

WELCOME TO THE TOYOTA USA AUTOMOBILE MUSEUM

Toyota's rich U.S. history spans over half a century. To honor that journey of continued excellence, we have created a showcase of our most memorable automobiles. These vintage vehicles trace Toyota's amazing impact on America, starting as an unknown company in 1957, to becoming one of today's top-selling automakers. We invite you to learn more about our history and see our plans to keep America moving in the 21st century.

TOURS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Looking for a unique location for an event? The Toyota USA Automobile Museum is available by appointment for meetings, events and tours.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Hours: By appointment only
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www.toyotaUSAmuseum.com

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TOYODA TO TOYOTA: A VISION FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Our story begins with Sakichi Toyoda, an industrious, hard-working Japanese inventor in the early 1900s. He prided himself on finding ways to help people be more efficient and avoid waste — a process known as “kaizen” or continuous improvement. In 1924, he created a revolutionary, automatic weaving loom that shut itself down if it detected a broken thread. He eventually sold the patent for the loom and gave the money to his son, Kiichiro, to start an automobile company in 1937. The company’s name was later changed from Toyoda to Toyota because the number of strokes needed to write it in Japanese was eight, a lucky number suggesting growth.



Sakichi and Kiichiro’s strong dedication to continuous improvement continues today and serves as the foundation for Toyota’s success in America.

BUILDING WHAT CUSTOMERS WANT

As Toyota began to grow in the post-World War II era, company leaders recognized that they needed to expand outside of Japan. They noted that American GIs were starting families and moving to the suburbs, creating the need for second cars in the U.S. As a result, Toyota set up an office in Hollywood, California, on Oct. 31, 1957, and began selling Toyopet Crowns and Land Cruisers the following summer.

In 1965, Toyota introduced the Corona, a powerful and well-equipped car designed specifically for American drivers. It was an instant hit and the company never looked back. By the 1970s, Toyota was the best-selling import brand, and a decade later, it began manufacturing vehicles in the United States. By the late 1990s, the Toyota Camry had become the best-selling car in America, and Lexus was well on its way to becoming the best-selling luxury line. Today, Toyota is one of the top automakers in the United States.

LOOKING BACK WHILE MOVING FORWARD



While Toyota’s history in the U.S. spans over a half-century of change, its vision has remained constant — to be a leader in innovation, safety and quality.

This vision is reflected throughout the museum in more than 100 significant Toyota, Lexus, Scion and Motorsports vehicles that have influenced American culture while advancing safety and environmental technology.

From Toyota’s first American car — the Toyopet — to futuristic “concept” cars, Toyota has consistently demonstrated a firm commitment to understanding people’s needs as well as manufacturing and delivering products of impeccable quality.

EMBARK ON A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME WITH TOYOTA

As you walk through the museum, you will see how the past has paved the way to a bright future. Here are some highlights you will discover:



▲ 1968 Corolla
Toyota’s popular sedan debuts and goes on to become the world’s best-selling car of all time

▲ 1989 Lexus
Lexus Division is launched in North America

▲ 1990 Lexus LS 400
Toyota’s first luxury car sets new records for quality and trouble-free driving



1993 Toyota opens Arizona Proving Grounds, the largest oval track in the world

1994 Toyota Avalon production begins in Kentucky

1995 Fourth North American plant opens in Indiana to produce Tundra full-size pickup

1996 Twenty-millionth vehicle sold; West Virginia engine plant announced



2002 Toyota delivers world’s first market-ready fuel-cell Sports Utility Vehicles to test customers in the United States

▲ 2003 After mastering celebrity Celicas and CART racing, Toyota proves itself again when it is victorious in its first attempt at the Indianapolis 500

▲ 2007 The 50th Anniversary Edition of the Camry Hybrid boasts many safety and security features that contribute to its popularity with the American driver

TOYOTA MILESTONES IN NORTH AMERICA



1957 Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. founded in California

1958 Toyota sells 287 Toyopet Crowns and 1 Land Cruiser in the U.S.A.

▼ 1961 Land Cruiser
The only model continuously sold in America

▼ 1967 Stout
Toyota trucks evolve from the simple Stout to the sophisticated full-size Tundra assembled in America

1978 Toyota takes over as number one import seller of small trucks

▼ 1986 New United Motor Manufacturing, Inc. (NUMMI), a joint venture with General Motors in California, becomes Toyota’s first U.S. auto manufacturing plant and begins producing Toyota Corollas; Toyota becomes the first import automaker to sell over one million vehicles in a single year

▼ 2000 Prius
The world’s first mass produced high mileage, ultra-low emission gas/electric hybrid comes to America



▲ 2003 Scion XB
Toyota launches Scion line for a new generation of Americans

2010 Toyota sells the one-millionth Prius in the U.S.

▼ 2011 Toyota makes the next big leap in fuel efficiency by going plug-in with the Prius PHV, or “plug-in hybrid vehicle”



▲ 1936 Model AA
Replica of the first car Toyota ever produced



1958 Toyopet Crown
The first Toyota sold in America

▲ 1965 Corona
Marking the beginning of Toyota’s quality image and U.S. customer acceptance, Corona becomes Toyota’s first high-volume vehicle



▲ 1967 2000GT
One of the stars of the James Bond movie “You Only Live Twice”

1971 Introduction of Celica creates new market segment