GENERAL

blue book value 1999 plymouth voyager

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Introduction

When it comes to buying or selling a used vehicle, one of the most common questions that pops up is, “What’s the blue book value?” For enthusiasts and everyday buyers alike, the **blue book value 1999 Plymouth Voyager** is a critical figure that helps gauge whether a deal is fair, whether a vehicle is overpriced, or whether you’re getting a bargain. The Plymouth Voyager, a mid size minivan that was popular in the late 1990s, still finds its way onto today’s used car market. Understanding its blue book value is essential for anyone looking to purchase or sell one of these 1999 models.

In this article, we’ll explore the concept of blue book value, delve into the specific factors that shape the value of a 1999 Plymouth Voyager, compare different appraisal sources, and give you practical tips for negotiating the best price. Whether you’re a seasoned collector, a first time minivan buyer, or a seller trying to set a realistic asking price, this guide will equip you with the knowledge and tools you need to navigate the used car market confidently.

Understanding Blue Book Value

The term “blue book value” originates from the iconic *Kelley Blue Book* (KBB) guide, a trusted resource for automotive pricing. Blue book value represents the average price that a vehicle could fetch in a fair, competitive market, taking into account factors like age, mileage, condition, and regional demand. It’s not an absolute price but rather a benchmark that helps buyers and sellers assess market value.

For a 1999 Plymouth Voyager, the blue book value is particularly useful because the vehicle sits at the intersection of two key trends: the decline in minivan popularity in the early 2000s and the growing nostalgia for ’90s family cars. As such, the Voyager’s value can fluctuate based on condition, mileage, and the presence of desirable features like the 4 wheel drive or a V6 engine.

Key Factors Influencing the Blue Book Value of a 1999 Plymouth Voyager

While the blue book value is a useful starting point, several variables can shift the final figure. Below are the primary factors that impact the value of a 1999 Plymouth Voyager.

1. Mileage

Mileage is a primary determinant of a vehicle’s value. A 1999 Voyager with 120,000 miles will generally be valued lower than one with 80,000 miles, assuming all other factors are equal. Low mileage vehicles often command a premium because they are presumed to have less wear and tear.

2. Overall Condition

Condition is a broad term that covers exterior paint, interior upholstery, mechanical reliability, and recent maintenance records. A Voyager that has been well maintained, with no rust, no major mechanical issues, and a clean interior, will typically fetch a higher blue book value.

3. Trim Level and Features

The 1999 Plymouth Voyager came in several trim levels: Base, L, LS, and EX. Higher trim levels often include more

features such as leather seats, power windows, upgraded audio systems, and a 4 wheel drive system. These additional amenities can boost the vehicle's value.

4. Vehicle History

A clean title, accident-free history, and documented maintenance can positively influence the blue book value. Conversely, a vehicle with a salvage title, a history of major accidents, or missing service records may see a significant discount.

5. Geographic Location

Regional demand plays a role. In areas where minivans are still in high demand—such as college towns or regions with large families—the blue book value may be higher than in markets where SUVs have overtaken minivans.

6. Market Trends

Automotive market conditions, such as supply shortages or a resurgence in retro vehicles, can affect pricing. For example, a sudden increase in demand for '90s minivans can push the blue book value up.

How to Determine the Blue Book Value of a 1999 Plymouth Voyager

There are several reputable sources for obtaining a blue book value. Each offers slightly different methodologies, so it's wise to cross reference multiple platforms.

Kelley Blue Book (KBB)

As the original blue book, KBB remains the most widely recognized source. To get an accurate estimate, input the exact mileage, trim level, condition, and location. KBB will provide an "MSRP" (Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price) and a "Trade in" value, which can serve as a solid baseline for negotiations.

NADA Guides

The National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) offers a slightly different approach, often placing more emphasis on wholesale and trade in values. NADA's values can be useful when you're dealing with dealerships or looking to understand wholesale pricing.

Edmunds

Edmunds provides a "True Market Value" (TMV) that aggregates data from actual sales in your area. This can be particularly helpful for spotting local market trends.

Autotrader and CarGurus

These platforms aggregate listings and can give you a sense of the asking prices in your region. While not official blue book values, they provide real world pricing insights that can complement other data.

