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2007 Hyundai Veracruz

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The Good ☺ Silky smooth ride, like a electric vehicle. Quiet interior.



The Bad ☹ Soft and cushy driving feel. Paint quality is low. Two wheel drive model offers little traction.



Engine	V6, 3.8 Liters
Output	260 hp / 257 lb-ft
Weight	4266 lbs
Price As Tested	\$26,294

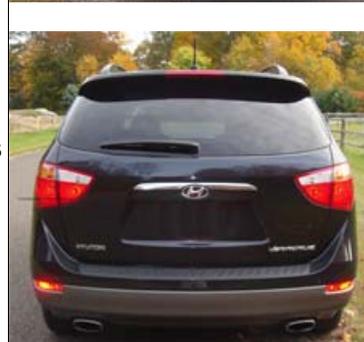


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Hyundai is undergoing a major renovation lately offering stylish and well developed vehicles in all its segments. Their vehicles have been styled by fancy Italian design houses and inside they offer everything that more expensive German makes would charge triple for. The value in a Hyundai is quite impressive. But can their driving feel compare with the best of the competition?

"Veracruz is an exceptional vehicle at the right time for this developing segment," said Steve Wilhite, chief operating officer of Hyundai Motor America. "The vehicle's designers recognized that the needs and desires of traditional SUV buyers weren't being met and focused on meeting those needs in an elegant and ingenious way. The result is a spacious crossover that delivers both refined style and first-rate performance."



"We are very proud of Veracruz and feel this design will not only reinforce our design direction as a company, but also greatly enhance our escalating brand image on a global basis," said Joel Piaskowski, chief designer at the Hyundai Design Center in Irvine, Calif. "Fluid lines combined with the integrated headlights and taillights envelop Veracruz to create a unified aesthetic."

The exterior style is modern with smooth body panels that flow seamlessly from front to back. The front has three beam projector style halogen headlights adorned with fog lamps that are built into the lower bumper fascia. The smooth flow of the front end blends nicely into the side profile that gracefully flows to the rear of the Veracruz. Large 18 inch wheels give a bold appearance. The design of the windows and body panels gives the rear end a slight upward lift, similar to a Lexus RX350. On either side a non painted body panel is used which may serve a good purpose but we think it should have been painted. Exterior mirrors offer repeater turn signals and approach lights for a well lit area at night. The rear end is styled with nice tail lamps which flow along the side, similar to the front headlights. Dual exhaust tips in a bright chrome finish gives the Veracruz a small touch of sportyness in an otherwise luxuriously designed vehicle. A spoiler on top of the rear end and roof rack also gives the car a sport utility feel. Dark tinting on the rear windows looks particularly nice on the Veracruz giving it a sexy feel.

The interior is styled quite nicely with a smooth and even flow in the front and rear cabins. The designers have done a good job of using quality parts throughout the cabin. The upper dash is a leather-like soft material similar to that used on German makes. Door panels are also styled nicely using a soft leather grained material on top and perforated leather in the center of the panel with a wood look material in the panel as well. We did not like the visible screw in the armrest on the door however. The scheme is carried out nicely to the rear cabin as well with the same designs on the door panels and equally soft materials.

The central console is smooth and flowing while controls are placed up high and easily accessible, in a design that is similar to the Lexus RX SUV. A good amount of faux wood trim used throughout the cabin gives you a surrounded feeling that is very luxurious. The instrument cluster is clean and glows a nice blue color at night. The center gauge offers a small trip computer which is quite helpful. The steering wheel is equally impressive with lots



of controls onboard for the stereo system and cruise control. Lots of storage spaces are hidden in the center console which also houses cup holders which are lit at night. Most spaces are lined with a soft material for a upscale feeling and no noise when things move around while driving.

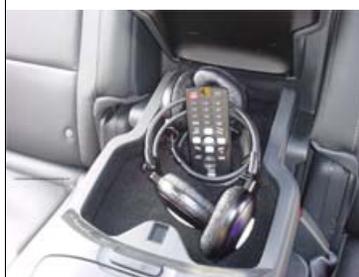
Three variations are offered for sale from the lowest priced GLS, to the SE and the Limited. All versions offer all wheel drive as an option. The GLS offers 17 inch wheels while the other two versions get larger 18 inch wheels for a bolder look. What is great about the Veracruz is that you can have all the new features found on costlier vehicles for a fraction of the cost. For example, things like automatic headlights, backup warning sensors, a power tailgate, leather seats, heated front seats, rear seat DVD player, a high end stereo system, and a cabin air filter are all available in the Veracruz.

