



Mercedes-Benz

October 2, 2006
DaimlerChrysler Japan Co., Ltd.

Launch of the Mercedes-Benz GL-Class, a New Full-size Luxury SUV

DaimlerChrysler Japan Co., Ltd. (President: Hans Tempel; Head office: 9-9, Roppongi 1-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo) launches the Mercedes-Benz GL-Class. The new full-size luxury SUV, the **GL 550 4MATIC**, offers a combination of a spacious and comfortable interior space for seven people, the outstanding driving performance of the 5.5-liter V8 engine, and high off-road capability ensured by the permanent four wheel-drive system. Beginning today, the new GL-Class is available at authorized Mercedes-Benz dealerships throughout the country.

The exterior of the new Mercedes-Benz GL-Class features powerful and exclusive styling. The massive body — 5,100 mm long, 1,995 mm wide, and 1,840 mm high – features a sporty radiator grille with a large three-pointed star and two chromed louvers, stainless steel and chrome-look underguards at front and rear, and side steps with rubber studs.

The interior of the new luxury SUV is characterized by the spacious interior space concept with three rows of seats, offering more than ample room for up to seven people. This combines the sliding glass roof and fixed panoramic glass roof to create a bright and open ambience. The nappa leather seats, the dashboard and door trim featuring the generous use of leather elements, and matt light birch wood paneling all help to create a refined and luxurious atmosphere. An ample range of comfort features, including multicontrol seatbacks and seat ventilation in front seats, seat heating in front and the second-row seats, and multizone climate control with separate outlets for all seats, makes the interior of the GL-Class even more comfortable. The highly variable luggage compartment can meet a variety of transport needs. Either one or both of the third-row individual seats can be electrically folded at the push of a button. The second-row seats are fully foldable. These features can be used to change loading capacity from 300 liters (with seven occupants) to 2,300 liters (with two occupants). The EASY-PACK tailgate, which can be opened and closed hydraulically, allows easier loading and unloading.

The **GL 550 4MATIC** is powered by the new-generation 5.5-liter V8 DOHC engine which features a range of modern technologies such as the intake/exhaust variable valve timing mechanism. These innovations help the V8 powerplant provide rich power and torque (285 kW/387 hp and 530 Nm/54.0 kgm), a pleasant feeling of engine smoothness, and extremely low noise and emissions. The 4MATIC permanent four-wheel-drive system incorporates the Four-wheel Electronic Stability Program (4ESP[®]). When driving on slippery surfaces and making avoidance maneuvers, either on and off the road, 4ESP[®] controls engine output and braking pressure on individual wheels to ensure higher driving stability. Further standard-equipment assistance systems are available to ensure reliable driving on punishing terrain: The off-road switch adapts braking and engine output control to a special off-road program. On steep down slopes, Downhill Speed Regulation (DSR) automatically keeps the vehicle speed constant by transmission and braking control. Electronic differential gears allow the central and rear differentials to be locked either automatically or manually. The comprehensive off-road package is rounded off by the Low Range mode selector and Manual mode selector.

The new GL-Class employs double wishbone front and four-link rear suspensions. These combine with the AIRMATIC air suspension, which adjusts body level depending on the road condition and the vehicle load, to ensure high comfort and outstanding driving stability both on and off the road.

Innovative assistance systems are also included in the standard equipment of the new Mercedes luxury SUV. The side-view camera, integrated in the passenger-side door mirror, reduces the blind spots when moving off or driving at low speed. The parking assist rear-view camera supports the driver during maneuvers such as entering the garage or reversing for parallel parking.

To ensure exemplary safety standards, the new GL-Class has “PRO-SAFE,” the modern safety concept unique from Mercedes-Benz:

- (1) **PERFORM-SAFE** quickly warns the driver of the risk of an accident and/or avoids danger.
 - Four-wheel Electronic Stability Program (4ESP[®])
 - AIRMATIC air suspension
 - Hill-start Assist
 - Active Light System
 - Cornering light function, etc.
- (2) **PRE-SAFE[®]** recognizes an imminent accident and uses the short time interval prior to the actual impact to prepare the vehicle and its occupants.
 - Electrical belt tensioners for front seats, specially developed for use with PRE-SAFE[®]
 - Automatic adjustment of the front passenger seat position
 - Closing of sliding glass roof
- (3) **PASSIVE-SAFE** provides better occupant protection by using intelligently designed body and effective restraint systems.
 - Impact-absorbing body
 - Eight SRS airbags
 - Belt tensioners with belt force limiters (in front, outer second-row, and third-row seats)
 - NECK PRO active head restraints (in front), etc.
- (4) **POST-SAFE** ensures the rapid rescue of vehicle occupants and prevents secondary damage after an accident has occurred.
 - Automatic fuel cut-off during impact
 - Automatic door unlocking
 - Automatically activated hazard lamps, etc.

The new GL-Class offers outstanding environmental compatibility. The **GL 550 4MATIC** has received “★★★ Low-Emission Vehicle” certification by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, for reducing exhaust emissions by an additional 50% from the levels required by the 2005 exhaust emission regulations.

The nationwide retail price (including consumption tax) of the new GL-Class model is:

Model name	Steering	Suggested nationwide retail price* (): price without consumption tax
Mercedes-Benz GL 550 4MATIC	LHD	¥12,800,000 (¥12,190,477)

* The price indicated above does not include accessories, taxes (other than consumption tax), insurance premiums, and registration expenses.

The customer must separately pay a recycling fee required by the Automobile Recycling Law.

Owners of the new Mercedes-Benz GL-Class will enjoy the benefits of Mercedes Care, the warranty system which provides 24-hour touring support as well as free repair and maintenance for three years with unlimited mileage