



CAR REVIEWS



AUTOMOTIVE NEWS



CAR BUYING SERVICES

2007 Suzuki XL7 Limited

The Good ☺ Stylish exterior, roomy interior, lots of features for a low price.

The Bad ☹ Front seats are partially powered, body sway is noticeable, gas mileage is not very good.

Engine	V6, 3.6 Liters
Output	252 hp / 243 lb-ft
Top Speed	120 mph
0-60 mph	7.7 sec (est.)
Weight	3886 lbs
Price As Tested	\$27,949

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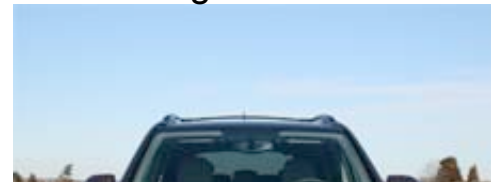
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The Suzuki XL7 is newly revamped for 2007 for a completely new look both inside and out. The XL7 has a bold front end, smooth side panels, and a sporty rear



hatch. The new XL7 is bolder and more powerful than the previous generation, having evolved from the Concept-X which we saw at Detroit in 2005.

The 2007 XL7 features a new unitized chassis with more car-like driving characteristics. The chassis is an elongated version of the Chevrolet Equinox's underbody, however Suzuki offers the buyer a choice of two or three rows of seats. The wheelbase has grown by 2.2 inches to 112.4 inches. The vehicle is also longer by 9.8 inches at an overall length of 197.2 inches. This provides



much improved interior space and comfort.

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The Suzuki XL7 features a 3.6 liter V6 with electronic fuel injection and dual overhead cams. It produces 252 horsepower at 6400 rpm and 243 lb.-ft. of torque at 3200 rpm. With



all this horsepower, zero to sixty times are a very respectable 7.7 seconds and the quarter mile is 16 seconds at 90 mph. We found the engine to be responsive and smooth. Highway acceleration was good with enough power on tap for quick and effortless passing. Although the engine is noticeably loud when really pushed, we could barely hear it in everyday around-town driving. Braking is good with a stopping distance of 133 feet from 60 mph.

The 5-speed transmission was smooth and responsive to changing road conditions. A manual shift mode is also included for those who want to shift on their own. Electronic stability program is standard along with antilock brakes, traction control and electronic brakeforce distribution. Tire pressure monitoring with a display showing each tire's pressure is also standard. We are impressed by all the safety features that Suzuki has included in the XLS. These items are a must have on any





Our test car is the XL7 Limited model which has 7-passenger seating and almost all optional items.

The base model starts off at a mere \$22,900, while adding options brings our upgraded model to about \$28,000. When you go out and actually buy this vehicle, the final price will likely be close to or below invoice price, therefore we highly suggest buying the loaded Limited version for its added luxury.

1



The XL7 features a Nivomat load leveling rear suspension which cuts down on body sway and keeps the vehicle

at a constant level. However, even with this suspension system we found body sway to be a bit too high. We feel that Suzuki could have given the XL7 a firmer suspension that would inevitably give the driver better control at higher speeds. However, it looks like they sacrificed performance for comfort. Storage is

new car yet we seldom see it in vehicles priced under \$30K. Suzuki is really stepping up and providing the consumer with a complete package that is well designed and features all the newest technology, all at an affordable price. Without reading the nameplate, its easy to confuse this with a much higher priced luxury vehicle from Acura or Lexus.

2

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Leather seating surfaces are a welcome feature on the XL7 giving us a more luxurious and upscale feeling. We did not like the fact that only the lower seat cushion of the driver's seat was powered. Two fully powered front seats should be available in this

vehicle when it has everything else. We also found it hard to get your arm down to move the lever for adjusting the seat back while sitting inside the car with the doors closed due to a rather large and stiff armrest on the door. If you are going to have more than one driver behind the wheel, we suggest you try adjusting the seats before buying.

plentiful in back with a total of 14 cubic feet of room even with a third row. When the third row is folded you have 50 cubic feet of space. Fold the second row and you get 95 cubic feet of space. Additionally, the first row passenger seat folds down flat as well for even more room. There are three bins under rear trunk floor for extra storage.

