

best year subaru ascent

best year subaru ascent is a frequently searched term among SUV enthusiasts and potential buyers looking for a reliable, spacious, and safe family vehicle. The Subaru Ascent, introduced in 2019, has quickly established itself as a competitive midsize SUV option within its segment. This article explores which model year of the Subaru Ascent stands out as the best based on various factors such as performance, features, reliability, and overall value. Understanding the nuances between different years can help consumers make an informed decision when purchasing a new or used Subaru Ascent. Key considerations include changes in technology, safety updates, and any recalls or improvements made over time. This comprehensive guide will cover the evolution of the Subaru Ascent across its production years and provide insights into which year offers the optimal balance of features and dependability. The following sections will detail important aspects to consider when identifying the best year Subaru Ascent for your needs.

- Overview of Subaru Ascent Model Years
- Performance and Engine Specifications
- Safety Features and Ratings
- Technology and Interior Comfort
- Reliability and Common Issues
- Value and Pricing Trends

Overview of Subaru Ascent Model Years

The Subaru Ascent debuted in 2019, marking Subaru's entry into the midsize SUV market with a three-row, seven- or eight-passenger vehicle. Since its launch, the Ascent has undergone minor updates with a focus on enhancing comfort, technology, and safety. Understanding the key differences between model years is essential in determining the best year Subaru Ascent for buyers prioritizing certain features or improvements.

2019 Subaru Ascent

The 2019 model year introduced the Subaru Ascent as a brand-new SUV with a standard turbocharged 2.4-liter four-cylinder engine producing 260 horsepower. It came equipped with Subaru's Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive and EyeSight Driver Assist Technology as standard on most trims. This model year received positive reviews for spaciousness and safety but had some early reports of minor infotainment glitches.

2020 Subaru Ascent

The 2020 Ascent retained the same powertrain and all-wheel-drive system but included some refinements to the interior materials and infotainment system responsiveness. Additional standard safety features were made available across more trims. This year benefited from Subaru's continuous improvements but did not introduce major mechanical changes.

2021 Subaru Ascent

The 2021 model year saw the addition of standard heated front seats on higher trims and an available panoramic sunroof. Subaru also updated the infotainment system to include wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto on select trims. These technology upgrades enhanced user convenience and comfort, making it a more attractive option for tech-savvy buyers.

2022 Subaru Ascent

For 2022, Subaru introduced minor exterior styling tweaks and enhanced sound insulation to improve cabin quietness. The base trim gained additional standard features, such as a power rear gate on some models. Subaru also improved the adaptive cruise control system for smoother operation, contributing to the vehicle's overall refinement.

Performance and Engine Specifications

The best year Subaru Ascent should offer a balance of power, fuel efficiency, and smooth driving dynamics. Across all model years, the Ascent has utilized a turbocharged 2.4-liter flat-four engine paired with a continuously variable transmission (CVT), delivering competitive performance for the midsize SUV category.

Engine and Transmission

The turbocharged boxer engine produces 260 horsepower and 277 lb-ft of torque, providing ample power for daily driving and highway cruising. The CVT optimizes fuel economy while maintaining responsive acceleration. Subaru's Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive system enhances traction and stability in various driving conditions.

Fuel Efficiency

Fuel economy ratings for the Subaru Ascent generally range from approximately 21 miles per gallon (mpg) in the city to 27 mpg on the highway, depending on the drivetrain and trim level. These figures have remained consistent across model years, reflecting the efficiency of the turbocharged engine and CVT combination.

Towing Capacity and Handling

The Ascent offers a towing capacity of up to 5,000 pounds when properly equipped, suitable for trailers, boats, or campers. The vehicle's suspension provides a comfortable ride with composed handling, making it versatile for both urban and off-road environments.

Safety Features and Ratings

The best year Subaru Ascent must excel in safety, a domain where Subaru traditionally performs well. The Ascent has been equipped with advanced safety technologies and has received high safety ratings from reputable agencies.

EyeSight Driver Assist Technology

Standard on most trims, Subaru's EyeSight system includes adaptive cruise control, lane keep assist, pre-collision braking, and throttle management. Over the years, this system has been refined for better responsiveness and reliability, particularly in newer model years.

Crash Test Ratings

All model years of the Subaru Ascent have earned top scores from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS). The vehicle consistently receives high marks for front, side, and rollover crash protection.

Additional Safety Enhancements

- Blind-spot detection and rear cross-traffic alert available on higher trims
- Rearview camera standard on all models
- Improved adaptive headlights in newer models

Technology and Interior Comfort

The cabin of the Subaru Ascent is designed for practicality and comfort, incorporating modern infotainment and convenience features that have evolved since its introduction. The best year Subaru Ascent balances technology upgrades with user-friendly interfaces and spacious seating.

Infotainment System

Early models featured a standard 6.5-inch touchscreen, while higher trims offered an 8-inch display. From 2021 onward, wireless smartphone integration became available, improving ease of use. The system supports Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, with voice command functionality for safer operation.

Interior Space and Seating

The Ascent comfortably seats seven or eight passengers, depending on the configuration, with ample legroom in all three rows. Cargo space is generous for the segment, and the rear seats fold flat to maximize storage capacity. Premium trims offer leather upholstery, heated and ventilated seats, and tri-zone automatic climate control.

Convenience Features

- Power-adjustable driver's seat with memory settings
- Keyless entry and push-button start
- Multiple USB ports and available Wi-Fi hotspot
- Available panoramic sunroof for an airy cabin atmosphere

Reliability and Common Issues

Reliability is a crucial factor when determining the best year Subaru Ascent. Overall, the Ascent has demonstrated solid dependability, but some model years have reported specific issues that potential buyers should consider.

