

History of the Toyota Matrix by Betsy Bearden

In keeping it all relative, the Toyota Matrix is based on the Corolla sedan, so you already know it has really good genes. The compact sporty wagon is indeed a very cool ride and offers impressive cargo space.

The Matrix debuted in the U.S in 2002, and has been successful as a compact wagon that offers a passenger side fold-down front seat and fold down split rear seats—in fact, Toyota’s ad campaign for the cargo space in the Matrix is this: “Leave nothing behind.” Due to the 60/40 fold-down rear seats, in addition to the front fold down seat, your “hauling around” possibilities are endless.

The sporty wagon is the perfect match for the adventurous, sports-minded person as it has plenty of room for surfboards, bicycles, or kayaks. And the optional all wheel drive ensures you will be able to maneuver off-road to reach those incredible destinations you might otherwise never had the chance to experience.

The 2012 model offers the Matrix and the Matrix S. The Matrix comes standard with a 1.8-liter in-line-4; 132 horsepower and 128 lb-ft of torque; the transmission offers a 5-speed manual transmission for a more hands-on ride, or a 4-speed automatic. You can expect 25 mpg in city and 32 highway mpg from the base model.

The Matrix S offers a 2.4-liter in-line 4; an impressive 158 horsepower with 162 lb-ft of torque; a 5-speed automatic, or 5-speed manual transmission; and 21/28 (manual) mpg and 20/26 (4-speed automatic, all wheel drive).

The models are equipped with Toyota’s Star Safety System, remote keyless entry, rear seat heater ducts, metallic accents, Bluetooth capability, voice commands, power windows and locks, and if you go for the optional equipment, this sporty wagon will leave you wanting for nothing. As far as safety: The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety has given the Matrix their highest rating of “Good” in both frontal and side crash tests.

References:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toyota_Matrix

http://usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/cars-trucks/Toyota_Matrix/

<http://www.edmunds.com/toyota/matrix/>

<http://www.kbb.com/toyota/matrix/2012-toyota-matrix/?r=70809302596794190>