



'TIS THE SEASON

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The reinvented Ford Explorer has an entirely new look for 2011, shedding its truck-based platform for a unibody design and adding loads of safety and infotainment technologies to help keep your eyes on the road and hands on the wheel.

Explorer raises bar on safety, fuel economy and connectivity

By **NEIL MOORE**
*Metroland Media Group
Carguide Magazine*

LA JOLLA, Ca.: When Ford labelled the 2011 Ford Explorer 'all-new,' they weren't kidding. In short, the company has changed nearly everything about this vehicle. The look is now somewhere between SUV and crossover—and far more handsome than before.

Architecture has evolved from a traditional, truck-based platform to unibody design. Driving dynamics have become less truck-like, yet the Explorer still has good off road ability. Fuel economy has improved with a new, standard-equipped V6 that is also more powerful than the engine it replaces. And a turbo four is on the way. And on the safety front, Ford has introduced some clever new features, such as Curve Control (which automatically slows you down on entering a curve too quick-

ly) and the world's first inflatable rear seatbelts. Although Ford's second-generation SYNC connectivity system allows hands-free operation of phone, music and other functions, generates vehicle health reports, delivers turn-by-turn navigation, not to mention connecting you with emergency services, traffic alerts and more, the company felt this was still not enough. Now they've overlaid the MyFord Touch system that does everything but make toast.

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