The automatic climate control system works well and features separate temperature, fan, and direction controls for both front and rear seat passengers. Even in



the automatic setting, front and rear seat passengers can keep their own temperature settings. In back you have four air

vents built into the roof for cooling all the way to the third row. A trip computer gives you all the information you need from average mph to distance traveled. The stereo system offers XM satellite radio and up to six screens for favorite radio stations with each screen holding six preset stations. A single disc CD and a separate single disc DVD slot lets you watch movies in the rear seat TV screen. Two wireless headphones and a remote



Seating comfort is adequate on long trips. Even after a 5-hour drive, we didn't have any sore spots or back aches. Features such as heated dual stage front seats and a automatically dimming rearview mirror with compass are great to have.

Wood grain trim in light color looked very nice. We suggest you buy colors with a beige interior color for a better feeling inside. We also liked the remote starting feature which worked well but would not remember our interior climate control settings or remember to turn on the seat heaters. Automatic headlamps are standard but we would have liked to see a HID system offered. The XL7 also features with fog lamps for better visibility in foul weather. For buyers looking for more night time visibility and a HID effect, we suggest Solaris Headamp Bulbs for a true xenon look, see Autosupermart.com for more information.

control are included for a complete rear seat entertainment system.

3



Surprisingly, there is a lot going on inside the XL7 for your money. Nobody else will give you so many features for a price this low. The XL7 is large and roomy with high quality interior parts. Dash mounted buttons turn smoothly and feel good. Even the window switches

are located around the gear shift knob, just like in the much more expensive BMW X3. There are nifty spots for storing your accessories like the one located just above the rear view mirror. We used this to store our EZpass and it worked just fine without holding up to the the front windshield. The flat folding front passenger seat is a thoughtful item which allows to you put long items into the vehicle. Anyone who has ever

4

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Our test car has a retail price of \$27,949. Everything is included for this price. This makes the XL7 a great buy. The window sticker shows 18 miles per gallon in the city and 24 on the highway. Our test car average 19 miles per gallon in city and highway driving. About 45% of the parts on the XL7 come from the US or Canada. Japan provides 35% of the parts. The Suzuki XL7 is assembled in Ingersoll, Ontario, Canada with the engine and transmission coming from Japan. The XL7 is backed by America's #1 Warranty: 100,000-mile/ seven-year, fully transferable, zero-deductible powertrain limited warranty.



bought wood from Home Depot for a do-it-yourself project would appreciate this feature.

There are a few things which would like to see improved. The instrument cluster needs brighter lighting and missing is a indicator near the shift lever showing what gear you are selecting. Brighter lighting in the center console would help when sunlight is pointing directly at the stereo system. Also, stronger feeling doors and interior door pulls would add to a higher end feeling in daily driving.

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8

PRICING	INVOICE	RETAIL
Base Pricing	\$27,949	\$26,831

COMPARISONS

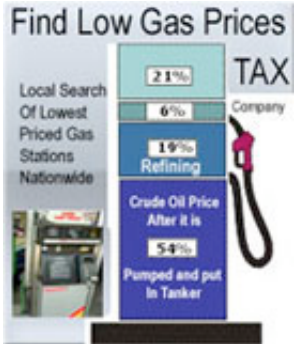
2007 Suzuki XL-7	2007 Hyundai Santa Fe	2007 Mazda CX-7	2007 Jeep Commander	2007 Mitsubishi Outlander
Limited 4dr SUV (3.6L	Limited 4dr SUV (3.3L	Grand Touring 4dr SUV (2.3L	Sport 4dr SUV (3.7L 6cyl 5A)	XLS 4dr SUV (3.0L



