

History of the Toyota Sienna by Betsy Bearden

The Toyota Sienna is the all-around perfect family minivan, and it is also the safest minivan you will find anywhere. If safety is your number one concern when it comes to buying a new minivan, then the Toyota Sienna is for you.

The Sienna replaced the Toyota Previa in 1997, and it was introduced to the U.S. in 1998. The first Sienna was based on the revised platform of the Camry, and it was smaller than today's version, but in 2004 it was redesigned to compete with others in its class. Noteworthy: the Toyota Sienna has been "Made in America" since 1998.

Toyota, since its inception, has always been Moving Forward, and has been the pioneer of automakers in offering many *firsts* in groundbreaking, technological advancement. The Sienna is only one example of these firsts. It was the first minivan that offered the option of all wheel drive. The Sienna is also the first minivan to offer a Pre-Collision System, and it is also the first to offer a factory installed, power ascending and descending driver's seat for the handicapped. As for the Pre-Collision System, Toyota *invented* it!

The Sienna body style has changed over the years, and numerous safety factors and upscale interior amenities abound. From driving around town or taking a family of up to eight on a much-needed vacation, you will experience comfortable and roomy seating, and there is a rear seat entertainment system to keep the lively ones occupied for hours. As far as cargo space there is plenty of storage, even with a full cabin. But if you need to carry a big load, the second row of seats is removable, and third row seat folds down to give you a whopping 150 cubic feet of storage.

Are we there yet? It won't take long to reach your destination with a 3.5 liter, V6 with 266 horsepower and 245 lb-ft of torque moving you right along. The 2012 Base model, along with the LE model both offer a 2.7 liter, 4-cylinder engine that also gets the job done with ease.

Safety...well after all, the Sienna is synonymous with the word's safe vehicle. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety has issued the Sienna the "Top Safety Pick" award and the Sienna earned a top score of "Good" (highest level) for its performance in frontal-offset, side-impact and roof-strength crash tests.

The Sienna comes in nine trim models, so you are sure to walk away with exactly what you want.

References:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toyota_Sienna

<http://www.edmunds.com/toyota/sienna/2012/#fullreview>