ARIZONADRIVER



Transformed. By JOE SAGE

RAV4 wraps up its third decade or so on our shores (now in its fifth generation for 2020, it first arrived in 1995) with a completely reimagined and redirected vehicle. The new RAV4 is significant —within Toyota, joining GR Supra as another new vehicle with above-average personality and soul; and beyond Toyota, potentially a harbinger of a new era of utilities that return to looking utilitarian, moving away from the curvy little lookalikes that have been ubiquitous industrywide in recent years.

Compared with other models of the new RAV4, the new Adventure AWD (based on the FT-AC concept shown at the LA Auto Show a year earlier; see sidebar) is as much an exercise in rugged style as anything. Functionally, it has the same power-

1996 Gen 1

..120 / 125.

.145.9 / 86.6 ...

..33.5 ft

40 n / -

.39.5 / -

2634 lh

.FWD 21/27/23.....AWD 22/29/na..

...\$15.998......±\$23-28.000

HP/TORQUE

WHFFLS

LENGTH / WB.

TURNING CIRCLE

APPROACH/DEP

HEADROOM (E/R

LEGROOM (F/R)

CARGO (CU.FT).

TOW CAPACITY

BASE PRICE...

WEIGHT

GROUND CLEARANCE.

2013 Gen 4

....176 / 172

...179.9 / 104.7

..34.7-36.7 ft

..29 / 22º..

.39.8 / 38.9 .

..42.6 / 37.2.

..38.4 / 73.4..

3435-3600 lb

...1500 lb.

.16x6.5.....17x6.5 - 18x7.5

train, approach and departure angles, suspension and brakes. As with other upper trims, it gains always welcome ground clearance over base models by virtue of its 19-inch wheels. Tow capacity on a base RAV4 is 1500 pounds, upgradeable to 3500 included. Its front fascia has a skid plate appearance to it, and its roof rack with optional cross bars screams "outdoors." Engineering may not be all that different, but usage surely will be.

One look at the RAV4 Adventure AWD is enough to make you think of 4Runner, and that's where the breakthrough is-compare it with the prior four generations shown at upper right, and you'll see that even the thought of such an image compari-

19x7.5

37.4 ft

.19 / 219

...41.0 / 37.8 in.

..AWD 25/33/28

..37.5 / tbd

3615 lh

\$32,955

2019 base 2019 Adventure

(snrf) 37.7 / 37.7(snrf) 37.7 / 37.7 .

...203 / 184.

.180.9 / 105.9 .

..base 17x7.0

..base 36.1 ft

..base 8.4 in

41 0 / 37 8

1500 (3500 opt)

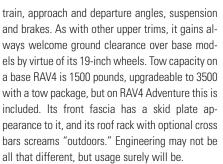
....3370-3620 lb

..FWD 26/35/30.

\$25,850-36,630

..37.5 / tbd

...19 / 219









legroom. 4Runner leads noticeably in functional categories of approach/departure, ground clearance and towing. Most fundamentally, 4Runner remains a body-on-frame build, like the Tacoma pickup—and suspension, undercarriage and driveline are all tougher—while RAV4 is a unibody.

If you have 4Runner needs, the decision will be easy. If you have a 4Runner soul but seek purchase and fuel economy, the decision will also be easy. In an unprecedented way, each is now a halo for the other. If your needs and soul fall into an overlap zone between the two, take heart-for 2020. Toyota is adding a RAV4 TRD Off-Road grade, with upgraded suspension, wheels and tires, driveline disconnect, twin-tube shocks and other more serious off-road engineering. (And if your needs and soul fall outside any of this, there's a RAV4 Hybrid with 40 mpg combined.)

Toyota themselves make a valid point when they say the new gen-five RAV4 has "the capacity to be both a segment leader and a segment disrupter."







(Above, top left-right, lower left-right) Toyota RAV4 generations one, two, three and four have run through much evolution. Gen five, new for 2019 (main photo, left), takes things a step further, strongly (almost totally) echoing the FT-AC (Future Toyota Adventure Concept) from the late-2017 LA Auto Show (below)—and philosophically echoing the burly do-anything styling of 4Runner (below, bottom), including the classic SUV form it has maintained all along.





SPECIFICATIONS

ENGINE......2.5L Dynamic Force 4-cylinder, alum block, alum head, 16v DOHC, VVT-iE intake, VVT-i exhaust HP/TORQUE... ..203 hp / 184 lb-ft TRANSMISSION .. direct shift 8-spd electronic control w sequential shift mode and snow mode **DRIVETRAIN**.....AWD w multi-terrain select, dynamic torque vectoring, rear driveline disconnect SUSPENSIONF: indep MacPherson strut, hydraulic shocks, stblzr bar (25.5mm); R: trailing wishbone style multi-link, stblzr bar (23.5mm) STEERINGrack-mt parallel elec pwr asst rack & pin-

		ion
	BRAKES F: 12.0 vented / R: 11.1 sol WHEELS / TIRES 19x7.5 alum alloy / 235/55R1	
	LENGTH / WB	181.5 / 105.9 in
	TURNING CIRCLE	37.4 ft
	GROUND CLEARANCE	8.6 in
	APPROACH/DEPARTURE	19 / 21º
	HEADROOM (F/R) W MOONROO	F 37.7 / 37.7 in
6	LEGROOM (F/R)	
200	CARGO CAPACITY	37.5 / tbd cu.ft
Smil	TOW CAPACITY (tow pkg incl w/Adventure) 3500 lb	
9	WEIGHT	3615 lb
	FUEL / CAPACITY	regular unl / 14.5 gal
Š	MPG25/3	3/28 (city/hwy/comb)
	BASE PRICE	\$32,900
1990	ADVENTURE GRADE WEATHE	
	front bucket seats, heated lea	ather wheel, rain sens-

INFOTAINMENT: 8.0" touchscreen, Entune 3.0 premium 11-spkr JBL Clari-Fi audio, Dynamic Nav (3-yr trial), aux, USB media and charge ports, voice recog, Apple CarPlay, bluetooth, hands-free phone and more..1620 ADVENTURE GRADE TECH PKG: intelligent clearance sonar, rear cross-traffic braking, digital rear mirror w HomeLink, wireless smartphone charging1265 MOONROOF: power tilt/slide, one-touch open/close.850 OPTIONS: two-tone (500); door sill protector (199); wheel lock (65); roof rack cross bars (315); all-weather floor liners, cargo tray (269).

\$40,263

DESTINATION CHARGE.

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