

SUV Buyer's Guide**Finding Your Ideal SUV****Specify Your Needs**

Car-Based or Truck-Based?
Size Matters
Do You Need Four-Wheel Drive?
Off-Road Considerations

Hottest SUVs for 2006**SUVs We Recommend****Are SUVs Safe?****Gas Guzzlers Go Green****Mad Mods**

Exterior Accessories
Interior Accessories

History of the SUV**Glossary**

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SUVs We Recommend

by the editors of
ForbesAutos.com

With dozens of SUVs to choose from, it would be nearly impossible for you to testdrive every new model on the market. That's why we put together these expert picks.

What makes us qualified to determine these selections? The editors of ForbesAutos.com testdrive vehicles throughout the year and have logged hundreds of hours in virtually every new SUV on the market. We also work with seasoned automotive journalists who make recommendations based on vehicle specifications, test drives as well as subjective appeal.

Our SUV recommendations were determined by Sue Mead, who has participated in and covered off-road races and focused on testing and reviewing SUVs for nearly two decades. Her picks focus on how well each SUV performs in the given category, with an emphasis on how well they perform in the real world under conditions most owners are likely to encounter (as opposed to simply looking at specs on a page). All recommended vehicles are 2006 models.

Best Compact**Mercury Mariner Hybrid**

This cute-ute is versatile and fuel efficient. [read more](#)

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Best Midsize & Best On-Road/Off-Road**Land Rover Range Rover Sport**

Whether snaking through backwoods or winding roads, the Range Rover Sport is stellar. [read more](#)

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Best Full-Size

Cadillac Escalade

Still unrivaled for sheer utility and sex appeal. [read more](#)

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Best Hybrid

Lexus RX 400h

Slick styling, impeccable quality and craftsmanship, outstanding performance and efficiency justify the high price. [read more](#)

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Best Value

Subaru B9 Tribeca

The first SUV made by Subaru delivers quite a bang for your buck. [read more](#)

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Best for Families

Volvo XC90 V8

Everyone knows Volvo rocks the safety factor, so load up your family with confidence. [read more](#)

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Best for Off-Roading

Land Rover LR3

Not that you would, but you can ford streams and crawl over boulders in the Land Rover. [read more](#)

- [Read Review](#) (2005)
- [View Photo Gallery](#) (2005)



- [Vehicle Specs](#) (2005)
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Best On-Road

Mercedes-Benz R-Class

Although more of a tall wagon than an SUV, it has the goods. [read more](#)

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Best Brute

Hummer H1 Alpha

Need we say more? This king of the hill has no contenders. [read more](#)

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Best Redesign

Mercedes Benz M-Class

The all-new M-Class is drastically better than its predecessor. [read more](#)

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