

MIDSIZE, MID-PRICE, TOP LUXE BY JOE SAGE

This is the third year of the second generation Infiniti QX60 midsize SUV, new in model year 2022. Generation one ran for nine years, arriving in model year 2013 as the JX35, rebadged QX in 2014, as the entire lineup took on new naming (with all SUVs based on the prior QX56-now-QX80).

QX60 is the upscale cousin to the Nissan Pathfinder, QX80 to the Nissan Armada. Though nominally and physically smaller than the QX80, QX60 is nonetheless a three-row seven-seater with ample legroom in its first two rows and healthy cargo volume, especially with the third row stowed. The degree to which you will use that third row for passengers is one of the biggest deciding points between the two, along with price, as the big QX80 starts at \$25,000 more (about 50 percent higher) than QX60. You can also compare prices with the Nissan equivalents, but the luxury touches of Infiniti remain unmistakable. All of these factors point to the QX60 as inhabiting a great balance point.

What you do get is a vehicle efficient enough to

maneuver quite tightly in town, yet large enough to warrant a camera-based rear-view mirror. We always have a mixed reaction to camera mirrors, as refocusing between distance ahead and a close video screen is harder on the eyes than to actual distance in an actual rear mirror. But the headrests and pillars in this vehicle do warrant it (and you can flip back and forth between the two).

Our sample is the very top trim—Autograph, with all-wheel drive (itself \$2900 more, though \$2000 more on other trims, worth it to us either way). And this ultra-maximum QX60 is still priced well below even the base trim of the bigger QX80.

Outside, we welcome the subtle evolution of the grille, still immediately recognizable, but less awkward than it had been to our eye. Inside, we found the entire user interface has a much quicker orientation than so many other systems currently.

Of special note in the drive experience was the suspension—tough, yet compliant and smooth, ensuring our urban duties were a premium experi-

2024 INFINITI QX60 LINEUP

All w 3.5L V6 & 9-spd auto	FWD	AWD
Pure	\$49,650	\$51,650
Luxe	55,700	57,700
Sensory	59,050	61,050
Autograph	63,200	66,100

ence. On freeways with event-distracted fellow travelers, brakes also proved top notch. The closest we got to taking this into the dirt was an event parking lot, which is as close as most people will at this luxury level, and that is as it is intended.

Although the QX60 has evolved nicely, and this second generation is only a third of the way through the nine-year run of its first, its bigger sibling, the full-size QX80, is on a different cycle. New in 2004 (originally as the QX56), it is now at the end of its second generation (with its renaming and a few facelifts along the way). A brand new generation three for 2024 will be revealed in later March at the New York International Auto Show. How big a change it brings, how that may affect the QX60, and whether that might bring a gen-three QX60 sooner than otherwise—remains to be seen. ■

SPECIFICATIONS

ASSEMBLY	Smyrna, Tennessee
ENGINE/TRANS BUILD	US / US
PARTS CONTENT	US/Can 45%
ENGINE	3.0L DOHC 24v V6, naturally aspirated, dir inject, alum/alum
HP/TORQUE	295 hp / 270 lb-ft
COMPRESSION RATIO	11.0:1
TRANSMISSION	9-spd auto, shift by wire, paddles
DRIVETRAIN	intelligent AWD (FWD also available)
SUSPENSION	F: MacPherson strut, 29mm stblzr bar; R: multi-link indep, 28.6mm stblzr; twin-tube dual-flow shocks
STEERING	vehicle-speed variable asst
BRAKES	F: 13.78x1.18 vented, dual-piston calipers; R: 12.00x-.63 vented, single floating caliper
WHEELS	20x8 luxury machined alum-alloy w charcoal metallic finish
TIRES	255/50R20 all-season
LENGTH / WHEELBASE	198.2 / 114.2 in
GROUND CLEARANCE	6.7 in
TURNING CIRCLE	38.1 ft
HEADROOM (F/2/3)	40.8 / 37.5 / 35.7 in
LEGROOM (F/2/3)	42.1 / 37.7 / 28.0 in
CARGO CAPACITY	14.5 / 41.6 / 75.4 cu.ft
WEIGHT / DISTRIB (F/R)	4655 lb / 55/45%
TOW CAPACITY	na (6000-lb tow pkg avail on Luxe or Sensory)
FUEL / CAPACITY	prem unl / na
MPG	20/25/22 (city/hwy/comb)
BASE PRICE	\$66,100
PREMIUM PAINT: Moonbow Blue	.695
LIGHTING PKG: welcome lighting, illuminated cargo scuff plate	.795
INFINITI RADIANT GRILLE EMBLEM	.455
DESTINATION CHARGE	1195
TOTAL	\$69,240

