



The updated 2013 Lexus LX 570 sports a new spindle grille, new 20-inch alloy wheels and an upgraded interior.

By Steve Schaefer

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Based on the long-running and well-regarded Toyota Land Cruiser, the Lexus LX 570 full-size SUV offers great offroadability and superior luxury and comfort. And there's loads of power for not only carrying seven people in upscale accommodations but for towing a boat or trailer, too.

The mighty 5.7-liter V8 engine puts out a generous 383 horsepower and 403 lb.-ft. of torque. The six-speed automatic transmission handles this easily and silently, using high-tech electronics to select the appropriate gear ratio for speed and driving conditions.

The EPA rates the LX 570 at 12 City, 17 Highway — average 14 mpg. I actually got 15.6 mpg, but that's still pretty low these days. The environmental scores are not available yet, but for large modern engines they generally run about average for Air Pollution and low for Greenhouse Gas. At least the LX 570's 24.6-gallon tank can take you about 310 miles on a fill-up.

The LX 570's full-time four-wheel drive uses a TORSEN® limited-slip locking center differential to distribute power 40:60 front-to-rear. It automatically sends more power to the wheels with the best grip. Four-wheel Active Traction Control (A-TRAC) uses both the brakes and the throttle to help control wheel spin. Additionally, Vehicle Stability Control (VSC) helps maintain directional control during cornering; you can turn it off if you don't want its help.

There's more. The Crawl Control feature gives optimum throttle and brake modulation when you're driving slowly over rough and uneven surfaces. Turn Assist adds more brake force to the

inside rear wheel to tighten the turning circle. Or, use the new Multi-terrain Select to choose from five preset types of terrain. Hill-start Assist Control (HAC) helps keep the LX 570 from rolling back when you move your foot from the brake to the gas pedal on a steep incline or slippery surface.

The Active Height Control (AHC) system lets you lower the chassis by about two inches for easy entry and exit. It returns automatically to its normal height when the car begins to accelerate. An Easy Access mode lets you also lower the LX 570 when it's parked. For improved aerodynamics, the AHC system lowers the vehicle at highway speeds. When you shift into low range, AHC raises the vehicle to provide additional ride height in driving situations where chassis clearance is at a premium. Fun in the drive-through lane, too.

That's all great, but most of us spend our time driving on the freeway and around town, and there's no problem there. The high driving position maintains the "king of the road" sensation desired by SUV owners and the thick insulation keeps out pesky noise. The interior is swathed in upscale fittings, leather, real wood, and offers every electronic entertainment feature you could dream of.

Lexus LX 570 Lifts Luxury to a New Level

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...the interior of the Lexus LX 570 is a masterpiece of luxury and craftsmanship. The leather upholstery is meticulously stitched, and the wood-grain accents are perfectly finished. The navigation system is a highlight, offering a clear and intuitive interface. The overall feel is one of refined elegance and high-quality materials.