

Fast Little Rebel

Uncharted Brings Big Speed, Style and Real EV Compromises

By Derek Price
CARGAZING.COM

That was the first thing I noticed after a week in Subaru's new electric crossover. For a vehicle priced in the low \$40,000 range, the Uncharted Sport feels hilariously quick from behind the wheel.

Not "quick enough for commuting." Not "peppy for an EV." Just plain fast.

My tester came to \$41,720 including destination and premium paint. For that money, it delivers dual electric motors, all-wheel drive and 338 horsepower, the kind of number that usually requires shopping from a luxury brand or writing a much larger check.

That is the Uncharted's strongest argument. It gives ordinary buyers access to extraordinary acceleration.

The power arrives with the clean, immediate shove that makes electric cars so addictive around town. Stoplight launches feel effortless. Passing slower traffic takes only a flex of your right foot. It has the kind of instant response that makes gasoline engines feel a little sleepy by comparison.

Better yet, the Uncharted feels appropriately sized for that power. It is not a huge, heavy SUV trying to disguise its mass with horsepower. It feels compact, alert and eager, with enough grip from the all-wheel-drive



The 2026 Subaru Uncharted combines fastback styling, compact crossover proportions and a confident stance that help it stand apart from more conventional electric SUVs.

system to make the speed usable rather than theatrical.

It also looks fantastic. To my eyes, this is one of Subaru's most successful modern designs, and easily better looking than its Toyota C-HR cousin. The fastback roofline gives it a sleek, urban personality without looking overwrought. It has enough Subaru toughness in its stance to feel on-brand, but not so much cladding and visual noise that it turns cartoonish.

That shape does come with a penalty. Rear-seat space is not the Uncharted's best feature, and buyers who routinely carry adults or growing teenagers in back will want to pay close

attention before signing paperwork.

I do not see that as a dealbreaker for the right buyer, though. Electric vehicles are at their best on short drives, errands and daily commutes, not road trips with charging stops planned like military operations. For someone who usually drives solo or with one passenger, the trade-off makes sense.

Cargo space is more useful than the sleek body suggests. With the rear seat folded, I fit a small desk in the back with room to spare. That's a real-world test that matters more than staring at cubic-foot numbers.

The cabin is where the Uncharted feels more conflicted.

On one side, it has the clean, tech-forward vibe people expect from a modern EV, including a large central screen and plenty of useful equipment. On the other, it can feel strangely bare in places.

The complete lack of a glove box is the kind of decision that makes sense only in a conference room. In daily life, people still need somewhere to stash napkins, registration papers, charging cards and all the little junk cars accumulate.

That is the compromise here. Subaru spent money where drivers feel it most, in the powertrain, styling and driving experience. The Uncharted feels less generous in some everyday cabin details.

Range is rated at 287 miles for the Sport, and its 117 MPGe combined rating should make it inexpensive to operate for owners who can charge at home. Like every EV in this price range, though, it requires honest thinking about your lifestyle. Apartment dwellers, frequent road-trippers and people who hate planning around chargers may be happier in a hybrid.

For the right person, the Uncharted is terrific.

It is stylish, genuinely fun and shockingly quick for the money. For someone who wants an affordable EV with personality and serious punch, this Subaru feels like a smart, slightly rebellious choice.

AT A GLANCE

WHAT WAS TESTED?

2026 Subaru Uncharted Sport (\$41,720). Options: Premium paint (\$475). Price as tested (including \$1,450 destination charge): \$41,720

BY THE NUMBERS

Wheelbase: 108.3 in.
Length: 177.8 in.
Width: 73.6 in.
Height: 63.8 in.
Power: Dual electric motors (338 horsepower)
Range: 287 miles
MPGe: 117 combined

RATINGS

Style: 9
Performance: 9
Price: 8
Handling: 7
Ride: 6
Comfort: 6
Quality: 6
Overall: 7

WHY BUY IT?

The Uncharted gives buyers strong electric performance, standout styling and useful everyday practicality at a price that makes its compromises easier to accept.



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Inside, the Uncharted features a modern EV cabin with a large central touchscreen, simple controls and a layout focused more on technology than traditional storage.

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A CLOSER LOOK



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FACTS, FIGURES AND RATINGS

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