

2010 Toyota 4Runner

The 4Runner has come a long way since 1995 when it was introduced as a pickup with a rear seat and a removable fiberglass hardtop. Today the roof is fixed but the off road capabilities are still under the skin; in fact Ivan "Ironman" Stewart took a race prepped 4Runner down to Baja and I found it at the LA Auto Show on display still as dirty as it was when it finished.

One engine is available for the 2010 4Runner, a 4.0-liter V6 cranking out 270 horsepower at 5600 rpm and torque readings of 278 at 4400 rpm. The four wheel driver version will get you 17 miles per gallon in the city and 22 on the open road. Drop the 4X4 feature and you will gain one mile per gallon on the freeway. So for trade in value I would go for the 4X4 feature. You only get one transmission in the 2010 4Runner a five speed electronically controlled automatic transmission with a manually operated transfer case. Hubs are automatic locking so you don't have to wade out in the knee high mud to engage your front hubs.

The 2010 4Runner is taller, wider and more powerful than its predecessor in fact it looks like a real off road vehicle with lots of wheel clearance and a rugged look. But once in the driver seat it all changes, there is a certain amount of comfort on the inside starting with the seats, driver seat is electrically controlled and very comfortable, steering wheel is adjustable and all the control knobs are big and beefy and easy to operate in snow gloves or bare handed. The center console is roomy and you get lots of storage for small items, coffee cups, water bottles and flip up the lower center lid and you have power source for all your electronic toys. You get all the amenities like A/C, AM/FM/CD/Satellite Radio and navigation which is simple to operate.

Jumping into the back seat you will find comfort galore with climate controls within a easy reach. Now if you need to load up a bunch of stuff the second row seats fold down for added storage and in the back there is a slide out shelf for items too bulky to try and drag out of the rear cargo area.

Safety is all around you in the 2010 4Runner starting with ABS (Anti Lock Braking) standard, EBA (Electronic Brake Assist) standard, LSD (Limited Slip Differential) only available on the Trail Version of the 4Runner, Locking Differential only available on the Trail and Limited 4X4 4Runner's, Traction Control available on all 4Runners, and VSC (Vehicle Stability Control) is also standard. Of course you're surrounded by air bags either in curtain or bag configuration it's all about safety.

What did I think of the 2010 4Runner? It was somewhat of a surprise, very comfortable and drove on the freeway like a car but jump off road and it is a great off road explorer and the price tag will vary as to how you equip your 4Runner but your looking at a base price of \$29,175 and moving up to around \$39,800 depending on your options oh and don't forget tax and license.

If your thinking about towing have no fear the 4Runner is all wired and geared up for you toy hauler. For more information go to www.toyota.com or stop by a local dealer, and tell them Dave sent you!