Toyota Land Cruiser Spotter's Guide

AK10

The first Toyota 4x4 utility prototype, designed with simple, open bodywork atop a truck frame. 1950

BJ

First production Toyota 4x4 utility, equipped with a B-series engine and a three-speed transmission. Uses a grille with nine vertical slots, typically has no doors, has headlights mounted behind metal guards on flat fenders. Similar in appearance to early Jeeps, but larger. Assigned Land Cruiser name in 1954. 1951 – 1955

Land Cruiser (20 Series)

Basic 20 Series vehicle is a utility 4x4 equipped with a soft or metal top. Land Cruiser BJ25s were equipped with B-series engines, FJ25s with F-series engines. Both feature a grille with four horizontal slots between the headlights and use square, upright styling that hints at what the classic FJ40 will look like. Available in many forms, including as a long wheelbase with a soft top (BJ28), fire engine (FJ24JA) and a hardtop with long wheelbase (FJ28V). 1955 – 1960

Land Cruiser (40 Series)

The classic Land Cruiser 40 Series in its FJ40 form, with its looks and harmonious proportions. Two doors with a hard or soft top, folding windshield, F-series engine and two-speed transfer case. The roofs of the hardtops are painted white, and all hardtops had wrap-around rear windows. In place of horizontal grille slots, the grille consists of a mesh element between the two headlights. Square turn signals were mounted atop each front fender. Available in many types, including a slightly longer wheelbase permanent top (FJ45V) and a pickup (FJ45).

Land Cruiser (55 Series)

A long-wheelbase four-door utility wagon with 40-Series running gear. Styling remains very square-edged, but down-sloping front fenders with vestigial flat tops somewhat integrated into the front clip. Square turn signals were mounted atop the front fenders.
Carburetor air intake grilles are high above, and slightly aft of, the front wheel wells. Hood is much more a flat panel than was the 40 Series hood. Grille consists of horizontal slots between the headlights. The taillights are high-mounted and rectangular. The interior is more complete and integrated than previously, with a padded dash top. 1967 – 1979

Land Cruiser (60 Series)

Land Cruiser wagon, the logical extension of the 55 Series, remains square for excellent utilization of space but the edges are softer and more rounded. The grille consists of four horizontal bars and five horizontal slots. Fenders are completely integrated into front clip. The front turn signals are integrated into the front fascia, immediately outboard of each headlight. Rear turn signals are rectangular and vertical, inset into the body's sheet metal just above the rear bumper. The rear door can be a single lift gate, a single swing-out or a pair of swing-outs. Interior is now styled, with an automotive-type dash. 1980 -1989

Land Cruiser (70 Series)

Square-bodied Land Cruiser utility 4x4 two-door with steel doors and top, slanted windshield. The front-clip styling remains much like that of the 40 Series. The grille can be mesh or can consist of three horizontal bars. Both have three additional horizontal slots in a single line under the grille. Front turn signals are square with triangular white lens elements underneath, and are affixed to the vertical edge of the front clip above the fenders and just outboard of each headlight. The top can be hard or soft. The doors are hard, with roll-up windows. Taillights are long, vertical rectangles inset low into the rear bodywork. Rear doors are paired swing-outs. Windshields of some military versions will fold atop hood. Available in many forms, including a pickup (FJ75P) and a four-door, long wheelbase utility wagon (FJ77HV). 1984 -present

Land Cruiser (80 Series)

Land Cruiser wagon with upright, rounded styling. Hood has a broad power bulge, front fenders show character lines that hint at the 55 Series' front fenders and flow the length of the vehicle's body. Front fenders are fully integrated into the front clip and have sheetmetal flares. Turn signals are thin, horizontal units mounted just below headlights. Grille is egg-crate mesh between rectangular headlights. Rear doors can be either swing-out side-openers or a tailgate/liftgate combination. Taillights are vertical rectangles inset into the bodywork just above the rear bumper. The interior is now very modern, tending toward luxury, with an instrument panel inset under an arched brow in early (wide) and late (less wide) styles. Springs are now coils, rather than leafs, at each corner. 1990 – 1997

Land Cruiser (90 Series)

Known as the Prado and developed from the 70 Series, the first Land Cruiser to use independent front suspension. Was not sold in the U.S. in this iteration. 90 Series is somewhat smaller than 60 Series and 80 Series, and available with two or four doors. Grille is composed of 11 vertical bars between styled headlamps, with additional cooling slots below the grille, in the bumper. 1993 – 2001

Land Cruiser (100 Series)

Land Cruiser wagon with a tall greenhouse, independent front suspension and 4.7L V8. Some versions sold outside the U.S. get a solid front axle (101 Series). Power bulge on wide, flat hood less pronounced than previously; front fenders show distinct sheet-metal flare. Grille consists of three horizontal bars between integrated and styled headlamps. An additional narrow horizontal cooling intake is found below the grille, in the front bumper. A bump strip runs length of body below beltline. Pronounced flare around rear wheel wells. Rear door is a liftgate. Taillights are large ribbed units that are partially built into the lift gate and wrap around the rear corners of the vehicle to be visible from the side as well as from the rear. The dash is very modern with an instrument panel under its own brow and with HVAC and audio controls, as well as several AC vents, in a separate central panel. 100 Series is available only as a four-door. 1998 – 2007

Land Cruiser (120 Series)

In 2002 the Land Cruiser Prado was revised as 120 Series Prado, or in some markets, simply the Land Cruiser. Seen in the United States as the Lexus GX 470. Body has 60 percent more torsional rigidity and very sophisticated electronic traction controls for improved off- and on-road performance, lower noise and better quality. Center of gravity was reduced, ensuring better stability. Together with a Torsen limited-slip central differential, Active Traction Control and Vehicle Stability Control provide outstanding mobility on almost any terrain. 2002 - Present

FJ Cruiser (120 Series)

Toyota's 2007 FJ Cruiser uses the 120 Series chassis design developed in 2002 and further optimized in 2005 for this application. Optimization includes increased fuel-tank clearance, 32-inch tires and more suspension articulation than on other iterations of the 120 Series. It features a wide, flat hood with rounded edges and a mesh grille between two round headlights, per FJ40. Flat, vertical windshield, white roof, wrap-around rear windows, short front/rear overhangs, angular wheel openings, off-center rear license plate, all per FJ40.
2006 as a 2007 model

Land Cruiser (200 Series)

A luxury 4x4 with refined, upright bodywork and styling for excellent space utilization. A wide, flat hood contains character lines, and flows into the beltline and into the horizontal, four-slatted grille – a theme that echoes the 60 Series Land Cruiser - and unitized horizontal headlights. Fender bulges and a three-dimensional rocker mark the vehicle's side aspect, and a rear liftgate that contains part of the 200 Series' taillights marks the rear. Integrated bumper covers are the same color as the bodywork. Power is delivered by 3UR-FE 5.7L DOHC engine and a six-speed automatic transmission. The full time four-wheel drive system includes a sophisticated traction-control system and a two-speed transfer case with a Torsen center differential with locking feature. Interior contains three rows of seats with places for eight passengers. Instruments are contained under a dashboard brow and HVAC, audio and available navigation controls are located in a center binnacle. 200 Series available only as a four-door. 2007 to present.