Ask the Mechanic
Paul Kaganzi

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expert advice, troub

Is the 2007 Subaru Legacy Touring suitable for Kampala?

Hello Paul, is it advisable to buy a 2007 Subaru Legacy Touring Wagon if most of my driving is within Kampala? **Daniel**

Hello Daniel, your decision to buy a 2007 Subaru Legacy Touring Wagon will be influenced by your own preference or leaning. Is it the cost of maintenance, running costs and practicality, or aesthetics/looks, safety and comfort?

The Subaru Legacy Touring offers a well-designed, spacious and comfortable wagon option with some strong positive attributes. However, some of its features can be disappointing when driving in Kampala.

Fuel economy of the 2007 Legacy Touring can be challenging in Kampala. The Subaru Symmetrical AWD system drives all four wheels simultaneously to maintain optimal road traction, delivering good safety and road-holding performance on slippery murram roads and highways during the rainy season.

However, this same feature makes the Subaru Legacy Touring more fuel-thirsty in commuter traffic crawl-ups common on Greater Kampala suburban roads leading to the Central Business District, such as Ntinda–Bukoto, Nakawa–Jinja Road, or Makindye to the city centre via Entebbe Road.

As a result, the Subaru Legacy Touring is more fuel-thirsty compared to other popular 2007 2WD alternatives such as the Toyota Wish or Fielder. Its fuel consumption can drop to seven to eight kilometres per litre in Kampala, while the 2WD alternatives mentioned may deliver about 10km per litre in city traffic. However, the Legacy Touring's fuel economy improves to 11 to 12km per litre on highways outside Kampala.

Uneven road conditions on some roads in Kampala can also challenge the Legacy Touring's low ground clearance. Unlike its Subaru stablemate, the Outback, the Legacy Touring's 150mm ground clearance can struggle with random speed humps, potholes and gullies on some suburban roads under construction.

Reliability and maintenance of the 2007 Subaru Legacy Touring in Kampala have mixed fortunes. While there are many independent specialist Subaru garages and parts sellers in downtown Kampala, non-fast-moving spare parts tend to be pricier than service filters. Generally, Toyota parts are cheaper. The almost 20-year-old Legacy Touring you are considering will likely come with a high maintenance price tag. It may require a full suspension overhaul and possibly a transmission replacement if the current one has not been well-maintained.

NOTE
SPARE PARTS MIGHT BE COSTLY

At that age, the 2007 Legacy Touring commonly experiences cylinder head gasket leaks.

On the bright side, there are many Subaru specialist mechanics available in Kampala with the technical know-how to handle these maintenance repairs.