Front seats were two-way heated in our model and only the driver's seat was power adjustable which was odd and we thought it could not be lowered down enough for the best seating position. The passenger seat up front is not height adjustable and this could cause problems for passengers who want the best driving position. We would like to see this both front seats power adjustable for and aft and up and down. There is no reason this should not be standard when so many other high-end features are offered.

The stereo system is quite good with an Infinity AM/FM/XM/CD-changer audio system that includes a 605-watt external amplifier, 10 speakers, and Logic 7 surround sound. We found it to be easy to use and it offers built in XM satellite radio and a 6-Disc changer in the dash. It was also easy to use an iPod with an input port placed in a area at the bottom of the stereo console which also has a place to put your iPod.

On the roof mounted console we liked the built-in Bluetooth hands free system which was easy to set up. It is called Blue Connect with a voice prompt similar to that of the OnStar systems in GM vehicles. This along with a mood light and an easy to use one touch sunroof made the Veracruz a very enjoyable ride.

The climate control system on our model featured a zone for the front cabin and one for the rear cabin with separate controls for the rear. An automatic system with temperature settings is also available which offers a dual zone front system. Airflow in the back is quite good with vents on the ceiling and on the side pillars as well as at your feet.



Front seats were quite comfortable on long journeys where you really get to tell if they pass the back ache test or not. In the rear we even were able to say good things about the third row on long journeys. Access to the third row is just a step away with the flip of a lever to slide the second row forward. Although there is not much room to get into the back, it should be easy for most children. The rear seats can fold down for a long cargo area and can also recline for a more relaxed position for passengers. Add a foldable front passenger seat and you have a very long cargo space for larger items like ladders. Sit back and watch a nice movie on the large widescreen DVD player that comes with two headphones and a remote control as well.

Inside you also get a cooled center console up front which is great for soda cans. Soft leather adorns the steering wheel and shift knob though it was a bit slippery for our tastes. Perhaps Hyundai should have used a perforated leather version which would have allowed more grip but still feel great to the touch. A really handy feature we found was the conversation mirror which allows you to see people in the backseat without turning your head. The Veracruz also has a 115 volt power outlet in the rear cargo area so you can have a great tailgate party or recharge your computer while on the road. Overall the interior is very impressive with all the modern day comforts and luxurious you would find in a vehicle twice this price. It is luxurious, smartly designed, easy to use and simply great in this price range.

The quiet and smooth powerplant found inside the Veracruz is a 3.8 Liter Lambda DOHC 24 valve V6 engine. It delivers an estimated 260 horsepower and 257 lb.-ft. of torque. It is mated to a six speed electronic transmission with the ability to shift manually. The engine uses an aluminum block and cylinder heads for light weight and thermal efficiency, and features timing chains with no scheduled maintenance. Veracruz has less idling vibration and noise than the Lexus RX350 as well. While it was quite pleasant to have six gears, the power output of the engine is a little low to try to do some passing on a one lane road. We simply didn't have the confidence that we could get away with passing even one car unless the road was clear of any oncoming traffic even a mile away. Stomping on the gas all the way down does achieve the desired result, however, who wants to do this every time when they need to pass. If there is one drawback to the Veracruz, it would have to be its slightly underpowered or unresponsive engine. Considering how people use their vehicles, we don't believe this will be a concern for many people. Driving around town or cruising at 75 mph on the highway is quite enjoyable.



The feeling behind the wheel is quite luxurious while not being as soft as some other SUV's. We liked the smooth start and quiet engine. The Veracruz sounds more like an electric vehicle rather than a gasoline powered one once you turn the key. It is almost an eerie silence. Every major component of Veracruz has been designed to reduce cabin noise below the whisper-quiet Lexus RX350. To isolate outside noise, Hyundai applies acoustic dampening sheets to the doors and unibody, a steel plate beneath the engine and four layers of carpet padding. Engine noise is reduced through electronically controlled engine mounts, a multi-curvature dash, custom hood insulation and a pillow tripod joint which lessens vibrations from the driveshaft at idle. Front nose dive is well controlled however body sway is noticeable and could be a little better controlled with stiffer springs. The Veracruz also has a tighter minimum turning radius than the shorter Lexus RX350 and Nissan Murano. We would suggest buying the four wheel driver version of the Veracruz as the two wheel drive vehicle did not make it up our slight incline, perhaps it was due to the tires used but most vehicles can make it up our incline easily.

Fuel economy is a great concern today and while the Hyundai Veracruz is listed on the window sticker as 18 mpg in the city and 25 mpg on the highway, we managed to get 18.2 in the city and highway combined. Even when driving on a long four hour highway trip, we only managed about 19 mpg. Our vehicle was loaded with 4 people and even resetting the computer on the highway did not achieve results that were close to 25mpg, and yes we did check the tire pressures. With the level of horsepower in the vehicle and the light weight of all doors and parts, we would think 25mpg would be easily achievable on the highway. We think Hyundai should look into Hydrogen injection by putting an on board water electrolyzer in the vehicle. Hydrogen has been shown to reduce emissions by 80% and increase fuel economy by 50%. Check this out on the net and on our site in other articles. You will be impressed by the number of home grown people making hydrogen vehicles using their internal combustion engine.