Traffic Cameras & Delays



National Traffic



	6cyl 5A)	6cyl 5A)	4cyl Turbo 6A)	6cyl 6A)	6cyl 6A)
MSRP	\$27,949	\$25,945	\$26,300	\$27,915	\$23,650
Invoice	\$26,831	\$24,379	\$24,603	\$25,684	\$22,294
Basic	3 yr. / 36000 mi.	5 yr. / 60000 mi.	3 yr. / 36000 mi.	3 yr. / 36000 mi.	5 yr. / 60000 mi.
Drivetrain	7 yr. / 100000 mi.	10 yr. / 100000 mi.	5 yr. / 60000 mi.	3 yr. / 36000 mi.	10 yr. / 100000 mi.
Roadside	3 yr. / 36000 mi.	5 yr. / Unlimited mi.	3 yr. / 36000 mi.	3 yr. / 36000 mi.	5 yr. / Unlimited mi.
Rust	3 yr. / Unlimited mi.	7 yr. / Unlimited mi.	5 yr. / Unlimited mi.	5 yr. / 100000 mi.	7 yr. / 100000 mi.
Base Engine Type & Cylinders	V6	V6	inline 4	V6	V6
Base Engine	3.6 liters	3.3 liters	2.3 liters	3.7 liters	3.0 liters

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1995
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Displacement					
Horsepower	252 hp @ 6500 rpm	242 hp @ 6000 rpm	244 hp @ 5000 rpm	210 hp @ 5200 rpm	220 hp @ 6250 rpm
Torque	243 ft-lbs. @ 2300 rpm	226 ft-lbs. @ 4500 rpm	258 ft-lbs. @ 2500 rpm	235 ft-lbs. @ 4000 rpm	204 ft-lbs. @ 4000 rpm
5 Speed Shiftable Automatic	Standard	Standard	6 speed	Standard	Not Available
Driven Wheels	front wheel drive	front wheel drive	front wheel drive	rear wheel drive	front wheel drive
Tires	P235/60R17 all season	P235/60R18 all season	P235/60R18 H all season	P245/65R17 all terrain	P225/55R18 all season
Traction Control	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard	Standard
Turning Circle	41.8 ft.	35.8 ft.		36.8 ft.	34.8 ft.
Hauling	XL-7	Santa Fe	CX-7	Commander	Outlander
Max. Cargo Capacity	95 cu. ft.	78 cu. ft.	59 cu. ft.	69 cu. ft.	73 cu. ft.
Max. Towing Capacity	3500 lbs.	3500 lbs.	2000 lbs.	6500 lbs.	2000 lbs.
Length	197.2 in.	184.1 in.	184.1 in.	188.5 in.	182.7 in.
Width	72.2 in.	74.4 in.	73.7 in.	74.8 in.	70.9 in.
Height	68.9 in.	67.9 in.	64.8 in.	75.6 in.	66.1 in.
Weight	3886 lbs.	3846 lbs.		4649 lbs.	3649 lbs.
Wheel Base	112.4 in.	106.3 in.	108.3 in.	109.5 in.	105.1 in.
Front Headroom	41.3 in	40.2 in	39.7 in	42.1 in	40.3 in

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	41.0 in.	40.2 in.	39.7 in.	42.1 in.	40.9 in.
Rear Headroom	40 in.	39.6 in.	39.3 in.	40.3 in.	38.3 in.
Front Shoulder Room	55.6 in.	59.5 in.	58 in.	59 in.	56.4 in.
Rear Shoulder Room	55.3 in.	58.6 in.	55.8 in.	58.5 in.	56.1 in.
Front Hip Room	52.2 in.	55.8 in.	54.8 in.	55.6 in.	52.2 in.
Rear Hip Room	53.1 in.	55 in.	53 in.	54 in.	51.9 in.
Front Leg Room	41.2 in.	42.6 in.	41.7 in.	41.7 in.	41.6 in.
Rear Leg Room	38.8 in.	36.8 in.	36.4 in.	36.1 in.	36.8 in.
Maximum Luggage Capacity	14 cu.ft.	34.2 cu.ft.	29.9 cu.ft.	7.5 cu.ft.	14.9 cu.ft.

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Mechanix Apron
Colored

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Genuine Leather Gear
Shift Boots Grand Prix
1997-01

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Our Price: **\$59.16**



**You
don't
even
have
to
bring
it
back.**



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