

Autofile



Jaguar XK: 1997-'06



HISTORY

The first-generation XK series consisted of a four-seat XK8 coupe and a convertible model that arrived as replacements for the long-serving XJS. Under the XK's sleek body resided a 290-horsepower 4.0-liter V8, the first engine of its kind in a brand that had popularized inline six-cylinder propulsion. In 2000, the Ford-owned company launched the high-performance XKR that featured a supercharged version of the V8 that produced 370 horses. A 2003 makeover included a new 4.2-liter V8 with either 294 or 390 horsepower (XKR) on tap along with a new six-speed automatic transmission that replaced the original five-speed unit. The original XK8/XKR was retired in 2006 to make way for an all-new 2007 model.



THE GOOD STUFF

One glance at the sensuously styled XK said it all. This cat was more than mere transportation as it was built for pleasure, whether you were behind the wheel or coveting one as it prowled the boulevard. The smooth-running V8 might have upset Jaguar traditionalists, but it got the job done without fuss or drama. A non-supercharged XK could hit 60 m.p.h. in about seven seconds, while the supercharged variant chopped about two seconds off that time. The wood-trimmed interior featured comfortable leather seats along with plenty of stretch-out space for those in front.

Original source material contains defects.





HEADS UP!

It's all fun and games until something major goes awry, especially after the warranty has expired. Fixing or replacing any major (or even minor) mechanical or structural components could become particularly pricey and, although generally reliable, anyone considering a pre-owned XK must prepare themselves for the inevitable expenses. The rear seat is cramped for all but small children and is not suitable for long trips. Drivers who enjoy shifting their own gears will be disappointed with the XK's automatic-only policy.



PRICES AT A GLANCE

Jaguars are noted for their rapid depreciation, which is good news for XK shoppers. Expect to pay a slight premium for convertibles and an extra \$7,000-\$10,000 for supercharged XKR models.

Year range	Approx. price range	The low end of a given price range represents higher-mileage, low-option vehicles.
1997-'99	\$12,500-\$17,500	
2000-'01	\$15,500-\$29,000	
2002-'03	\$24,500-\$39,500	
2004	\$37,000-\$49,500	
2005	\$42,500-\$58,500	
2006	\$48,000-\$68,000	



OVERALL

The first-gen XK is one of the best premium sports cars around and certainly one of the best looking. The car's classic lines will likely never become dated and their stout powertrains should, with regular maintenance, remain reliable. The overall popularity of these fancy felines ensures a reasonably wide selection of used prospects.



VITALS

Engines: 4.0-liter DOHC V8 (290-370 h.p.); 4.2-liter DOHC V8 (294-390 h.p.). **Transmissions:** five- /six-speed automatic (2003-'05). **Layout:** Front-engine, rear-wheel-drive. **Body:** Two-door coupe; two-door convertible.