

Smooth Operator

Latest Lexus RX Delivers a Polished Driving Experience

By Derek Price

CARGAZING.COM

The Lexus RX has long been a favorite among luxury crossover buyers, and for 2024 it continues to prioritize the traits that have made it a winner.

With a striking Copper Crest paint job and aggressive styling, my RX 500h tester certainly turned heads. But after spending some time behind the wheel, I couldn't help but wonder if the F Sport treatment was more of a mismatch than a perfect pairing.

Under the hood, the 500h packs a punch with a 2.4-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine and electric motors that deliver a combined 366 horsepower. The powertrain is smooth and responsive, offering ample acceleration when needed.

However, the sportier suspension tuning and massive 21-inch wheels of the F Sport Performance model detract from the RX's traditional strengths of comfort and refinement.

That's not to say the RX isn't a pleasant place to spend time. The cabin is a sanctuary of luxury, with high-quality materials and excellent build quality. My tester's black leather interior with dark graphite aluminum accents felt both modern and inviting.

The available 14-inch



The 2024 Lexus RX's bold styling turns heads, but its aggressive looks belie the crossover's emphasis on comfort and isolation over athleticism.

infotainment screen is a standout feature, with intuitive controls and crisp graphics that make navigating the system a breeze. Lexus has finally hit the mark with its technology interface.

Other notable features on my test vehicle included the expansive panorama glass roof, which bathes the interior in natural light, and the Panoramic View Monitor that provides a 360-degree bird's eye view of the vehicle's surroundings. These touches elevate the driving experience and make maneuvering the RX in

tight spaces a stress-free affair.

On the road, the RX 500h

showcases the brand's commitment to craftsmanship and engineering. The

hybrid powertrain delivers seamless power while returning an impressive 27 mpg in the city and 28 mpg on the highway.

Passenger space is generous, with ample headroom and legroom for rear-seat occupants. Cargo capacity is similarly accommodating, aided by the conveniences of a low liftover height and available power folding rear seats. For families and empty-nesters alike, the RX's versatile interior is well-suited to the rigors of daily life.

On the safety front, the RX impresses with its standard Lexus Safety System+ 3.0 suite of driver aids.

Features like automatic emergency braking, adaptive cruise control, and lane keeping assist provide welcome peace of mind.

The available Digital Key and Advanced Park systems showcase Lexus' commit-

ment to convenience and cutting-edge tech.

However, the RX's plethora of available features quickly inflate its price tag. While the base model represents strong value, the higher trims can approach six-figure territory with options. At that point, the RX faces stiff competition from sportier European rivals that offer more engaging dynamics and premium badges.

Yet for many buyers, the Lexus RX's unimpeachable reputation for reliability and resale value will trump any concessions to driving excitement.

This is a crossover that excels as a hassle-free, long-term ownership proposition. Its greatest strength lies not in pulse-quicken performance, but in its ability to effortlessly integrate into owners' lives with minimal fuss.

AT A GLANCE

What was tested?

2024 Lexus RX 500h F Sport Performance AWD (\$62,450). Options: AC outlet (\$550), cold area package (\$250), convenience package (\$1,670), heated and ventilated rear seats (\$1,230), premium LED headlamps (\$1,565), panorama glass roof (\$500), 14-inch interface (\$1,105),

premium paint (\$595), kick sensor and tow package (\$870). Price as tested (including \$1,350 destination charge): \$72,135

By The Numbers

Wheelbase: 112.2 in.
Length: 192.5 in.
Width: 75.6 in.
Height: 67.32 in.
Power: 2.4-liter turbo engine

plus electric motors (366 total system horsepower)
Transmission: Six-speed automatic
Fuel economy: 27 city, 28 highway

RATINGS

Style: 8
Performance: 7
Price: 5
Handling: 6

Ride: 8
Comfort: 8
Quality: 9
Overall: 8

Why buy it? With its serene ride, premium cabin, and reputation for dependability, it's a refined choice for buyers prioritizing fuss-free luxury and long-term value over sporty dynamics.

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A focus on craftsmanship and intuitive tech define the 2024 Lexus RX's plush, well-appointed cabin.

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A CLOSER LOOK



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FACTS, FIGURES AND RATINGS

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