

subaru outback buyers guide

Subaru Outback Buyers Guide

The Subaru Outback has established itself as a versatile and reliable vehicle, popular among outdoor enthusiasts, families, and commuters alike. With its impressive all-wheel drive capabilities, spacious interior, and rugged design, the Outback is often seen as the perfect blend of SUV and wagon. However, as with any vehicle purchase, it's essential to consider various factors before making a decision. This comprehensive buyer's guide will cover everything you need to know about the Subaru Outback, including its features, trim levels, performance, safety ratings, and how to choose the best model for your needs.

Overview of the Subaru Outback

The Subaru Outback is a midsize crossover SUV known for its practicality and capability. Originally introduced as a station wagon version of the Subaru Legacy, the Outback has evolved over the years into a versatile vehicle that caters to a wide range of customers.

Key Features

- All-Wheel Drive: Standard in all models, providing excellent traction and stability in various weather conditions.
- Spacious Interior: Ample cargo space and comfortable seating for up to five passengers.
- Advanced Safety Features: Equipped with Subaru's EyeSight Driver Assist Technology, which includes adaptive cruise control, lane-keeping assist, and pre-collision braking.
- Off-Road Capability: With a higher ground clearance and rugged design, the Outback is well-suited for off-road adventures.

Trim Levels and Pricing

The Subaru Outback is available in various trim levels, each offering distinct features and equipment. Typically, the Outback comes in the following trims:

1. Base: The entry-level trim, providing essential features and the standard all-wheel drive.
2. Premium: Adds more comfort and convenience features such as a larger touchscreen, more USB ports, and enhanced audio systems.

3. Limited: Offers higher-end features such as leather upholstery, a premium audio system, and additional safety technologies.
4. Touring: The top-tier trim that includes luxury features like ventilated front seats, a larger infotainment display, and exclusive styling elements.
5. Onyx Edition: A sportier version with unique styling and additional off-road features.
6. Wilderness: Designed for off-road enthusiasts, this trim includes increased ground clearance, all-terrain tires, and enhanced off-road capabilities.

Pricing varies based on the trim level and optional features, so it's important to check with local dealerships for the most up-to-date pricing information.

Performance and Fuel Efficiency

The Subaru Outback is known for its balanced performance, thanks to its robust engine options and all-wheel-drive system.

Engine Options

- 2.5L Boxer Engine: Standard on most trims, this 4-cylinder engine produces around 182 horsepower and offers a good balance of power and fuel efficiency.
- 2.4L Turbocharged Boxer Engine: Available on higher trims, this engine generates approximately 260 horsepower, providing an extra boost for those seeking spirited performance.

Fuel Economy

The Outback's fuel efficiency varies by engine and trim, but it generally offers competitive numbers for its class:

- 2.5L Engine: Approximately 26-33 mpg (city/highway).
- 2.4L Turbo Engine: Approximately 22-29 mpg (city/highway).

These figures make the Outback a practical choice for daily commuting and long road trips.

Safety Ratings and Features

Safety is a top priority for Subaru, and the Outback consistently receives high safety ratings from organizations like the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

(IIHS).

Standard Safety Features

- EyeSight Driver Assist Technology: Includes adaptive cruise control, lane departure warning, lane-keeping assist, and pre-collision braking.
- Rearview Camera: Standard on all trims for improved visibility while reversing.
- Blind-Spot Monitoring: Available on higher trims to help detect vehicles in your blind spots.
- Rear Cross-Traffic Alert: Warns drivers of approaching vehicles while backing out of parking spaces.

Crash Test Ratings

- The Outback typically earns a five-star overall rating from the NHTSA and top marks in crash tests from the IIHS, making it a safe choice for families and individuals alike.

Interior Comfort and Technology

The Subaru Outback's interior is designed with comfort and convenience in mind, making it a great vehicle for long journeys and everyday use.

Interior Space and Comfort

- Seating: The Outback comfortably seats five passengers with ample legroom and headroom in both the front and rear.
- Cargo Space: Offers about 32.5 cubic feet of cargo space behind the rear seats, which expands to 75.7 cubic feet with the rear seats folded down.

Technology Features

- Infotainment System: A user-friendly touchscreen interface, typically ranging from 7 to 11.6 inches, depending on the trim level.
- Apple CarPlay and Android Auto: Standard on most trims, allowing for easy smartphone integration.
- Navigation System: Available on higher trims for those who prefer built-in navigation.

Choosing the Right Subaru Outback for You

When deciding which Subaru Outback is right for you, consider the following factors:

1. **Budget:** Determine your budget for both the purchase price and ongoing expenses like insurance and fuel.
2. **Driving Needs:** Consider how you plan to use the Outback. Will you be commuting, off-roading, or taking long family trips?
3. **Desired Features:** Make a list of must-have features, such as advanced safety technology, upgraded audio systems, or specific comfort elements.
4. **Test Drive:** Always schedule a test drive to get a feel for how the Outback handles and see if it meets your expectations.

Conclusion

The Subaru Outback is an excellent choice for buyers seeking a reliable, versatile vehicle that can handle a variety of driving conditions. With its all-wheel drive, spacious interior, and impressive safety ratings, the Outback stands out in a crowded market. By understanding the various trim levels, performance options, and features available, you can make an informed decision that suits your lifestyle and needs. Whether you're an outdoor adventurer or a city commuter, the Subaru Outback is well-equipped to take you wherever you need to go.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the key features to look for when buying a used Subaru Outback?

When buying a used Subaru Outback, key features to consider include the vehicle's maintenance history, mileage, condition of the tires and brakes, the presence of a service record, and any potential rust or body damage. Additionally, check for the availability of advanced safety features and technology options, as these can vary by model year.

What are the most common issues reported by Subaru Outback owners?

Common issues reported by Subaru Outback owners include head gasket failures, excessive oil consumption, and problems with the CVT (continuously variable transmission). It's important to research the specific model year, as some years have more reported issues than others.

How does the Subaru Outback compare to other crossover SUVs?

The Subaru Outback stands out among crossover SUVs for its standard all-wheel drive, higher ground clearance, and rugged off-road capability. It also offers a spacious interior and good cargo capacity, making it a practical choice for outdoor enthusiasts compared to competitors like the Honda CR-V or Toyota RAV4.

What is the average price range for a new Subaru Outback?

The average price range for a new Subaru Outback typically falls between \$28,000 and \$40,000, depending on the trim level and optional features. Higher trims with added technology and luxury features can push the price above \$40,000.

Are there any special financing offers or incentives for purchasing a Subaru Outback?

Subaru often provides special financing offers and incentives, such as cash rebates or low-interest financing for qualified buyers. It's advisable to check with local dealerships or the Subaru website for the latest promotions and offers available in your area.

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