

## Redefining Ambitions

### Ariya Sets Higher Standard for Nissan EVs

By Derek Price  
CARGAZING.COM

After trailing rivals with the underwhelming Leaf, Nissan is making a thundering statement about its electric vehicle intentions with the impressive new 2024 Ariya crossover.

I recently spent time in the well-equipped Empower+ FWD trim, and this innovative EV instantly resets expectations for what to anticipate from Nissan's next generation of EVs.

With a potent 238 horsepower, the version I tested delivered thrilling acceleration, with the instant torque response inherent to electric vehicles. The Empower+ effortlessly zipped away from stoplights and had more than enough passing power for highway driving.

And it's not even the most powerful version. The Evolve+ and Platinum+ e-4ORCE top the powertrain options with 389 horsepower and 442 pound-feet of torque.

At the same time, the Ariya's electric powertrain is remarkably silent and refined.

Nissan estimates an EPA range of 289 miles for my front-wheel-drive Empower+ tester, which is highly competitive for the EV crossover segment. The Venture+ trim offers even more range, 304 miles, as



With clean, futuristic lines, the all-electric 2024 Nissan Ariya crossover delivers distinctive, head-turning styling.

rated by the federal government.

More robust all-wheel-drive e-4ORCE versions are also available with a slight range penalty. On a full charge, the Ariya has enough capability for most everyday driving needs.

The Ariya's modern exterior styling is a welcome departure, with clean, futuristic lines that are both distinctive and head-turning. The interior is similarly avant-garde, featuring a minimalist all-electric design with capacitive haptic controls and an airy,

open cabin. Genuine thought was put into intelligent packaging, including features like an adjustable center console and fold-out tray.

On the road, the Ariya exhibits a comfortable, almost luxury-car-like driving experience. The suspension tuning errs on the soft side, delivering an incredibly smooth and quiet highway ride.

The downside is that the Ariya can feel a bit floaty and uncontrolled when pushing hard through corners. This electric crossover

is clearly biased toward comfort over sporty handling.

That's not necessarily a bad thing, as the Ariya has more than enough performance for most buyers. However, an available sport-tuned suspension option could allow Nissan to better satisfy customers seeking a sharper driving experience from this powerful EV. As it sits, the suspension could benefit from a bit more reining in of body motions over undulating surfaces.

Inside, it's hard to find fault with the Ariya's airy

cabin, premium appointments and abundance of advanced technology features. Nissan's ProPILOT Assist 2.0 hands-free driver aid allows for extended periods of hands-off highway operation, making road trips more convenient. The capacitive haptic controls, while gimmicky, are well-executed and mesh nicely with the futuristic interior design.

My primary complaint relates to interior storage space. For being a relatively large crossover, the Ariya lacks the utility that some buyers may expect. Cabin storage is modest, and the cargo area, while functional, isn't as spacious as the exterior dimensions suggest.

But that criticism feels fairly minor in the grand scheme of what Nissan has accomplished with the Ariya. This new electric crossover is a legitimate head-turner that delivers on the driving experience, styling and passenger comfort expected from a premium model in this segment.

With available all-wheel drive, hands-free highway driving and plenty of range, the Ariya sets a new direction for Nissan's electric vehicle charge. It's a cutting-edge crossover that should go a long way in reimagining what buyers can anticipate from Nissan's next wave of EVs.

#### AT A GLANCE

##### What was tested?

2024 Nissan Ariya Empower+ FWD (\$47,690). Options: Carpeted floor mats (\$260), exterior ground lighting (\$750), two-tone paint (\$350). Price as tested (including \$1,390 destination charge): \$50,440

##### By The Numbers

Wheelbase: 109.3 in.  
Length: 182.9 in.  
Width: 74.8 in.  
Height: 65.4 in.  
Motor: 238 horsepower, 221 ft. lbs. torque  
Battery: 87 kWh (usable capacity)  
Fuel economy: 98 MPGe combined

##### RATINGS

Style: 9  
Performance: 8  
Price: 6  
Handling: 4  
Ride: 9  
Comfort: 9  
Quality: 8  
Overall: 8

**Why buy it?** The powerful and premium 2024 Nissan Ariya offers quick EV acceleration, cutting-edge tech and a comfortable, well-appointed cabin.

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More robust all-wheel-drive



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#### A CLOSER LOOK



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FACTS, FIGURES AND RATINGS

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