

## History of Toyota 4Runner

During the great SUV boom of the late '80s and into the '90s, a shining star emerged. If you were to ask anyone to think back and recall the first impressive SUV they can remember during that period, they will most likely say it was the Toyota 4Runner.

The first-generation Toyota 4Runner that sold in the U.S. in 1984 was based upon the Toyota Hilux truck. The original models had a removable fiberglass (shell) top, and the SR5 model came equipped with a removable rear seat. Each unit was available in 4-wheel drive and the fiberglass tops came in two colors: black or white.

The ever-evolving technology of the Toyota Motor Company improved upon this design in 1985 and made the rear seat a standard addition. Although the carbureted 2.4 L 22R engine remained in use until 1988, the electronically fuel-injected 2.4 L 22R-E I4 engine was introduced to the 4Runner in 1985.

Beginning in 1990, the Toyota 4Runner was no longer considered as a modified pickup. In 1995, a new body was designed for it, along with an all-new chassis, and the 4Runner lost all ties to the little Hilux truck from where it began. This is where the 4Runner started to come in to its own. Automobile enthusiasts and writers began to compare the 4Runner to the legendary Toyota Land Cruiser, but as a smaller, more affordable version that could rival the competitive off-roaders.

Because of their unparalleled reputation in outstanding workmanship, the 4Runner was yet another vehicle that would gain the Toyota reputation of longevity, reliability, and low depreciation. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety awarded the 2007 4Runner as the safest truck-based SUV in overall safety and each unit is now equipped with Toyota's Star Safety System.