

More included

Value 7-seater By Joe Sage



If you come to this crossover utility straight out of a track event with a fleet of supercars and Cup cars, you will immediately notice this has less power. And that's the exact back-to-back drive we did. Beyond that, 166 hp is what this has, and it makes no bones about it. We acclimated quickly.

Outlander was all new for 2016 and came to market on the wave of significant market growth for Mitsubishi—40 percent the prior year. It's doing so well, the price has gone up \$500 (third-model-up-out-of-four SEL trim here bumps up from \$24,995 to \$25,495, while base ES and next-up SE are \$23,495 and \$24,495). But the inclusions have gone up more than that. Many things requiring a \$5250 Touring Package a year earlier are now built into the base SEL, making it easier to stay at that price. Or round it out with the updated Touring package, which is now just \$4000, and you are \$750 lower than the prior year (though destination charge is up \$45, from \$850 to \$895, an industry trend, generally). Out the door, it's just \$320 more than a year prior, or \$275 prior to destination. Our

sample here also has Mitsubishi's S-AWC (Super All-Wheel Control) all-wheel-drive system, proven to be well engineered for on- or off-pavement use, at \$2000 well spent (or just \$1500 on the base ES).

You can go all out with the top-trim GT 3.0 S-AWC model, including full feature set, AWD standard, a 35 percent boost in power, to 224 hp, and a conventional six-speed transmission (versus the CVT in all other models), at \$31,695. The V6 GT also tows 3500 pounds, up from 1500 in the other models. Your towing plans may make this decision a slam-dunk. Otherwise, it's a tradeoff between power and fuel cost—the V6 uses premium fuel and knocks 5 mpg off city mileage, 3 off highway.

If that equation leaves you wanting more fuel frugality but full features and AWD, the vehicle here is exactly where you'll end up.

Ultimately, at any trim level from mid-\$20s to \$30ish, you get a spacious three-row, (standard) seven-passenger interior in a midsize crossover that turns tighter than a MINI, at a price competitive with many five-passenger compacts. ■

SPECIFICATIONS: 2.4 SEL S-AWC (AWD)

SEATING CAPACITY.....	7-passenger
ENGINE.....	2.4L MIVEC SOHC 16v 4-cyl
HP/TORQUE.....	166 hp / 162 lb-ft
TRANSMISSION.....	CVT (continuously variable)
DRIVETRAIN.....	AWD (FWD available)
TURNING CIRCLE.....	34.8 ft
GROUND CLEARANCE.....	8.5 in
TOW CAPACITY.....	1500 lb (GT with V6 = 3500)
CARGO CAPACITY.....	10.3 / 34.2 / 63.3 cu ft
WEIGHT.....	3505 lb
MPG.....	24/29/26 (city/hwy/comb)

BASE PRICE\$27,495

INCLUDES: Auto headlights, LED DRLs and taillights, foglights, heated power-fold mirrors, rain-sense wipers/de-icer, rear intermittent wiper, 18" alloy wheels, roof rails, extensive interior lighting, heated leather seats, leather wheel and shift knob, drive mode selector, 8-way/4-way power seats, 60/40 split second row, 50/50 split third row, dual-zone climate, 7" display w Apple/Android, hands-free Link System, rear camera, hill start, active stability control, traction control and much more.

SEL TOURING PACKAGE: Multi-view camera system, LED headlights w auto high beams, forward collision mitigation, adaptive cruise, lane departure warning, heated steering wheel, blind spot warning w rear cross traffic alert & lane change assist, 710-watt Rockford-Fosgate 9-speaker premium audio.....4000

DESTINATION CHARGE:.....895

TOTAL.....\$32,390

