

JEEP

GRAND CHEROKEE

GRAND SLAM

SUPERB VALUE NEW, THE LUXURIOUS JEEP MAKES A TOTALLY IRRESISTIBLE HIGH-IMAGE SECOND-HAND BUY

Packed with style, packed with equipment and packed with heritage, the Grand Cherokee is easily the shining star of our second-hand selection. Though big and gutsy enough – especially with the easy-revving 4.7-litre V8 powerhouse behind its charismatic seven-slot grille – to rival the Range Rover as a fashionable luxury limousine, the big Jeep's new-car pricing sets it against the more compact Discovery, particularly now the Range Rover has moved so much further up the affluence ladder.

Yet in spite of its keen pricing, and value enhanced by an impressive list of comfort and convenience equipment, the Grand Cherokee has suffered from quite heavy initial depreciation, making it an exceptionally affordable second-hand proposition. For instance, if you like the idea of big American V8 muscle, examples of the 5.2-litre first-generation Grand are now selling for a little as £5000, while £10,000 will get you a run-out model from 1999.

These are rare, having been imported to special order only, but for style and equipment it's hard to beat the leather-upholstered Orvis with the 4.0-litre straight six, still a snip at a little over £10,000 for a clean, reasonable mileage example on a '98 R-plate, less than £14,000 for a '99 T-plated car that sold new for over £33,000.

As ever the 2.5-litre turbodiesel is the popular choice, not very muscular but reasonably refined and economical, but even though it's kept its value better than the thirstier petrol versions the second-hand pricing is still keen. The second-generation Grand has only been around since 1999, yet there's already a tempting selection of pristine examples on sale at prestige 4x4 dealers around the country, the 4.7-litre V8 again being the pick of the bunch in terms of on-paper value. Some examples we've seen on offer: 01/51 V8 Limited in Patriot Blue with Slate leather upholstery, just 15,000 miles, £23,999; 01/Y V8 Limited in Silverstone with Dark Slate leather and privacy glass, 34,000 miles, £21,999; 00/W V8 Limited in Patriot Blue with Agate leather, 26,000 miles, £19,499.

The popular 4.0-litre Limiteds are also in good supply, and although the Mercedes-

engined 2.7 CRD turbodiesels are still rare second-hand, one of these would make a superbly refined and economical estate for an adventurous family seeking to enjoy some of the better things in life.

All these cars come with full leather upholstery, bi-directional climate control, concert-quality stereo with CD player, electric windows, electrically adjustable front seats and side airbags. All boast metallic paintwork and alloy wheels, some have traction control as standard, many will have had the optional electric sunroof fitted, so there's no question that you're getting excellent value for money.

And don't forget that the Grand Cherokee, with its coil-sprung beam axles and straightforward four-wheel drive system, is also an impressive player in serious off-road conditions, so with early big-power 4.0-litre examples going for as little as £7000 there's no reason why that adventurous family shouldn't pick an older one to indulge in some luxurious mud-plugging. With a good range of engines and prices stretching from £7000 to £25,000 there's a used Grand Cherokee for everyone, so don't hesitate – get to your nearest Jeep or specialist 4x4 dealer now and check out the Grand value for yourself.



RATING

PRICE RANGE £7000-£25,000

ON-ROAD ●●●●●

OFF-ROAD ●●●●●

PRACTICALITY ●●●●●

AVAILABILITY ●●●●●

VALUE FOR MONEY ●●●●●