

## The History of the Toyota Tundra

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The Toyota Tundra Crew Max will go down in history as the truck that gave the Space Shuttle, Endeavour, its last ride. Yes, it's all that, and more. A commercial was made of the event and it aired during the 2013 Super Bowl where the whole world sat and watched the Toyota Endeavour flex its unmodified muscles as it carefully towed the space shuttle to retirement at the California Science Center. Talk about "Let's Go Places." Yeah, it's a pretty good bet that it's gonna haul whatever you need.

The full-size Tundra was introduced to the U.S in 1999 where it was manufactured at Toyota Motor Manufacturing in Princeton, Indiana, USA. It replaced its predecessor, the Toyota T100. When this big boy rolled off the assembly line, everyone stood up and took notice. From the beginning, it was a sure winner, and was nominated for the North American Truck of the Year award and awarded the title Truck of the Year in 2000 and 2008 in *Motor Trend* magazine.

Production of the Toyota Tundra moved from the Princeton plant to the new Toyota Motor Manufacturing plant in San Antonio, Texas in 2008, because as we all know, everything is bigger in Texas. The Toyota Tacoma is also manufactured at the San Antonio, Texas plant. The Princeton plant currently manufactures the Toyota Highlander, Sienna, and Sequoia.

The Toyota Tundra is a trusted and reliable companion when dealing with tough workloads on practically any terrain. It can be configured to suit just about any need as it can be had in three different configurations, even with a TRD Supercharger if you have the need for speed. It seems that NASA and NASCAR share common ground when it comes to the Tundra.

In 2002, NASCAR opened the door for Toyota to compete in the Camping World Truck Series. Development began on the full-size Tundra to enter the series. Travis Kvapil introduced the Tundra at the Daytona International Speedway and they placed second. In 2004, Kvapil became the victor and won Tundra's first NASCAR Camping World Truck Series. Since then many other drivers have sat behind the wheel of the Tundra and have found themselves in the winner's circle 98 times in this series as of 2012. Not too shabby for this full-size Toyota powered race-truck.

As far as what to expect under the hood from the 2014 Tundra: The Standard model will get you a 4.0-liter V-6 engine with 270 horsepower and 278 lb.-ft. of torque for the Tundra regular cab and Tundra Double Cab models. A V-6 engine is paired with a 5-speed automatic transmission equipped with uphill/downhill shift logic and is offered as a 2WD.

The Tundra CrewMax models offer a standard 4.6-liter V-8 engine with 310 horsepower and 327 lb.-ft. of torque. The 6-speed automatic transmission provides power to the rear wheels or all four wheels through an optional 4WD system. This V-8 engine is optional for regular cab and Double Cab models and is required for 4WD.

All three cab styles can be had with an optional 5.7-liter V-8 engine that produces 381 horsepower and 401 lb.-ft. of torque. It comes with a standard 6-speed automatic transmission and this engine is offered with 2WD or 4WD. Toyota also provides an E85-compatible flex-fuel version of the 5.7-liter V-8.

The Toyota Tundra is definitely here to stay, and with its ties to NASA and NASCAR, who knows what's next?

**Watch the Toyota Endeavor video!**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EsLxbNXu6GU&t=59s>

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