ROAD TEST

2019 Subaru Ascent

Overall Score: 96
CR MPG: 22/24/28
#1 of 22 Midsized Sport-utility Vehicles

Road Test Results

Owner Satisfaction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<tr>
<td>Score</td>
<td>3/5</td>
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Reliability History

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<th>Year</th>
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Reliability Trouble Spots

- Engine Major
- Engine Minor
- Engine Cooling
- Transmission Major

Owner Satisfaction

This car is new and detailed owner satisfaction will be available at a later date.

Highs

- Ride
- Quietness
- Interior room
- Visibility
- Braking
- Controls
- Standard AEB

Lows

- Agility

Road Test

Subaru's new three-row SUV, with its impressive all-around performance, has dethroned the Toyota Highlander, the long-time champion in the category. The Ascent's smooth ride, functional interior, and slick power delivery helped lift it to success.

The Ascent has a turbocharged four-cylinder engine in a segment where V6s dominate, which might seem to be a disadvantage on paper. But in real-world driving, the SUV feels zippier and more satisfying than its competitors. The Ascent's soft surfaces and contrasting interior accents add an upscale flair, befitting its price.

Most Ascents come with second-row seats to entertain connected families. Getting into the Ascent cabin is easy, thanks to its large doors and low step-in height. The seat comfort is good as long as one opts for one of the higher trims.

The controls are simple to use and the infotainment touch screen responds quickly to commands. All models come with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto compatibility. A WiFi hotspot can support up to eight devices to entertain connected families.

The Ascent's soft surfaces and contrasting interior accents add an upscale flair, befitting its price. Most Ascents come with second-row captain's chairs, which provide plenty of legroom and can be slid forward.

Our Limited model came with USB ports and a 120-volt outlet for rear passengers. The foldaway third-row space is relatively livable. Passengers will find that the grab handles mounted on top of the second-row captain's chairs make getting out of the third row easier. Standard equipment includes Subaru's Eyesight Driver Assist Technology, a suite that includes forward-collision warning, automatic emergency braking, lane-keep assist, and adaptive cruise control.

The Ascent is an extremely functional and comfortable vehicle that will appeal to many suburban families.

Best Version to Get

The Premium trim would be the right place to start since it brings blind-spot warning and includes a few niceties over the base version. The Premium also lets shoppers opt for goodies such as power rear gate, keyless access and push-button start, rear automatic braking, and panoramic roof.

Notable changes:

- The Ascent is an all-new three-row SUV.

To read the full road test, go to https://www.consumerreports.org/cars/subaru/ascent/2019/road-test.