

2023 Kia Forte vs. K5 | Merrillville, IN

Are you looking for a new Kia sedan but aren't sure which one is right for you? The Southlake Kia team is here to help! In this comparison article, we explore the compact 2023 Kia Forte and mid-size 2023 Kia K5 to assist you in learning more about each model. From safety features to performance capabilities to advanced technology, you'll find the information necessary to make a confident decision.

If you have any questions about either sedan, get in touch with our Kia dealership in Merrillville, IN, online or by phone at (219) 947-1500 (tel:2199471500). You can also explore our new vehicle inventory to search for available models, trim packages, and color options, as well as current finance and lease offers (/research-kia-lease-offers/) to find a great deal.



Just ask

2023 KIA FORTE VS. K5

Engine Specs & Fuel Economy

Several performance options are available with the Kia Forte and K5. Both vehicles are available with two types of engine so you can select the perfect amount of power and capability. A turbocharged four-cylinder engine is standard on the K5 GT trim package along with sport-tuned suspension and a wet dual-clutch automatic transmission (DCT). Forte GT models also come with a turbocharged four-cylinder engine and sport-tuned suspension.

See the accompanying chart for more information on Kia Forte and K5 performance specifications.

2023 Kia Forte		
2.0L MPI I4	ENGINE	1.6L GDI turbo I4
147 HP	HORSEPOWER	201 HP
132 lb.-ft.	TORQUE	195 lb.-ft.
IVT	TRANSMISSION	Seven-speed DCT or six-speed manual
FWD	DRIVE SYSTEM	FWD
31 / 41	MAX. MPG (CITY / HWY)	27 / 35

2023 Kia K5		
1.6L GDI turbo I4	ENGINE	2.5L GDI / MPI turbo I4
180 HP	HORSEPOWER	290 HP
195 lb.-ft.	TORQUE	311 lb.-ft.
Eight-speed automatic	TRANSMISSION	Eight-speed DCT
FWD or AWD	DRIVE SYSTEM	FWD
27 / 37	MAX. MPG (CITY / HWY)	24 / 32

2023 KIA FORTE VS. K5

Exterior Design

Expect bold and sophisticated design on the 2023 Kia Forte and Kia K5. If you're interested in sportier aesthetics, the Forte and K5 both feature GT styling on GT and GT-Line trim packages. Forte GT models have gloss black and red accenting, as well as a rear spoiler and LED lighting, while K5 GT models also have gloss black accents and LED lighting.

Other available exterior features include:

- Heated side mirrors with LED turn signals
- Smart Trunk™ (standard on K5)
- Sunroof (Forte)
- Dual exhaust tips (Forte)
- 15-, 16-, 17-, and 18-in. wheel options (Forte)
- Panoramic sunroof with power sunshade (K5)
- Quad tip dual exhaust (K5)
- 16-, 18-, and 19-in. wheel options (K5)



Interior Design & Technology

After a long day, you'll appreciate the comfortable and serene cabin environment of the Kia Forte and Kia K5, complete with a host of amenities that will make you feel at home. You can choose between woven cloth, a blend of SynTex and cloth, or full SynTex seat trim on both the Forte and K5. GT styling makes its way into the cabin of both sedans. These include a leather-wrapped, flat-bottom steering wheel and sport front seats. GT trim packages on the Kia K5 offer several intricate interior accent designs, including technical embossing, wood graphics, and hair line accent trim.

Other available interior features include:

- Dual-zone automatic climate control
- LED interior lighting
- Ten-way power driver's seat
- Heated and ventilated front seats
- Heated steering wheel (K5)

Stay connected thanks to the host of technology offerings on the 2023 Kia Forte and K5. Apple CarPlay®, Android Auto™, and Bluetooth® phone pairing technology are standard on both vehicles, and you can access these through the infotainment system, available with an 8- or 10.25-inch touchscreen.

Other available technology features include:

- 4.2-in. driver gauge screen
- Wireless phone charger
- SiriusXM® Satellite Radio
- Smart Key with push-button start and remote start (standard on K5)
- Four- or six-speaker audio system, or Harman Kardon® premium audio system with Clari-Fi™ technology and eight speakers (Forte)
- Six-speaker audio system or Bose® premium audio system with 12 speakers (K5)

2023 KIA FORTE VS. K5

Size & Cargo Space



You'll find comfortable seating for up to five passengers in both the 2023 Kia Forte and 2023 Kia K5. However, interior specifications and measurements vary because they're different types of sedans. See the accompanying chart to see the key measurements of the compact Kia Forte and mid-size Kia K5 so you can determine which has the right amount of space for your needs.

2023 Kia Forte	VEHICLE	2023 Kia K5
Five	MAX. SEATING	Five
15.3 cu.-ft.	MAX. CARGO SPACE	16 cu.-ft.
38.8 in. / 37.5 in.	MAX. HEAD ROOM (FRONT /REAR)	40.2 in. / 37.8 in.
56.1 in. / 55.3 in.	MAX. SHOULDER ROOM (FRONT / REAR)	58 in. / 56.1 in.
53 in. / 55.3 in.	MAX. HIP ROOM (FRONT / REAR)	56.6 in. / 56.6 in.
42.2 in. / 35.7 in.	MAX. LEGROOM (FRONT / REAR)	46.1 in. / 35.2 in.

2023 KIA FORTE VS. K5

Safety Options & Features

Dedicated to providing an engaging and safe driving experience, the 2023 Kia Forte and Kia K5 are available with a host of Kia Drive Wise technologies, which are state-of-the-art driver assistance features that help you navigate traffic with ease. Some standard features you'll find on both models include forward collision avoidance assist with pedestrian detection, lane keeping assist, and lane following assist.

Other available safety features include:

- Rear park distance warning
- Blind spot collision warning
- Highway driving assist
- Rear cross traffic collision avoidance assist
- Rear view monitor (with dynamic guidelines on Forte)
- Driver attention warning (with leading vehicle depart
- Front park distance warning (K5)

