

# ARIZONA DRIVER

THE ENTHUSIAST'S GUIDE TO LIFE BEHIND THE WHEEL

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Toyota RAV4  
Adventure  
AWD



VEHICLES • EQUIPMENT • TECHNOLOGY • PEOPLE • EVENTS • DESTINATIONS • ATTRACTIONS



# Transformed.

BY JOE SAGE

**RAV4** wraps up its third decade or so on our shores (now in its fifth generation for 2020, it first arrived in 1995) with a completely reimagined and redirected vehicle. The new RAV4 is significant—within Toyota, joining GR Supra as another new vehicle with above-average personality and soul; and beyond Toyota, potentially a harbinger of a new era of utilities that return to looking utilitarian, moving away from the curvy little lookalikes that have been ubiquitous industrywide in recent years.

Compared with other models of the new RAV4, the new Adventure AWD (based on the FT-AC concept shown at the LA Auto Show a year earlier; see sidebar) is as much an exercise in rugged style as anything. Functionally, it has the same power-

train, approach and departure angles, suspension and brakes. As with other upper trims, it gains always welcome ground clearance over base models by virtue of its 19-inch wheels. Tow capacity on a base RAV4 is 1500 pounds, upgradeable to 3500 with a tow package, but on RAV4 Adventure this is included. Its front fascia has a skid plate appearance to it, and its roof rack with optional cross bars screams “outdoors.” Engineering may not be all that different, but usage surely will be.

One look at the RAV4 Adventure AWD is enough to make you think of 4Runner, and that’s where the breakthrough is—compare it with the prior four generations shown at upper right, and you’ll see that even the thought of such an image compari-



son is new territory for RAV4. Our chart gives a brief look at RAV4 evolution, along with its position against its accomplished big brother.

4Runner has 33 percent more horsepower, but about that same difference in weight. It has over 50 percent more torque, but it also costs about that much more. Fuel mileage is also 30 to 40 percent lower in the bigger 4Runner. 4Runner offers a third row, but this means RAV4 has more second row

	1996 Gen 1	2013 Gen 4	2019 base	2019 Adventure	2019 4Runner
HP/TORQUE	120 / 125	176 / 172	203 / 184	203 / 184	270 / 278
LENGTH / WB	145.9 / 86.6	179.9 / 104.7	180.9 / 105.9	181.5 / 105.9	190.2-191.3 / 109.8
WHEELS	16x6.5	17x6.5 - 18x7.5	base 17x7.0	19x7.5	17x7.0 - 20x7.5
TURNING CIRCLE	33.5 ft	34.7-36.7 ft	base 36.1 ft	37.4 ft	37.4 ft
GROUND CLEARANCE	7.7	6.3 in	base 8.4 in	8.6 in	4WD 9.6 in
APPROACH/DEP	27 / 28°	29 / 22°	19 / 21°	19 / 21°	AWD 33 / 26°
HEADROOM (F/R)	40.0 / -	39.8 / 38.9	(snrf) 37.7 / 37.7	(snrf) 37.7 / 37.7	(snrf) 38.6 / 38.6
LEGGROOM (F/R)	39.5 / -	42.6 / 37.2	41.0 / 37.8	41.0 / 37.8 in	41.7 / 32.9
CARGO (CU.FT)	26.8	38.4 / 73.4	37.5 / tbd	37.5 / tbd	47.2 / 89.7
TOW CAPACITY	1500 lb	1500 lb	1500 (3500 opt)	3500 lb	5000 lb
WEIGHT	2634 lb	3435-3600 lb	3370-3620 lb	3615 lb	4400-4805 lb
MPG	FWD 21/27/23	AWD 22/29/na	FWD 26/35/30	AWD 25/33/28	4WD 17/20/18
BASE PRICE	\$15,998	±\$23-28,000	\$25,850-36,630 (2020)	\$32,955 (2020)	\$36,020-49,765 (2020)



legroom. 4Runner leads noticeably in functional categories of approach/departure, ground clearance and towing. Most fundamentally, 4Runner remains a body-on-frame build, like the Tacoma pickup—and suspension, undercarriage and driveline are all tougher—while RAV4 is a unibody.

If you have 4Runner needs, the decision will be easy. If you have a 4Runner soul but seek purchase and fuel economy, the decision will also be easy. In an unprecedented way, each is now a halo for the other. If your needs and soul fall into an overlap zone between the two, take heart—for 2020, Toyota is adding a RAV4 TRD Off-Road grade, with upgraded suspension, wheels and tires, driveline disconnect, twin-tube shocks and other more serious off-road engineering. (And if your needs and soul fall outside any of this, there’s a RAV4 Hybrid with 40 mpg combined.)

Toyota themselves make a valid point when they say the new gen-five RAV4 has “the capacity to be both a segment leader and a segment disrupter.” ■



(Above, top left-right, lower left-right) Toyota RAV4 generations one, two, three and four have run through much evolution. Gen five, new for 2019 (main photo, left), takes things a step further, strongly (almost totally) echoing the FT-AC (Future Toyota Adventure Concept) from the late-2017 LA Auto Show (below)—and philosophically echoing the burly do-anything styling of 4Runner (below, bottom), including the classic SUV form it has maintained all along.

## SPECIFICATIONS

ENGINE	2.5L Dynamic Force 4-cylinder, alum block, alum head, 16v DOHC, VVT-iE intake, VVT-i exhaust
HP/TORQUE	203 hp / 184 lb-ft
TRANSMISSION	direct shift 8-spd electronic control w sequential shift mode and snow mode
DRIVETRAIN	AWD w multi-terrain select, dynamic torque vectoring, rear driveline disconnect
SUSPENSION	F: indep MacPherson strut, hydraulic shocks, stblzr bar (25.5mm); R: trailing wishbone style multi-link, stblzr bar (23.5mm)
STEERING	rack-mt parallel elec pwr asst rack & pin-ion
BRAKES	F: 12.0 vented / R: 11.1 solid
WHEELS / TIRES	19x7.5 alum alloy / 235/55R19
LENGTH / WB	181.5 / 105.9 in
TURNING CIRCLE	37.4 ft
GROUND CLEARANCE	8.6 in
APPROACH/DEPARTURE	19 / 21°
HEADROOM (F/R) W MOONROOF	37.7 / 37.7 in
LEGGROOM (F/R)	41.0 / 37.8 in
CARGO CAPACITY	37.5 / tbd cu.ft
TOW CAPACITY	(tow pkg incl w/Adventure) 3500 lb
WEIGHT	3615 lb
FUEL / CAPACITY	regular unl / 14.5 gal
MPG	25/33/28 (city/hwy/comb)

BASE PRICE	\$32,900
ADVENTURE GRADE WEATHER PKG:	heated/cooled front bucket seats, heated leather wheel, rain sensing/de-icing wipers.....1185
INFOTAINMENT:	8.0" touchscreen, Entune 3.0 premium 11-sprk JBL Clari-Fi audio, Dynamic Nav (3-yr trial), aux, USB media and charge ports, voice recog, Apple CarPlay, bluetooth, hands-free phone and more..1620
ADVENTURE GRADE TECH PKG:	intelligent clearance sonar, rear cross-traffic braking, digital rear mirror w HomeLink, wireless smartphone charging.....1265
MOONROOF:	power tilt/slide, one-touch open/close.850
OPTIONS:	two-tone (500); door sill protector (199); wheel lock (65); roof rack cross bars (315); all-weather floor liners, cargo tray (269).....1348
DESTINATION CHARGE	1095
TOTAL	\$40,263

