Used Hyundai Venue inspection checklist

What to check on a used Venue, what a problem looks like, and when to walk away.

COVERS **QX** 2019 on

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☐ **Tick it** if it's fine. **Cross it** if it isn't, and note what you found so you can price it into your offer.

! **Safety critical:** affects how safely it drives or protects you in a crash. Best to have a mechanic check it before you buy.

$ **Negotiate:** costs money to fix, from wear to major repairs. Get a quote and take it off the price.

1 Exterior

- ☐ **Rust.** Check wheel arches, sills and the bottom edge of the tailgate for bubbling paint or rust spots. Rust starting at a seam usually means water has been sitting there for years. $
- ☐ **Exterior lights.** Turn on every light including indicators and reversing light, and check the lenses aren't cracked or fogged with moisture. A dim or flickering light can mean a failing bulb or wiring fault. $
- ☐ **Panel gaps.** Walk around the car and check panel gaps are even on both sides, especially around the doors and bonnet. Uneven gaps can point to previous crash repair. A gap wider on one side than the other suggests a panel has been replaced. $
- ☐ **Roof rails.** If roof rails or a roof rack are fitted, check the mounting points for cracks and make sure the rails sit firmly with no play. Loose mounts suggest heavy loads have been carried.

2 Under the bonnet

- ☐ **Engine oil.** Pull the dipstick and check the oil sits between the marks and looks brown, not black or gritty. A low level between services can mean the engine is burning oil. $
- ☐ **Coolant.** Check the coolant reservoir sits at the mark and the coolant looks clean, with no crusty residue nearby. Pink or green deposits around hoses often point to a slow leak. $
- ☐ **Cold start.** Start the engine from cold and listen for it to settle to a smooth idle within a few seconds. A rattle, knock or puff of smoke on cold start can mean an engine problem. $
- ☐ **Battery.** Look for a date sticker on the battery and check the terminals are clean, free of white corrosion. A battery over 4-5 years old is near the end of its life. $

3 Underbody and wheels

- ☐ **Tyres.** Check all four tyres are above the wear bars, worn evenly and roughly matched in age and brand. Uneven wear across one tyre can point to an alignment or suspension problem. $
- ☐ **Underbody rust.** Look under the car for rust on the floor or around the suspension mounts, and for bent metal or fresh welds. A patch of new coating among otherwise dirty metal can hide crash repair. !
- ☐ **Shock absorbers.** Check each shock absorber body for oily wetness, which means it's leaking and losing its damping. A leaking shock makes the car bounce and feel vague over bumps. $
- ☐ **Exhaust system.** Look along the exhaust for rust holes, loose mounts or a hanging section. A hanging exhaust will rattle and may drag on speed bumps. $

4 Interior and electrics

- ☐ **Warning lights.** Turn the key to "on" and check every dash light comes on then goes out once the engine is running. An airbag, brake or ABS warning that stays lit needs explaining before you buy. !
- ☐ **Seatbelts.** Pull each seatbelt out fully and let it retract, and check it latches firmly with no fraying. Fraying webbing means the belt may not hold in a crash. !
- ☐ **Infotainment screen.** Turn on the touchscreen and check it responds smoothly, connects to Bluetooth and doesn't freeze or glitch while you use it. A screen that freezes, lags or restarts on its own points to a software or hardware fault. $
- ☐ **Horn.** Press the horn firmly and check it sounds immediately and clearly. A horn that doesn't sound, or only works sometimes, is often caused by water getting into the wiring behind the bumper. $
- ☐ **Air conditioning.** Run the air conditioning on its coldest setting for a few minutes and check it blows cold air strongly from all vents. Weak or warm airflow can mean a refrigerant leak or failing compressor. $

5 Test drive

- ☐ **Manual clutch.** Manual: pull away from a stop and check the clutch bites smoothly partway up the pedal, not right at the top or floor. A clutch biting very high or slipping under load is close to needing replacement. $
- ☐ **Automatic gearbox.** Automatic: drive from a stop and through normal gear changes, feeling for any hesitation, flare or rough, delayed shifts. Judder at low speed is a warning sign. $

! **Stay safe.** Never go under a car held up only by a jack, and never open the radiator or coolant cap on a hot engine. Keep hands, hair and loose clothing clear of fans and belts when the engine is running, and do checks under the bonnet with it switched off where you can. On the test drive, hold a current licence, confirm the car is registered and insured, obey road rules, and only brake hard when the road behind is clear. Meet in a safe, public-facing place, take someone with you, and don't carry large amounts of cash to a viewing.

5 Test drive continued

- [ ] **Brakes.** Brake firmly from a safe speed and check the car stops straight with a firm pedal and no grinding or squealing. Pulling to one side can mean uneven wear or a sticking caliper. !
- [ ] **Steering.** At low speed on full lock, listen for any clunking and feel for the steering wheel returning to centre smoothly. Clunking on full lock can point to worn steering or suspension joints. !

6 Documentation

- [ ] **Service history.** Check the logbook is stamped on time at every interval, with receipts matching the stamps and any extra work recorded. Gaps in the service history can hide deferred maintenance that costs you later. $
- [ ] **Registration.** Check the car's registration status online through your state's register to confirm it is current and matches the plates and VIN on the car itself.
- [ ] **Roadworthy certificate.** Confirm a current roadworthy certificate is supplied if your state requires one on sale, and that its details match the car.

What this guide can't tell you about the Venue you're looking at

1+
recalls on Venues built since 2019*

2
common faults reported on Venues built since 2019*

220
owner complaints on Venues built since 2020*

Money owing, stolen or a write-off?
A tidy car can hide all three.

What's each fault worth?
Shufti's negotiation coach turns it into leverage.

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- Guided checks for the exact car you're inspecting
- PPSR and government recall checks included
- Crosschecks 3M+ recalls and owner complaints
- Spots issues from your photos and audio
- Test drive routes with turn-by-turn navigation
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* Shufti analysis, November 2026, of official recall notices, complaints lodged by vehicle owners with vehicle safety regulators, and independent reviews and owner forums. Faults are counted when two or more independent sources report them.

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