

Portland Observer Auto Review



Tested vehicle information: 3.6L Horizontally-Opposed DOHC Engine; 5-Speed Automatic Transmission with Manual Mode; 16 City MPG, 21 Hwy MPG; MSRP \$32495, Tested Vehicle Price \$36920.

2011 Subaru Tribeca Limited/BTD

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The 2011 Subaru Tribeca has a seating for seven, standard all-wheel drive, which is standard separating it from other SUV's. It has a responsive engine and great handling. Tribeca is loaded with technology and giving drivers the latest in all-weather safety and performance.

Subaru 2011 Tribeca's 3.6-liter, horizontally opposed six-cylinder engine produces 256 horsepower and 247 pound-feet of torque. The transmission is a five-speed automatic with a manual shift mode. It engine is responsive and meshes well with the transmission. Shifts up and down are managed almost seamlessly. When using the SportShift, the Tribeca will shift up a gear automatically at engine redline (because it assumes the driver forgot it was in manual mode); it will not, however, drop down a gear without the driver tapping the lever forward. We often found it easiest to simply put it in Drive and let it do its own shifting.

All Tribeca's use an all-wheel-drive system that sends 55 percent of the power to the rear wheels in normal driving. The Tribeca AWD system constantly powers all four wheels rather than switching the rear ones on and off in reaction to wheel spin. It works like a charm, leaving drivers to experience fuss-free traction while maneuvering variety of situations. The downsize of the AWD is that it lessens the fuel economy of this vehicle. The overall handling of the vehicle is smooth and sporty.

Tribeca Limited adds leather upholstery, three-mode heated front seats with driver memory, Bluetooth, a 10-speaker Harman Kardon sound system with a six-CD changer and satellite radio and additional interior ambient lighting for the console. The Tribeca has a monotone exterior paint scheme, xenon headlamps, silver roof rails, a sunroof and a back-up camera with a small display in the auto-dimming rearview mirror.

The Tribeca overall is a great vehicle that can adapt to any weather condition with great handling. It has a stylist exterior with a very comfortable interior. The Tribeca offers easy maneuvering with a great turning radius.

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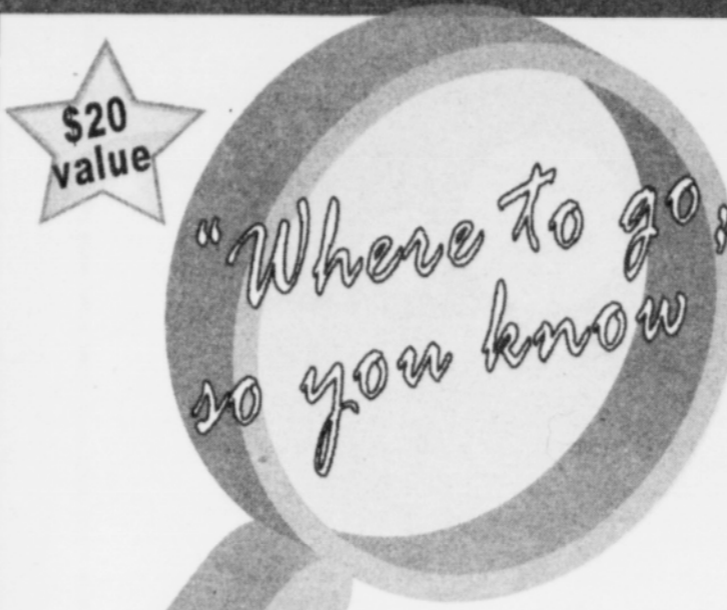
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