

History of Toyota Camry

There is no other way to say this than to say that the Toyota Camry is one of those sure things in life. It truly hails from the stock of Toyota royalty: from the Crown, via the Toyopet Crown, via the Tiara, via the Corona. It has made its mark in history as one of the best-sold and most reputable cars in the world. When it comes to cars, the Camry is indeed the Universal Language that everyone knows.

In 1982, the torch was passed when the Corona went from rear wheel drive to front wheel drive and re-emerged as the Camry in the U.S. in 1983. Honda stood up and took notice, as the Accord was a huge seller at this time with no competition in sight. Although the Accord was indeed a formidable opponent, when the first Camry hit the streets it changed everything.

The Camry, with its quiet looks, just happened to be bigger and better than the Accord from the beginning. Just goes to show, you can't judge a car by its body (style) that is. The first models were produced as four-door automatics along with their line of the five-door liftback design that eventually became the five-door liftback station wagon in 1987. The wagon was equipped with AWD (a.k.a. "All-Trac") on all models and marketed to areas in the U.S. that were more prone to snow and icy conditions. Again, another unsurpassed design by Toyota in that day.

Camry exceeded all expectations and became so popular that a manufacturing plant opened in the U.S. in Georgetown, Kentucky in 1988. After the first American made Camry showed up in the dealership showrooms across the nation, the rest was history. In 1989, just as the interior and overall size of the Camry grew, so did sales. In 1997, the Camry officially became America's best-selling car, and remains so to date.

Since 1983, the Camry has undergone many changes and its exterior has evolved from "plain Jane" to the sleek, sophisticated model that it is today. Even in that day, the impressive motor touted a generous 92 horsepower. In 2007 when styling was completely overhauled, it offered the optional 3.5-liter V6 that produced a whopping 268 horsepower and 248 lb-ft of torque while returning 28 mpg on the highway.

The 2012 Camry offers two different engines. The 4-cylinder offers 178 horsepower and an EPA-estimated 35 mpg on the highway. The V6 offers 268 horsepower and 30 mpg on the highway. Both engines also join a six-speed automatic transmission to deliver better fuel economy. Wow—a Camry with 268 horsepower under its hood: not too shabby for a midsize family car.

The Camry's interior has always had the reputation of being quiet, even under higher speeds. Performance from behind the wheel is known for comfort and ease of handling. With proper maintenance, the Camry is well known for being mechanically stable for the

life of the vehicle. All the creature comforts are there, along with a roomier interior. Worry—purchasing a Camry is truly the one major thing in your life you will never second-guess or worry about. It's one of those purchases that allows you to drive it home, and actually lie down and sleep at night without worrying about how you spent your money. With a Camry, you just know that your money could not have been more wisely spent.

It is no wonder that the Camry has remained as America's *number one* favorite family-oriented automobile for decades. For years, it has received one award after another as far as safety, emissions, most popular family car, car of the year, best all around value for price and performance—and it's the one sure thing that waits for you every single day that you know you can always depend on.

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