

Acadia Denali 2011 fills the bill

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In the real world, I got an average of about 12.4L/100 km thanks mostly to running on cruise control whenever possible. And with an 83-litre tank, filling up can be a pricy affair.

Except for the actual moving part, the trip was a lot of fun including the drive both ways.

With standard all-wheel-drive, the Acadia Denali showed great poise even when running down a rutted, muddy water clogged dirt road that leads to a friend's farm.

Beside traction control and ABS, the Denali has GM's StabiliTrak system with enhanced rollover mitigation.

Inside, the genuine mahogany wood inserts were a nice touch as were the heated and cooled leather front seats and twin panoramic sunroof.

But I can't say the same for the Denali's irksome HUD (heads up display). It projects information like speed, revs and gear selection on the inside of the windshield in the driver's line of sight.

With blue-coloured numbers changing all the time, I found it distracting and turned it off.

One of the very few options available is an infotainment system that includes Bose surround sound and a touch screen DVD navigation system tied into an eight-inch overhead monitor for those in the back seat.

At \$5,065 it competes with the OnStar

system that comes with every GM vehicle. In my experience, the turn-by-turn OnStar system works wonderfully well but it costs extra and doesn't show the streets or point of interests as a navi system shows.

And what about cost?

The Denali outfitted Acadia starts at \$57,840. Add in the navi system, air tax and \$1,450 shipping fee and the price as tested was an even \$65,000.

If that sounds like a lot, the base Acadia starts at \$39,090 and you get the same engine and transmission plus all the safety aids like StabiliTrak. After that, there are enough trim levels and options to satisfy everyone.

However, for those would do want seven-passenger seating with first-class amenities, the 2011 GMC Acadia Denali fills the bill.

GMC Acadia Denali 2011 (at a glance)

BODY STYLE: Full-size, seven-seat CUV.

DRIVE METHOD: front-engine, all-wheel-drive.

ENGINE: 3.6-litre DOHC V6 (288 hp, 270 lb/ft)

FUEL ECONOMY: 13.1/8.4L/100 km (22/32 mpg) city/highway

TOWING CAPACITY: 2,359 kg (5,200 lb)

PRICE: \$57,840; as tested, \$65,000 including \$1,450 shipping fee

WEBSITE: www.gm.ca/GMC/Acadia

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Lease for
\$309

Plus HST, 60 Mth Lease.
24,000 kms/year.

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\$0
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Lease offer for 2011 Nissan Altima (T4RG11 AE00) is plus HST, licensing and paint charge if applicable. ALR is 1.9%. Residual is \$8,095.36. Total lease obligation is \$18,540 plus HST and licensing. Excess km charge is 10 cents per km.

2011 NISSAN VERSA HATCHBACK

1.8L 122 hp engine, Automatic Transmission, Air Conditioning, Power Windows/Locks/ Heated Mirrors, Am/FM CD stereo, Split folding rear seats and more.

Lease for
\$215

Plus HST, 60 Mth Lease.
24,000 kms/year.

WITH
\$0
Down
Freight Included



Lease offer for 2011 Versa 1.8S HB (B5BG71 BN00) is plus HST licensing and paint charge if applicable. ALR is 2.9%. Residual is \$5,931.80. Total lease obligation is \$12,900 plus hst and licensing. Excess km charge is 10 cents per km.

Milton
NISSAN
585 STEELES AVENUE, MILTON

www.miltonnissan.ca
905.878.4137



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