

Cautious First Step

Honda Prologue Electric SUV Offers Familiarity, Practicality

By Derek Price
CARGAZING.COM

The 2024 Honda Prologue marks the automaker's first foray into the all-electric SUV market.

After a week behind the wheel of the top-tier Elite trim, it's clear that Honda has crafted a competent electric vehicle, albeit one that plays it safe in a rapidly evolving segment.

At first glance, the Prologue's design is refreshingly normal. Its handsome, well-proportioned exterior could easily be mistaken for a conventional gasoline-powered crossover. This approach may appeal to buyers seeking a familiar aesthetic in their transition to electric driving.

Inside, the Prologue showcases Honda's strengths in interior design. The cabin is logically laid out, with high-quality materials and solid construction throughout. Spaciousness is a key selling point, with ample room for passengers and cargo alike.

The integration of Google-based infotainment and standard features such as heated seats and wireless smartphone compatibility add to the appeal.

On the road, the Prologue delivers a comfortable and composed driving experience. The suspension strikes a good balance between ride comfort and handling, while



The Honda Prologue's handsome, conventional styling helps ease the transition to electric driving for buyers accustomed to traditional SUV designs.

the responsive steering provides confidence in various driving situations.

However, acceleration lacks the exhilarating punch found in some electric competitors, and driving enthusiasts may find the overall experience somewhat uninspiring.

Range anxiety shouldn't be a significant concern for most buyers. The EPA-rated range of 273 miles for the AWD Elite trim (up to 296 miles in 2WD configurations) is competitive for the

class.

DC fast charging capabilities of up to 150 kW allow for reasonably quick top-ups on longer journeys.

Honda's comprehensive charging solutions, including partnerships with major charging networks and home installation options, should help ease the transition for first-time EV buyers. The inclusion of charging credits and multiple package options is a thoughtful touch.

Safety is well addressed with Honda Sensing, the

brand's suite of driver assistance technologies, coming standard across all trims. These systems work unobtrusively to provide peace of mind during daily driving.

However, the Prologue's pricing strategy may prove challenging for some potential buyers. Starting at \$47,400 for the base EX trim and climbing to \$59,750 as tested for our fully-loaded Elite model, the Prologue commands a premium over similarly-sized gasoline-powered alternatives.

While the available \$7,500 federal tax credit helps offset this cost for many buyers, it still positions the Prologue at the higher end of the non-luxury EV SUV segment.

Ultimately, the 2024 Honda Prologue represents a solid, if somewhat conservative, entry into the electric SUV market. It delivers on Honda's core strengths of practicality, comfort and build quality, wrapped in an attractive and familiar package.

For Honda loyalists or those seeking a no-fuss transition to electric driving, the Prologue makes a compelling case.

However, in a rapidly evolving EV landscape filled with innovative and sometimes quirky offerings, the Prologue's play-it-safe approach may leave some buyers wanting more. Its competence is commendable, but it lacks the exciting performance or cutting-edge features that might set it apart from the growing competition.

For buyers prioritizing reliability, familiarity and Honda's reputation for quality, the Prologue offers a comfortable stepping stone into the world of electric vehicles. But those seeking the bleeding edge of EV technology or thrilling performance may want to look elsewhere or wait to see how Honda evolves its electric offerings in the future.

AT A GLANCE

WHAT WAS TESTED?

2024 Honda Prologue Elite (\$57,900). Options: Premium paint (\$455). Price as tested (including \$1,395 destination charge): \$59,750
Wheelbase: 121.8 in.
Length: 192 in.
Width: 78.3 in.
Height: 64.7 in.
Power: Dual electric motors (combined 288 hp, 333 ft. lbs.)
Range: Up to 296 miles
MPG Equivalent: 99 city, 84 highway

RATINGS

Style: 9
Performance: 6
Price: 4
Handling: 6
Ride: 7
Comfort: 7
Quality: 9
Overall: 7

WHY BUY IT?

The 2024 Honda Prologue offers a familiar and practical electric SUV experience with competitive range, making it an appealing option for those transitioning from traditional gasoline vehicles to EVs.

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A CLOSER LOOK



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FACTS, FIGURES AND RATINGS

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