

# 2006 Escape Overview

## New for 2006

- The smooth, powerful and economical Duratec 2.3-liter engine is now available on Escape XLT models
- Two new paint colors – Titanium Green Clearcoat Metallic and Blazing Copper Clearcoat Metallic – have been added to the palette

## Overview

Fresh from its 2005-model-year redesign, the fun, agile and durable Ford Escape enters 2006 with expanded availability of its new four-cylinder engine and two new paint colors. Escape's style, roominess, fuel-economy and affordability continue to make it the segment leader. It is geared to active singles and couples, first-time SUV buyers, and those who desire SUV qualities in a more compact, fuel efficient package.



Escape has won numerous important accolades including *Consumers Digest's* 2005 Best Buy Award, *Car and Driver's* Best Small SUV and Editors' Most Wanted Small SUV from *Edmunds.com*.

Since last year, when Escape XLS became available with a more powerful and smooth four-cylinder engine mated to either a manual or automatic transmission, more and more buyers have selected this economical Duratec 2.3 powerplant. This year, the engine will be offered on the more popular XLT trim as well so that more customers can enjoy its surprising power and fuel efficiency.

Escape is built in Kansas City, Mo.

## Design and Equipment

Two new paint colors freshen the Escape's aggressive appearance for 2006. Titanium Green Clearcoat Metallic is available on Limited models, while Blazing Copper Clearcoat Metallic can be found on XLS, XLT and XLT Sport versions.

The new-for-2005 Escape design updates included new headlamps, fog lamps, front and rear fascias, 15-inch and 16-inch aluminum wheels and a honeycomb grille. The lower bumpers in the front and rear have stylized ribs.

Customers can now choose from a dozen common equipment configurations in XLS, XLT, XLT Sport and Limited trims. Escape Limited customers can select the Luxury Comfort Package which includes a 320-watt Audiophile stereo with six-disc in-dash CD player, six speakers plus subwoofer, as well as heated front seats, heated side mirrors and the Reverse Sensing System.



Escape's interior stresses comfort, convenience and roominess. Highlights include a standard flow-through console, floor-mounted shifter, modern gauges, numerous storage spaces and modern seat fabrics. The popular rear liftgate with flip-up glass offers easy access to the generous cargo area. The Cargo Convenience Group available on all models combines a retractable cargo area cover with a rear cargo storage bin for additional utility and security.

## **Powertrain and Chassis**

The Ford Escape comes with either an economical, smooth and surprisingly torquey Duratec 23 four-cylinder engine or the eager 200-horsepower Duratec 30 V-6.

Since it became available last year, the 2.3-liter Duratec 23 4-cylinder engine has surprised customers with its combination of power and fuel economy. The engine develops 153 horsepower and 152 pound-feet of torque, while a balance shaft provides exceptional smoothness. The four-cylinder engine is backed by either an automatic or short-throw manual transmission.

Standard on XLT Sport and Limited is the Duratec 30 V-6 engine. With 200 peak horsepower, it is one of the most powerful engines in the segment.

The available automatic Intelligent 4WD System provides excellent traction and stability with a smooth, fuel-efficient operation, even in slippery conditions. The computer-controlled system operates so seamlessly that its engagement is barely noticeable to most drivers. Escape also is available in a front-wheel-drive configuration.

Known among enthusiasts for its hallmark driving dynamics on pavement, Escape is also the only small SUV designed to pass the rigorous Tough Truck testing given to all Ford trucks and SUVs.

## **Safety and Security**

Safety is paramount with the 2006 Escape. Its body structure has been designed to perform well in offset frontal crashes, while standard safety equipment includes dual front air bags with passenger-seat weight-sensing technology. The Personal Safety System™ with occupant classification sensor is standard on all models, and three-point safety belts are standard at all seating positions.

Anti-lock brakes are standard across the lineup. The available Safety Package combines Ford's exclusive Safety Canopy™ rollover protection system with front side air bags.

## **Major Features and Options**

XLS Manual: 2.3-liter Duratec 23 I-4 engine, five-speed manual transmission, four-wheel ABS, 15-inch steel wheels, grey front and rear fascia and body cladding, power windows, power door locks, remote keyless entry, roof side rails, AM/FM stereo with CD player, low-back cloth front bucket seats, 60/40 split rear seat, air conditioning, center console with two cup holders, dual vanity mirrors, cargo floor hooks, front air bags, LATCH child seat attachments in rear outboard seating positions and SecuriLock passive anti-theft system.

XLS adds: four-speed automatic transmission.

XLT adds: 16-inch aluminum wheels, fog lamps, roof rack with two horizontal bars, privacy glass, speed controls on steering wheel, AM/FM stereo with six-disc in-dash CD changer, premium cloth seats, power-adjustable driver's seat, floor mats and perimeter alarm.

XLT Sport adds: 16-inch bright machined aluminum wheels, painted Dark Shadow Grey fascias, cladding and wheel-lip moldings and black step bars.

Limited adds: Monochromatic appearance with body-color door and liftgate handles, fascia and cladding, leather seating surfaces, overhead console with dual storage bins, automatic headlamps, auto-dimming rearview mirror, message center and dual illuminated vanity mirrors.

Options include the Luxury Comfort package, Safety Package, Leather Comfort Group, Class II towing preparation, moonroof and a cargo convenience group with rear cargo area shade and a rear

storage bin.

## **Milestones**

- 2000 Based on a brand -new platform developed in association with Mazda, the Escape makes its public debut at the North American International Auto Show
- 2001 Escape sets an all-time calendar-year SUV sales record with 121,184 units sold during the year
- 2003 The 500,000th Escape is sold
- 2003 Escape is again the best-selling small SUV
- 2004 Escape is redesigned for the 2005 model year
- 2004 Escape Hybrid, the world's first hybrid-electric SUV, goes on sale
- 2004 Escape retains best-seller status