Comparing Blue Book Values Across Sources

When you pull values from KBB, NADA, and Edmunds, you'll likely see some variance. Here's why:

- Different Data Sets: KBB uses dealer data and consumer reports, whereas NADA relies more on dealer trade in data.
- Methodology Differences: KBB may weight mileage more heavily, while NADA might factor in depreciation curves differently.
- Regional Adjustments: Edmunds' TMV is highly localized, reflecting actual sales in your zip code.

For a 1999 Plymouth Voyager, you might see KBB's trade in value at around $4,200, NADA at $4,500, and

Edmunds' TMV at $4,800, depending on the vehicle's condition and mileage. Using the midpoint of these values can provide a realistic target for negotiations.

Common Repairs and Maintenance for a 1999 Plymouth Voyager

Understanding potential repair costs is crucial when evaluating a blue book value. Below are some common maintenance items you should consider.

Engine and Transmission

The 1999 Voyager typically ran on a 4.0L V6 or a 2.5L inline four. Common issues include:

- Oil leaks from the valve cover gasket.
- Transmission fluid contamination leading to rough shifting.
- Timing belt wear requiring replacement.

Electrical System

Electrical problems can be costly. Look for:

- Dead or weak battery and alternator.
- Faulty power windows or door locks.
- Malfunctioning HVAC controls.

Suspension and Brakes

Inspect for:

- Worn shock absorbers or struts.
- Brake pad and rotor wear.
- Suspension bushings showing signs of rot.

Interior and Exterior

Check for:

- Rust spots on the undercarriage or door sills.
- Interior upholstery wear, especially in high traffic areas.
- Paint scratches or dents that might have been repaired poorly.

Transmission of the 4 Wheel Drive (4WD) System

For 4WD models, ensure the transfer case is in good condition and that the differential fluid is clean.

Tips for Negotiating the Best Price Based on Blue Book Value

Armed with a solid understanding of the blue book value, you can approach negotiations with confidence. Here are actionable strategies:

1. Use the Blue Book Value as a Baseline

Start your negotiation at a price slightly below the blue book value. This gives you room to negotiate upward while still staying within a realistic range.

2. Highlight Vehicle Condition and History

Show the seller or dealer your research, including mileage, maintenance records, and any recent repairs. This demonstrates that you're informed and serious.

3. Point Out Comparable Listings

Provide evidence of similar 1999 Voyager models selling for lower prices in your area. This can be a powerful lever to justify a lower offer.

4. Be Prepared to Walk Away

If the price exceeds the blue book value significantly and the seller can't justify it, be willing to walk away. There are plenty of other vehicles on the market.

5. Consider Timing

Dealerships often have sales targets at the end of the month or quarter. If you're buying from a dealer, timing your purchase can lead to better discounts.

Why the 1999 Plymouth Voyager Still Matters

While the minivan has largely been supplanted by SUVs and crossovers, the 1999 Plymouth Voyager remains a beloved vehicle for several reasons:

- Spaciousness: With three rows of seats and a flexible cargo area, it's still a practical choice for families.
- Affordability: Compared to newer minivans, the Voyager can be found at a lower price point.
- Classic Design: Its '90s styling appeals to nostalgia seekers.
- Modifiability: The Voyager's platform is well suited for aftermarket upgrades like better audio systems or custom seating.

Conclusion

Knowing the **blue book value 1999 Plymouth Voyager** is more than just a number; it's a tool that empowers you to make informed decisions, whether you're buying, selling, or simply evaluating a vehicle's worth. By understanding the factors that influence value—mileage, condition, trim level, and regional demand—you can accurately assess whether a price is fair. Cross checking multiple sources such as Kelley Blue Book, NADA Guides, and Edmunds ensures you have a comprehensive view of the market. Additionally, being aware of common repair costs and maintenance issues helps you anticipate future expenses and negotiate with confidence.

In the ever changing world of used cars, staying informed and using blue book values as a guide can make the difference between a good purchase and a great one. Whether you're a seasoned collector or a first time minivan buyer, the knowledge you gain today will serve you well for years to come.

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