

# 90% POWER, 60% PRICE

LEXUS GX INEVITABLY INSPIRES COMPARISON WITH ITS BIG BROTHER, THE LX *By Joe Sage*

The Lexus GX, which slots in below the LX in the lineup by size, has grown to almost the size and weight the LX was just a few years ago, which is not unusual, while the LX has grown less and the gap between the two has grown tighter. The GX has always been easy to spot from the rear, because of its tall and narrow nature, but proportions have evolved, too, and this is now less so.

The GX 460 has a 301-hp 4.6-liter V8, and the LX 570 a 383-hp 5.7-liter V8. While some brands might offer these as engine options in one model, GX and LX are two completely different vehicles.

While the Lexus LX (\$89,380 base) is basically a luxe-trim version of the already-luxe-itself Toyota Land Cruiser (\$84,325), the GX (\$51,280 base) is basically a luxe-trim version of the Japan-only Land Cruiser Prado, which on our shores is the basis for the Toyota 4Runner (\$32,210). The difference in Lexus build and badge is thus much more dramatic in the GX, delivering a premium vehicle



quite distant from its roots, for a price almost 40 percent lower than the LX.

Deep Nightfall Mica paint adds to our example's richness, along with its black leather and mahogany interior. Individual heated leather front seats (and steering wheel) are matched by individual second row heated leather captain's chairs, giving the vehicle an executive jet feel. Three-zone automatic climate control keeps everyone happy.

With Torsen full-time all-wheel drive, healthy approach/breakover/departure angles (21/23/21) and 8.1 inches of ground clearance, there's not much this premium SUV can't handle.

The LX has 27 percent more horsepower than the GX, but weighs 15 percent more (a full three tons), providing just a half-second quicker zero-to-60 time for the LX (seven percent better), and fuel mileage in the LX is even lower than in the GX.

And the LX costs 74 percent more than a base GX. The value point of the GX is hard to miss. ■

## SPECIFICATIONS

ENGINE .....	4.6L aluminum V8
HP/TORQUE .....	301 hp / 329 lb-ft
TRANSMISSION .....	6-spd ECT sequential
DRIVETRAIN .....	full-time 4WD
BRAKES .....	FR: 13.3 vented / R: 12.3 vented discs
STEERING .....	speed-sense pwr variable rack & pinion
SUSPENSION .....	FR: Double wishbone, coil springs, stabilizer bar; R: 4-link rigid axle, coils, stabilizer bar (hydraulic on Luxury model)
LENGTH / WB / TURN CIRC .....	192.1 in / 109.8 in / 41.4 ft
WIDTH / HEIGHT .....	74.2 in / 74.2 in (73.8 H Luxury)
GROUND CLEARANCE .....	8.1 in
SEATING / MAX CARGO CAPACITY .....	seven / 64.7 cu.ft
WEIGHT .....	5198 lb
TOWING CAPACITY .....	6500 lb
0-TO-60 / TOP SPEED .....	7.8 sec / 110 mph lim.
MPG .....	15/18/16 (city/hwy/comb)
<b>BASE PRICE .....</b>	<b>\$62,980</b>
<b>DUAL-SCREEN REAR ENTERTAINMENT .....</b>	<b>1970</b>
<b>SPORT DESIGN PACKAGE: wheels, trim items .....</b>	<b>1625</b>
<b>DRIVER SUPPORT PACKAGE: Mark Levinson audio, electronic driver aids, crawl control .....</b>	<b>4340</b>
<b>DESTINATION CHARGE: .....</b>	<b>975</b>
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$71,890</b>

