

Kia puts together a seven-seat SUV with the power to surprise

By JIM ROBINSON
Metroland Media Group

CALGARY: Kia Canada's slogan is "the power to surprise" and that they have certainly done with the 2009 Borrego seven-seat SUV.

In light of current gasoline prices, you would think bringing out a big SUV, with a V6 and a V8, would seem like the right vehicle (at least last year) but at the wrong time.

Kia, however, is very upbeat about this traditional body-on-frame SUV because of price, what is included in the price, fuel consumption and Kia's great 5-5-5 warranty.

The Borrego is Kia's third SUV (Sportage, Sorento), four if you count the Rondo.

The Borrego is noticeably bigger than Kia SUVs that have gone before. Kia sees the V6 going up against Ford Explorer, Nissan Pathfinder, Jeep Grand Cherokee and Honda Pilot while the V8 (based on power and 7,500 lb towing capacity) competes with Dodge Durango, Chrysler Aspen, Chevy Tahoe and even the huge Ford Expedition.

In terms of the power, the 3.8-litre DOHC V6 in Borrego produces 276 hp and 267 lb/ft of torque. This compares to 210 hp in the 4.0-litre V6 Explorer, 266 hp in the 4.0-litre V6 Pathfinder and 236 hp in the 4.0-litre V6 4Runner.

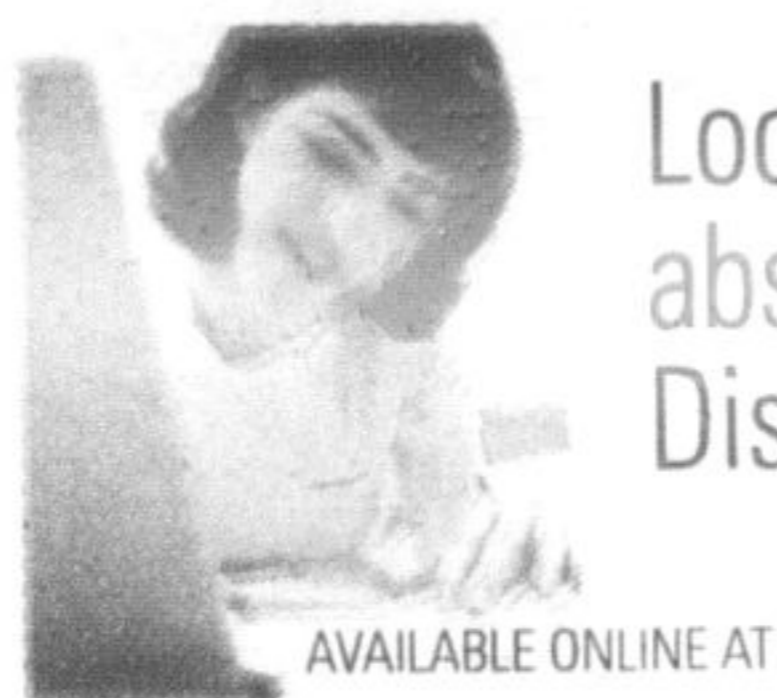
The 4.6-litre DOHC V8 in Borrego makes 337 hp and 323 lb/ft of torque. The 4.6-litre Explorer V8 produces 292 hp, the 5.6-litre V8 Pathfinder has 310 hp, and the 4.7-litre V8 4Runner comes in at 260 hp.

Fuel consumption figures for the V6 are 13.0L/100 km city, 9.4L/100 km highway. The V8 gets 14.1L/100 km city and 9.7L/100 km highway.

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Whether in the heart of the city or in the heart of Alberta's cattle country, the 2009 Kia Borrego seven-seat SUV can handle just about any terrain thrown at it.



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