

Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2008 Kia Sedona EX Minivan

BY KATHLEEN CARR

Your family never slows down, so neither does Kia. That's why the second generation of the Sedona was redesigned to be safer, roomier and packed with a wealth of style, luxury and convenience features to get you and your family from one adventure to the next.

As minivans continue to vanish from manufacturers' lineups every model year, the 2008 Kia Sedona is still around, offering a solid safety package and comprehensive amenities for budget-conscious families.

The Sedona is available in three trim levels—base, LX, and EX—all sharing a 3.8 liter V6 engine that supplies instant pickup and quick passing. The 2008 Kia Sedona's engine is a modern V6 tuned to 250 horsepower and 253 pound-feet of torque; our loaded EX model did 0-60 mph in a brisk 8.4 seconds. The engine makes a semi-refined full-throttle growl and is reasonably quiet otherwise.

The 2008 Kia Sedona backs up that power with a responsive five-speed automatic transmission and a sophisticated suspension. The

standard 5-speed automatic transmission includes Sportmatic® manual shifting capability for quick shifts with the flick of your hand.

From the outside, the Sedona looks classy and stylish. Inside, there's seven-passenger seating with seats that easily collapse to create a vast cargo space. Every cabin convenience known to man is either standard or available.

Built to deliver at every level, the Sedona is the first and only minivan ever to earn both a 5-star crash safety rating from the U.S. Government and be named "Top Safety Pick" by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

With a 5-star crash test rating, the Sedona is packed with safety features including standard 4-wheel anti-lock brakes with Electronic Brake-force distribution and Brake Assist, Electronic Stability Control and the Traction Control System.

The comprehensive restraint system includes dual front advanced airbags, dual front seat-mounted side airbags, full-length side curtain airbags, and front active head restraints.



Ready for anything – Equipped for everything

Specifications: 3.8-Liter 24-valve 250-hp@253lb-ft. torque V-6 engine; 5-Speed automatic transmission; 16-city 23-highway MPG; \$33,220. MSRP.

The optional Back-up Warning System alerts the driver to any objects behind the vehicle with an audible beep. The standard Tire Pressure Monitoring System helps keep tire inflated properly by alerting the driver to any significant drops in pressure.

Along with peace of mind, enjoy the versatility of Sedona's 2nd and

3rd-row seating and multiple cargo options. Or, relish in the convenience of available dual power sliding doors and power lift gate which make cargo and passenger loading and unloading a snap.

With an available DVD system, Infinity® surround-sound speakers and wireless headsets, you'll never again hear the "are we there

yet?" cry. Add on Sedona's tri-zone air conditioning, 8-way power adjustable driver's seat and one roomy interior, and you'll see why comfort and space are the keys to family togetherness.

The Kia Sedona driver feels like the master of her or his domain, looking down on the vast and functional center stack with all its con-

trols, including a big leather-wrapped shift knob. This is a much better location for the shifter than between the seats.

The center stack in our fully loaded EX was finished in a soft, dark simulated wood that looks way better than the hard, shiny real wood found in many luxury cars.

Overall the 2008 Kia Sedona is a great-looking minivan with a powerful V6 engine and a suspension that's second to none. The interior is well thought out, with seven-passenger seating but easily convertible to a carpeted cargo van and there's an abundance of storage compartments. The Sedona is only really lacking all-wheel drive.

So what's the bottom-line assessment? When considering the Kia Sedona, you should know about its excellent 10-year/100,000-mile powertrain warranty, generous 3.5-liter V-6, and roomy packaging. You should also be aware that its five-speed automatic occasionally lets loose a jerky shift, its steering tightens up under power, and it easily spins its front wheels, despite the Sedona's great mass. But the key to the Sedona is its less-than-\$24,000 base sticker price.



Gage AUTO SALES

THE LOW PRICE LEADER

www.captainyes.com • 503-515-8628

2005 Chrysler PT Cruiser
 Stock Number: 21272
 Mileage: 27,359
 4 Door Wagon, 2.4L, L4, DOHC



2005 BMW 5 series 525i
 Stock Number: 21362 Mileage: 46,690
 4 Door Sedan, Automatic, RWD, L6, 2.5L

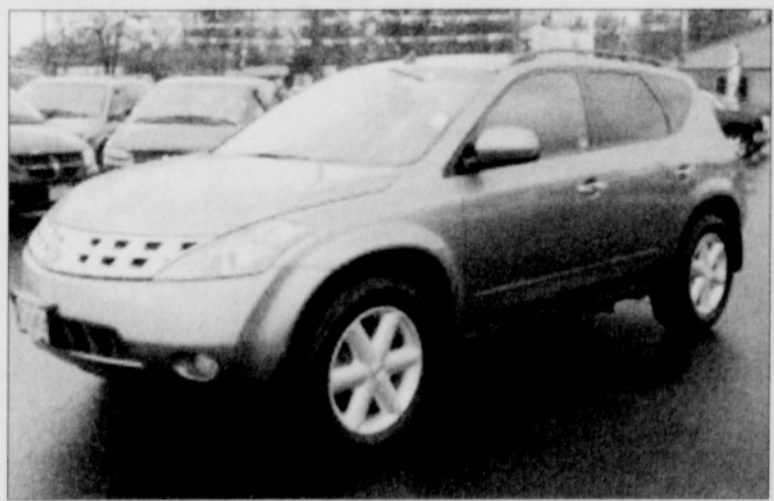


1999 Mercedes-Benz M Class ML320
 Stock No: 20915
 Mileage: 72,392
 4 Door Wagon, 3.2L, V6



2003 Ford Expedition XLT
 4 Door Wagon, Automatic 4WD,
 SOHC, EFI, V8, 4.6L (281 CID)

2003 Nissan Murano SE
 Stock No: 21045
 Mileage: 74,267
 4 Door Wagon, V6, 3.5L



1998 Mercedes-Benz E Class E320
 Stock No: 21071
 Mileage: 85,283
 4 Door Sedan, V6, 3.2L



ALL VEHICLES ARE SAFETY INSPECTED WITH FREE



• Spanish Speaking Help (*español*) • Loan by phone
 • BBB member • Good/No/Bad Credit • over 300 cars
GAGE AUTO SALES 13432 SE McLoughlin Blvd, Portland, OR 97222



ask for Lucky
 wallerlouis@yahoo.com