGTH/WB/GRND CLEAR	187.4 / 109.4 / 7.3 in
APPROACH/DEPARTURE	16.9 / 21.0 degrees
WEIGHT	4101-4343 lb
TURNING CIRCLE	37.3 ft
TOW CAPACITY	5000 lb
CARGO CAPACITY	11.3 / 38.0 / 73.0 cu.ft
FUEL / FUEL CAPACITY	87 oct regular / 18.8 gal
MPG	17/23/19 (city/hwy/comb)

BASE PRICE **\$45,700**

INCLUDED: Nappa leather, heated leather wheel, 10-way/8-way power front seats w memory, heated/cooled front seats, heated outboard 2nd row seats, wood grain/leather/satin chrome/piano black trim, keyless entry/start, dual zone auto climate w rear vents/controls, Infinity 10-sprkr surround sound, UVO 8-in nav, Android/Apple, Bluetooth, 4.2-in TFT LCD cluster display, backup & surround view monitor, autonomous emergency braking, blind spot detect, lane departure warning, rear cross traffic alert, rear park assist, panoramic sunroof, HID headlights, LED marker-fog-brake lights, heated power fold/signal mirrors, smart hands-free power liftgate and more.

SNOW WHITE PEARL PAINT395

DESTINATION CHARGE895

TOTAL **\$46,990**

