

Turbocharge your Soul

by Joe Sage

The small box vehicle had been tried by others, the Honda Element and Scion xB, but where as those were intentionally clunky and dorky, like Doc Martens shoes popular at the time, Kia Soul came on the scene zippy, crispy and cute—as well as tough and purposeful (it's based on an original sketch by Mike Torpey, in turn based on an aggressive wild boar wearing a backpack). Soul transformed the genre—and the whole Kia brand.

Fans of Kia Soul are legion, loving its style, utility and incredible value. So how 'bout this? The new Kia Soul ! ("Exclaim"), popularly known as the Soul Turbo, has more style, more power and more value. The Soul lineup starts at just \$16,100, and this 201-hp line-topping turbo is complete at just \$22,645, no add-ons needed (ours added floor mats).

In the best traditions of a sleeper performance model, the Soul Turbo comes with sharp little style additions that catch your eye right away—notably tasteful yet unmistakable red strips in the rocker panel and below the front grille, both quietly but immediately saying "turbo" and "ultra-cool."



Soul broadcasts its same quiet cool on the inside, from its purposeful shifter—attached to a seven-speed dual-clutch performance transmission—to its combination vent-and-speaker stacks.

The turbocharged Soul Exclaim's horsepower in fact exactly matches that of a first-generation Porsche Boxster. That wasn't the most powerful Porsche ever, but it certainly makes for one snappy little Kia Soul.

The base Soul has a 1.6-liter naturally aspirated engine, the midrange Plus ("+") a 2.0L—at 130 and 161 hp respectively. Turbocharging the smaller one brings 55 percent more horsepower than the plain 1.6L and 25 percent more than even the bigger 2.0L, yet delivers the highest fuel mileage of the whole lineup (31 highway, 28 combined).

Kia Soul has always held its own on the road—nimble, comfortable, purposeful. So you can imagine what these smooth-shifting extra horses bring to the game. And the little red stripes are enough to seal the deal. It all adds up to the most perfect execution yet of the Kia Soul. ■

SPECIFICATIONS

ENGINE	1.6L turbo GDI 4-cyl
DRIVETRAIN	FWD
HP/TORQUE	201 hp / 195 lb-ft
TRANSMISSION	6-spd dual-clutch
SUSPENSION	F: MacPherson strut; R: coupled torsion beam axle
STEERING	motor driven power steering
BRAKES	F: 12.0 vented / R: 10.3 solid disc
WHEELS/TIRES	7.5Jx18 / P23545 R18
LNPTH/WB/GRND CLEAR	163.0" / 101.2" / 5.9"
WEIGHT	3232 lb
LUGGAGE CAPACITY	18.8 / 61.3 cu.ft.
FUEL / CAPAC	87 octane reg / 14.2 gal
MPG	26/31/28 (city/hwy/comb)

INCLUDES: Anti-lock brakes, traction control, ESC, VSM, hill-start assist, automatic climate with ionizer, keyless entry/start, power everything, leather/cloth interior, UVO eServices with 7" touchscreen and more.

BASE PRICE	\$22,645
CARPETED FLOOR MATS	120
DESTINATION CHARGE	850
TOTAL	\$23,620