"Electronic Stability Control, six airbags including side curtain airbags protecting all three rows, and active front head restraints are found standard in Veracruz and are some of the industry's most effective technologies." They are standard on the Veracruz. In addition, Veracruz adds large four-wheel disc brakes with a 10-inch tandem brake booster and Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) with Electronic Brake-force Distribution (EBD) for impressive stopping distance for a vehicle of its size. Brake Assist maximizes braking force when an emergency stop is detected. Veracruz has been designed and tested to

receive the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) top five-star crash test rating for front and side impacts.

Hyundai offers an excellent warranty with a 10 year or 100,000 mile powertrain protection and a five year or 60,000 mile new vehicle limited warranty. 24 hours of roadside assistance is also offered.

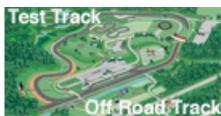
Our vehicle starts of at a base price of \$28,005. Optional is the premium and leather packages for \$3,350 which includes most things inside that you find to be luxurious. The rear entertainment package costs \$1,600 and includes the 115 volt outlet. Floor mats are a additional \$125. With freight adding \$690, out total came to \$33,770. Most parts are from Korea while only about 6% of parts are from the US. The final assembly point is Ulsan, Korea with the engine coming from Korea and Transmission coming from Japan.

The Veracruz is a amazing vehicle for the price. Why buy a Lexus RX when you can have this for so much less money. While the Veracruz is no Porsche Cayenne behind the wheel, for most moms going to school and picking up kids, the luxury offered inside will surely make up for the loss in driving feel at this price range. We like where Hyundai is going with their vehicles.

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PRICING	INVOICE	RETAIL
Base Pricing	\$26,294	\$28,005
Destination	\$690	\$690
Option Group 04 Entertainment Package	\$4,505	\$4,950

Option Group 03 Premium and Leather Package	\$3,049	\$3,350
Roof Rack Cross Rails	\$164	\$205
Carpeted Floor Mats	\$100	\$125
Composite Cargo Tray	\$80	\$100



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	2007 Hyundai Veracruz SE 4dr SUV (3.8L 6cyl 6A)	2007 Mazda CX-9 Touring 4dr SUV (3.5L 6cyl 6A)	2007 Saturn Outlook XR 4dr SUV (3.6L 6cyl 6A)	2007 Toyota Highlander Sport 4dr SUV w/3rd Row (3.3L 6cyl 5A)	2007 Suzuki XL7 Luxury 4dr SUV 7 Passenger w/DVD (3.6L 6cyl 5A)
Manufacturer Info	Veracruz	CX-9	Outlook	Highlander	XL7
MSRP	\$28,005	\$31,135	\$29,555	\$28,965	\$27,049
Invoice	\$26,294	\$28,794	\$27,929	\$25,777	\$25,967
Destination Charge	\$695	\$595	\$735	\$685	\$650
Basic	5 yr. / 60000 mi.	3 yr. / 36000 mi.	3 yr. / 36000 mi.	3 yr. / 36000 mi.	3 yr. / 36000 mi.
Drivetrain	10 yr. / 100000 mi.	5 yr. / 60000 mi.	5 yr. / 100000 mi.	5 yr. / 60000 mi.	7 yr. / 100000 mi.
Roadside	5 yr. / Unlimited mi.	3 yr. / 36000 mi.	5 yr. / 100000 mi.	Being Researched / Being Researched	3 yr. / 36000 mi.
Rust	7 yr. / Unlimited mi.	5 yr. / Unlimited mi.	6 yr. / 100000 mi.	5 yr. / Unlimited mi.	3 yr. / Unlimited mi.
Base Engine					