Known Issues by Model Year

- **2019:** Minor infotainment glitches and occasional engine oil consumption concerns.
- **2020:** Few reported complaints about CVT software updates needed for smoother shifting.
- **2021 and 2022:** Generally fewer problems, with Subaru addressing earlier concerns through recalls and software updates.

Maintenance and Warranty

Subaru offers a competitive warranty package including a 3-year/36,000-mile basic warranty and a 5-year/60,000-mile powertrain warranty. Routine maintenance is straightforward, and Subaru dealerships are widely available across the U.S., which supports long-term ownership satisfaction.

Value and Pricing Trends

The best year Subaru Ascent also depends on the buyer's budget and intended use. Newer models tend to command higher prices but include the latest features and improvements. Used Ascent SUVs from earlier years can offer better value while still delivering strong performance and safety.

Depreciation and Resale Value

The Subaru Ascent maintains relatively strong resale value compared to competitors in the midsize SUV segment. Depreciation is moderate, especially for well-maintained vehicles with complete service records.

Pricing Overview

- 2019 models typically offer more attractive prices on the used market.
- 2021 and 2022 models carry a premium for updated technology and refinements.
- Certified Pre-Owned (CPO) options provide additional warranty coverage, adding value.

Choosing the best year Subaru Ascent involves weighing factors such as budget, desired features, and long-term reliability. While all model years offer a compelling package, the 2021 and 2022 models stand out for their technology updates and improved comfort, whereas the 2019 and 2020 models provide value for cost-conscious buyers who prioritize affordability without sacrificing key attributes.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is considered the best year for the Subaru Ascent?

The 2020 Subaru Ascent is often regarded as the best year due to its refreshed styling, improved interior materials, and enhanced driver assistance features.

Are there any significant differences between the 2019 and 2020 Subaru Ascent models?

Yes, the 2020 Subaru Ascent received a mid-cycle refresh with updated exterior styling, a quieter cabin, and upgraded safety features compared to the 2019 model.

Is the 2021 Subaru Ascent better than earlier models?

The 2021 Subaru Ascent offers incremental improvements such as updated safety tech and minor interior enhancements, but it is largely similar to the 2020 model, making 2020 and 2021 both solid choices.

Which Subaru Ascent model year has the best reliability ratings?

The 2020 Subaru Ascent has received favorable reliability ratings, benefiting from bug fixes and refinements after the initial 2019 launch year issues.

Should I buy a used 2019 Subaru Ascent or a newer model?

While the 2019 Subaru Ascent was the debut year and may have some initial teething issues, it is still a good SUV; however, newer models like 2020 and 2021 have addressed many early concerns and offer improved features.

What model year Subaru Ascent has the best fuel efficiency?

Fuel efficiency across Subaru Ascent model years is fairly consistent, with slight improvements in 2020 and later models due to tuning and aerodynamic updates, but no major differences exist.

Additional Resources

1. The Ultimate Guide to the Subaru Ascent: Best Years and Features

This book offers an in-depth look at the Subaru Ascent, focusing on the best model years for performance, reliability, and value. It covers key features, common issues, and maintenance tips to help buyers make an informed decision. Ideal for prospective owners and Subaru enthusiasts alike.

2. Subaru Ascent: A Comprehensive Review of Top Model Years

Explore detailed reviews of the Subaru Ascent's most acclaimed years, highlighting improvements in safety, technology, and comfort. The book compares different trims and model updates to help readers understand which year fits their needs best. It also includes real owner testimonials and expert insights.

3. Buying Guide: Best Year Subaru Ascent for Families

Focused on family needs, this guide evaluates the Subaru Ascent's best years based on space, safety features, and reliability. It discusses how the vehicle performs in various driving conditions and offers advice on selecting the right year for long-term family use. Practical tips for negotiating prices and inspections are also included.

4. Subaru Ascent Performance and Reliability: Year-by-Year Analysis

This book provides a thorough year-by-year breakdown of the Subaru Ascent's performance metrics and reliability ratings. It helps readers identify which model years excel in engine performance, fuel efficiency, and mechanical durability. Maintenance schedules and common repairs are also detailed.

5. The Evolution of the Subaru Ascent: Best Model Years Explained

Trace the development of the Subaru Ascent from its debut to the latest models, focusing on key improvements and design changes. This book highlights the best years to own based on technological advancements and user satisfaction. It includes photos and comparative charts for easy reference.

6. Subaru Ascent Ownership: Choosing the Best Year for Value and Longevity

Ideal for budget-conscious buyers, this guide explores which Subaru Ascent model years offer the best resale value and long-term durability. It discusses depreciation trends and maintenance costs to help readers maximize their investment. Tips on how to spot a well-maintained used Ascent are also provided.

7. Off-Road and Everyday Driving: Best Years of Subaru Ascent

This book examines the Subaru Ascent's capabilities in both off-road and everyday driving scenarios. It identifies which model years are best suited for adventurous drivers and those needing a reliable daily vehicle. Detailed comparisons cover suspension, drivetrain, and safety features.

8. Subaru Ascent Safety Ratings and Best Years to Buy

Focused on safety, this book reviews crash test results and safety features across different Subaru Ascent model years. It pinpoints the safest years to purchase and explains how safety technology has evolved in the lineup. The guide also covers recalls and how they impact vehicle safety.

9. Subaru Ascent Maintenance and Repair: Best Years for Low Cost Ownership

This practical manual focuses on maintenance and repair costs associated with various Subaru Ascent model years. It identifies which years tend to have fewer costly repairs and offers advice on routine upkeep. The book is a valuable resource for owners wanting to minimize expenses while keeping their Ascent in top shape.

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