

Palisade: The unexpected hero of family travel

A bold, spacious, and refined SUV, the Palisade blends luxury, performance, and practicality in ways that make it a compelling choice for modern families.

BY ROLAND D NASASIRA

At the weekend, I drove a 2022 Hyundai Palisade, starting from the Nissan Motorcare showroom on Jinja Road in Kampala. From there, I made my way onto the Northern Bypass via Yusuf Lule Road, passing through Mulago, Kulambiro, and Buwaate. Part of my route included the under-construction sections of the Kira to Kasangati Road and Kasangati to Matugga, which allowed me to test the Palisade's off-road capabilities.

I then joined the Gulu Highway up to Lu-

wero before returning to Kampala, giving me a comprehensive view of how this seven-seater SUV performs in city traffic, on rough roads, and during longer highway drives.

Aesthetically, the Palisade is a head-turner due to its relatively large size. The front grille, featuring the Hyundai logo, has a honeycomb shape, while the square headlights and 20-inch wheels give it the look of a wide American SUV, resembling models such as the Escalade, Chevrolet, or Hummer.

When you open the driver's door, the side mirrors unfold automatically. Igniting the engine causes the driver's seat to move forward, providing a better grip of the steering wheel. However, it is the interior, particularly the dashboard features, that truly endear you to this seven-seater sport utility vehicle.

Safety

The Hyundai Palisade is equipped with a multitude of safety features. For instance, whenever I indicated to turn, cameras provided a live video feed of the vehicle's ex-

COST

While the 2022 model Palisade is no longer in production, the 2026 model with a 2.5-litre petrol engine and eight seats is priced at around \$90,000 (approximately Shs324m at Shs3,600 per dollar). Actual prices may vary depending on trim level, optional features, and import costs, so prospective buyers should check with local dealerships for the most accurate figures.

With its commanding presence, smart infotainment features, and refined interior, the Hyundai Palisade delivers a premium SUV experience. PHOTO/ROLAND D NASASIRA

terior side view on a small screen next to the speedometer. Additionally, when turning near another object or road user, the car would issue an endless alarm to warn me of their proximity.

When reversing, the 12.3-inch central smart screen not only displayed a video feed of objects behind the vehicle but also split into two screens to provide an aerial view of the vehicle's surroundings. The screen prompts you to check your surroundings for safety before manoeuvring.

Performance

With a 2.2-litre diesel engine, the Palisade was built with a top speed of around 260 km/hr. Its speed pick-up is smooth, capable of accelerating from zero to 100 km/hr in about nine to 10 seconds, giving it performance similar to some German midsize SUVs. Technically, the Palisade covers 100 km using roughly 11 litres of fuel, making it one of the more fuel-efficient yet high-performance SUVs.

Features

The Palisade can be driven in different modes such as eco, comfort, smart, mud, sand and sport, while winter and snow modes do not apply to Uganda or Africa. The interesting bit is that choosing these modes is done by turning a circular knob, similar to a manual knob for tuning radio stations. While your car was fitted with a hand-pushed gearlever, the one in the Palisade is just the press of a button to park, reverse, drive or select the neutral modes. These buttons are next to the knob you use to select the driving mode.

In a nutshell, as far as operating the Palisade on the dashboard is concerned, the South Korean manufacturer, Hyundai, made most of the features basic and

easy to interact with. For instance, it comes to infotainment, you can tune the radio stations using the smart screen, it also provides navigation and volume controls. Infotainment-wise, the Palisade is one of the best sound systems of its 12 amplified speakers, even throughout the car.

However, it is non-basic. It has a 12.3-inch screen that is coming to include navigation, phone, voice talk, mate, settings, the most is

324m
COST OF THE
PALISADE IN
SHILLINGS

Tech

When driving and communicating with the car, you do not have to call or turn to look at it. On the feature side, the microphone, the car's voice, and the be transmitted through the rear.

To end the connection, the end button. Similarly, when media are played only. All volume buttons (units) will be reduced automatically.

The other feature, the legroom, is so middle row you to stretch it. Undoubtedly, the sensors during passenger seating are folded, great

While the plastic you the leather maximum of the roof grey alca you do not is an option both the ing button cle roof b er's head

Downsides

No vel Hyundai owners trical g and m sues. T tain m and ai should Whi the S1 shoul servi sade Ov a fir nok inte driv trip ple wi M tr ov m fe e

