



Review of the KIA EV4

by Fraser Lucas



LOOKS

Continuing Kia's angle of making cars that look right off the set of a high-brow sci-fi film, the EV4 may lack an exotic name, but it makes up for that with appearances. The quirky, geometric shapes and long, slender lamps grant it a presence unique only to Kia's cars at this stage. It may not suit everyone, but it does keep the brand undeniably distinct.

HANDLING AND PERFORMANCE

Thanks to the hefty batteries, this little hatchback has a lot of weight to pull. Fortunately, the 201 BHP it's got does the job in shoving it along without issue. However, it's still not a silent hot rod. The ride is nicely forgiving and you get a range of 273 miles, or 388 if you get the Long Range option. True it may be that the EV4 isn't a complete hoot to drive, though it is very easy to live with.

PRACTICALITY

The swanky, futuristic interior is not just all talk and no trousers. The softness in the seating is almost like a Citroen and, very wisely, Kia have thrown in physical controls to balance out the large touchscreen. For a hatchback, the EV4 spoils you with room to spare. You might find the roof sits a bit low, but otherwise, there isn't much to critique.

COST

Prices start at £34,745 and go up to £44,845 for the hatchback EV4. A longer, fastback alternative is available and costs between £44,945 and £46,280. Heated seats and steering wheel, as well as a lengthy seven-year warranty, are all included on every model. Needless to say, equipment isn't a problem.



Verdict

Kia's answer to the still slowly forming electric hatchback market means serious business, seeing how much thought has been put in. To get on par with this kind of comfort, space and value is a big undertaking, leaving the EV4 a difficult gauntlet for a rival car to face. Its high bar status in the market.