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Type & Cylinders	V6	V6	V6	V6	V6
Base Engine Displacement	3.8 liters	3.5 liters	3.6 liters	3.3 liters	3.6 liters
Valvetrain	24 Valves double overhead cam (DOHC)	24 Valves double overhead cam (DOHC)	24 Valves double overhead cam (DOHC)	24 Valves double overhead cam (DOHC)	24 Valves double overhead cam (DOHC)
Variable Valve Timing	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard
Horsepower	260 hp @ 6000 rpm	263 hp @ 6250 rpm	275 hp @ 6600 rpm	215 hp @ 5600 rpm	252 hp @ 6500 rpm
Torque	257 ft-lbs. @ 4500 rpm	249 ft-lbs. @ 4500 rpm	251 ft-lbs. @ 3200 rpm	222 ft-lbs. @ 3600 rpm	243 ft-lbs. @ 2300 rpm
6 Speed Shiftable Automatic	Standard	Standard	Standard	Not Available	Not Available
Tires	P245/60R18 all season	P245/60R18 all season	P255/65R18 109S all season	P225/65R17 all season	P235/60R17 all season
Wheels	alloy 18 x 7 in.	alloy 18 x 7.5 in.	alloy 18 x 7.5 in.	polished alloy 17 x 6.5 in.	alloy 17 x 7.0 in.
Sunroof	power glass - Optional	power glass - Optional	power glass - Optional	power glass - Optional	Not Available
Rear Sunroof	Not Available	Not Available	fixed glass - Optional	Not Available	Not Available
Total Seating Capacity	7	7	8	7	7
Passenger Seat Heated	Optional	Standard	Optional	Optional	Standard
Rear Seat Type	40-60 split bench	40-60 split bench	40-60 split bench	40-60 split bench	40-60 split bench
Rear Seat Folding	split folding	split folding	split folding	split folding	split folding
Rear Center Armrest	folding with storage	folding with storage	folding with storage	folding with storage	folding
Rear Heat	rear ventilation ducts	rear ventilation ducts with fan control	Not Available	rear heater unit	rear ventilation ducts with fan control
Air Filtration	Not Available	interior air filtration	Not Available	interior air filtration	interior air filtration
Auto-Dimming Rearview Mirror	electrochromatic	electrochromatic - Optional	electrochromatic	Not Available	Not Available
Reading Lights	front and rear	front reading	front and rear	front reading	front reading

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Reading Lights	reading lights	lights	reading lights	reading lights	reading lights
Vanity Mirrors	dual illuminated vanity mirrors	dual illuminated vanity mirrors	Being Researched	dual vanity mirrors	dual vanity mirrors
Anti - Lock Brakes	4-wheel ABS	4-wheel ABS	4-wheel ABS	4-wheel ABS	4-wheel ABS
Traction Control	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard
Stability Control	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard
De-powered Air Bags	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard
Head Air Bag	front, rear and third row	front, rear and third row	front, rear and third row	front and rear	front, rear and third row
Xenon Headlights	Not Available	Not Available	Optional	Not Available	Not Available
Total Number of Speakers	6	6	6	6	6
Watts	605 - Optional	Being Researched	300 - Optional	Being Researched	Being Researched
Video	DVD player - Optional	DVD player - Optional	DVD player - Optional	DVD player - Optional	DVD player
Turning Circle	36.7 ft.	37.4 ft.	40.4 ft.	37.4 ft.	41.8 ft.
Hauling Capacity	Veracruz	CX-9	Outlook	Highlander	XL7
Max. Cargo Capacity	87 cu. ft.	101 cu. ft.	117 cu. ft.	81 cu. ft.	95 cu. ft.
City	18 mpg.	18 mpg.	18 mpg.	19 mpg.	18 mpg.
Highway	25 mpg.	24 mpg.	26 mpg.	25 mpg.	24 mpg.
Fuel Tank Capacity	20.6 gal.	20.1 gal.	22 gal.	19.1 gal.	18.6 gal.
Length	190.6 in.	199.6 in.	200.7 in.	184.6 in.	197.2 in.
Width	76.6 in.	76.2 in.	78.2 in.	71.9 in.	72.2 in.
Height	68.9 in.	68.1 in.	69.9 in.	67.9 in.	68.9 in.
Wheel Base	110.4 in.	113.2 in.	118.9 in.	106.9 in.	112.4 in.
Ground Clearance	8.1 in.	8.1 in.	7.4 in.	6.9 in.	7.9 in.
Interior	Veracruz	CX-9	Outlook	Highlander	XL7
Front Headroom	40.3 in.	39.6 in.	40.4 in.	40 in.	41.3 in.
Rear Headroom	39.9 in.	38.8 in.	39.3 in.	39.8 in.	40 in.
Front Shoulder Room	60.6 in.	59.4 in.	61.9 in.	57.9 in.	55.6 in.
Rear Shoulder Room	60.2 in.	58.7 in.	61.1 in.	57 in.	55.3 in.
Front Hip Room	57.5 in.	56.5 in.	57.8 in.	55.1 in.	52.2 in.
Rear Hip Room	57.4 in.	56 in.	57.9 in.	54.9 in.	53.1 in.
Front Leg Room	42.6 in.	40.9 in.	41.3 in.	40.7 in.	41.2 in.
Rear Leg Room	38.4 in.	39.8 in.	36.9 in.	36.4 in.	38.8 in.

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