

# Triple value



Style, quality and content, at a great price and with 10-year warranty. By Joe Sage



A big part of the miracle of Kia is that they are able to be all things to all people, to a degree most any company in any field can only dream of. Not even counting their broad range of crossovers, the Sedona minivan or the innovative Soul—just looking at cars—you can start with a Rio at just \$14,165, or shop the Optima midsize sedan as hundreds of thousands happily have, or head upscale to the premium Cadenza or luxury K900, both of which compete head-on with top German and Japanese luxury brands (but at significantly less cost and always with Kia's 10-year/100,000-mile powertrain warranty).

Most starters might start not with the Rio, but rather the Forte, which itself starts at just \$16,490 and includes sedans, the five-door Forte5 and the Forte Koup. And why not? Other than its smaller size, the stylish and thoroughly outfitted Forte delivers darn near what the Optima (\$22,140 base) does, just in a smaller package.

And with the pep and agility delivered by this smaller package—at about 3000 pounds or under, it's a lively drive, and its 34.8-foot turning circle

makes parking a dream—its compact size can be quite welcome. It still has about 15 cubic feet of cargo space, while also delivering 33 mpg highway. Put this all together, and this near-entry-point sedan is no simple starter car.

Add to that the 164-horse 2.0-liter GDI engine in the top-trim EX model we are driving here. This trim also comes with an array of inclusions at its \$21,200 base price that might cost that much just as options on a premium brand (see sidebar). The one option package on our tester bumps the price up noticeably, but you are then lacking pretty much nothing whatsoever. Value galore.

Its transmission, steering and suspension are relatively simple, yet are among the most solid and responsive we've driven, even on brutal speedbumps. We carried five adults in the Forte for one fun-packed evening in considerable comfort (and Forte even has rear vents for climate comfort throughout).

Consider the Kia Forte an Optima dividend. That car has been perfected to the point that the core of its DNA is now also found here. ■

## SPECIFICATIONS

ENGINE.....	2.0L GDI aluminum 4-cylinder
HP/TORQUE.....	164 hp / 151 lb-ft
TRANSMISSION / DRIVETRAIN.....	6-spd auto / FWD
BRAKES.....	FR: 11.0 vented / R: 10.3 solid discs
STEERING.....	rack & pinion electric
SUSPENSION.....	FR: McPherson strut; R: coupled torsion beam; Mando monotube shocks
LENGTH / WB / TURN CIRC.....	179.5 in / 106.3 in / 34.8 ft
SEATING / CARGO CAPACITY.....	five / 14.9 cu.ft
WEIGHT.....	2908-3029 lb
MPG.....	25/33/28 (city/hwy/comb)

**BASE PRICE EX TRIM INCLUDES:** 17" alloy wheels, drive mode select, ABS, traction, ESC, vehicle stability, hill-start, dual-zone auto climate w/rear vents, 7" touchscreen, rear camera, UVO eServices, SiriusXM, USB/MP3/aux, Bluetooth, leather trim, heated FR seats, 60/40 fold R seats, keyless entry/start, steering wheel controls, overhead console, LED DRL and rear lights, fog lights, mirror turn signals, door handle pocket lights, 10-year 100,000-mile powertrain warranty .....**\$21,200**

**EX PREMIUM PLUS PACKAGE:** 10-way power driver's seat w/ 2 presets, auto-dim mirror, autonomous emergency braking w/ pedestrian detect, blind spot, lane change, rear cross traffic, front collision warning, lane departure warning, lane keep assist, power sunroof, 4.2" upper display, UVO eServices infotainment w/ voice nav, SiriusXM Traffic, Android Auto and Apple CarPlay integration, vented front seats, xenon HID headlights w/ dynamic bending .....**4,490**

**DESTINATION CHARGE:** .....**850**

**TOTAL.....** **\$26,540**

