

# REVIEW: Honda CR-V



Well the cat's out the bag, welcome to the first review on a 4-wheeler or a "cage" as some of us might call it. My wife and I had the privilege of testing this mode of transport and were blown away by how much Honda managed to fit into such a compact yet versatile SUV.

Although small crossover SUVs are extremely popular these days, I am certainly smitten with the CR-V's ability to comfortably take on both people and cargo. It's one of the best small crossovers for carrying stuff, as it has a roomy cargo area that's good for both bulky and smaller items. The Honda CR-V also features a reclining/sliding second-row seat and heated seats, navigation system and iPod integration. On top of this, the CR-V provides responsive handling, a comfortable ride, top safety scores and a long-standing reputation for high quality and steadfast reliability.

The 2011 Honda CR-V is a crossover SUV that straddles the line between compact and midsize. It is available in LX, SE, EX, EX-L and EX-L with Navigation trim levels, and each can be equipped with front- or all-wheel drive.

The LX comes standard with 17-inch steel wheels, keyless entry, full power accessories, air-conditioning, cruise control, a tilt-and-telescoping steering wheel, driver seat height adjustment, 40/20/40 sliding and reclining rear seats, a retractable front centre tray table and a four-speaker stereo with CD/MP3 player and an auxiliary audio jack. The SE adds alloy wheels, rear privacy glass and an upgraded audio system (with a six-CD changer and six speakers).

The EX adds a sunroof, a dual-level cargo area and steering-wheel audio controls. Going with the EX-L gets you automatic headlights, heated mirrors, dual-zone automatic climate control, an eight-way power driver seat, leather upholstery, heated front seats, a fixed front centre console and a seven-speaker stereo (with subwoofer, USB audio jack and radio). The EX-L with Navigation adds a (surprise!)

navigation system along with voice controls, Bluetooth and a rear-view camera.

Honda offers the CR-V either with a 2.4-litre 4-cylinder petrol engine that produces 122kW/220Nm or a 2.2-litre diesel engine that produces 110kW/350Nm. A 5-speed automatic or 6-speed manual front-wheel drive gearbox is standard, while all-wheel drive sends power to the front wheels exclusively until slippage is detected, at which point power is sent to the wheels with the most traction dubbing it Realtime 4WD.

In terms of fuel economy, the CR-V is about average; estimates for the front-drive model are an estimated 9 km/l city, 12km/l highway and 10.2km/l combined.

The 2011 Honda CR-V is equipped with antilock disc brakes, stability control, front side airbags and side curtain airbags. A back-up camera is available on the EX-L with Navigation, and Honda dealers can install parking sensors on lower trim levels. In our brake testing at 120km/h, the CR-V came to a stop in a tidy 36m, which is better than average.

The CR-V's cabin is both functional and attractive. Gauges are clear, controls are where you'd expect them to be and materials quality is good. Parents will appreciate the wide-opening rear doors, the sliding and reclining backseat, the two-tier cargo area and the lightweight rear lift-gate, all of which ease the process of loading small children and the many items that go along with them. A "conversation mirror" built into the overhead console's sunglasses holder enables front seat occupants to keep an eye on the backseat without turning around.

Luggage capacity with the seatbacks up measures a generous 513 cubic litres but with the split-level divider stowed and the rear seats folded, the CR-V can hold an impressive 955 cubic litres of cargo.

Though the Honda CR-V is certainly competitive against other 4-cylinder-powered crossovers, the CR-V sets itself apart with relatively nimble handling and sharp steering without the typical cage-roll; yip it goes around a bend flat as an iron.

In the end there is just not enough space on this page to mention all the goodies the CR-R range has to offer, but believe this; the Honda CR-V is certainly a car you can buy with superb peace of mind.

**Priced from R365 621.00 - Incl. 14% VAT**

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