



1961 Jaguar Mark 2 Saloon

POA

Overview

Mileage 13,668 miles

Fuel Type Petrol

Engine Size 4.2 l

Bodystyle 4 DOOR SALOON

Transmission Manual

Exterior Colour Black

Previous Owners 4

Registration MARK2



Description

The 1961 Jaguar Mark 2 saloon occupies a special place in automotive history, blending British luxury, sporting performance, and cultural impact in a way few sedans ever have.

Origins and Development

The Jaguar Mark 2 (officially "Mk II") was introduced in 1959 as an evolution of the earlier Jaguar Mark 1 (1955–1959). Sir William Lyons, Jaguar's founder, wanted to refine the Mark 1's concept: a compact sports saloon that could outperform many sports cars while still carrying four adults in comfort.

By 1961, the Mark 2 had reached its most mature and iconic form, benefiting from several mechanical and interior refinements that made it both faster and more luxurious.

Design and Engineering

Exterior

The Mark 2 retained a classic Jaguar silhouette but featured:

Larger glass areas (a major improvement over the Mark 1), giving better visibility and a lighter, more modern look

A wider rear track, improving stability and handling

Subtle chrome detailing that emphasized elegance without excess

It was unmistakably British—graceful, confident, and understated.

Interior

Inside, the Mark 2 epitomized Jaguar luxury:

Polished walnut veneer dashboards

Supple Connolly leather seats

Deep carpets and refined switchgear

Unlike many luxury cars of the time, it paired comfort with a genuinely sporty driving position.

Engines and Performance (1961 lineup)

By 1961, the Mark 2 was offered with Jaguar's legendary XK inline-six engines:

2.4-litre – smooth and refined, aimed at comfort

3.4-litre – strong performance with excellent torque

3.8-litre – the star of the range

The 3.8-litre Mark 2 could reach 125 mph (201 km/h), making it one of the fastest four-door sedans in the world at the time. Disc brakes on all four wheels—still uncommon in the early 1960s—gave it stopping power to match its speed.

Cultural Impact

“The fastest saloon in the world”

In the early 1960s, the Mark 2 earned a reputation as the ultimate gentleman's express—a car that could take a family to dinner or outrun sports cars on a country road.

Police, criminals, and cool

The Mark 2 became famous in Britain for being used by both police forces and criminals:

Police favoured it for its speed and handling

Criminals loved it for the exact same reasons

This dual reputation cemented the Mark 2 as a symbol of the swinging early '60s and gave it a slightly rebellious edge.

Motorsport success

Jaguar Mark 2s also enjoyed success in touring car racing, particularly with the 3.8-litre version. Legendary drivers like Graham Hill raced Mark 2s, proving that a luxury saloon could dominate the track.

Legacy and Influence

The 1961 Jaguar Mark 2 helped define a new category: the high-performance luxury sedan. Its influence can be seen decades later in cars like the Jaguar XJ series, BMW M sedans, and modern performance saloons.

Today, the Mark 2 is:

A highly sought-after classic car

A symbol of 1960s British motoring excellence

Admired for its balance of beauty, speed, and craftsmanship

In short

The 1961 Jaguar Mark 2 saloon wasn't just a car—it was a statement. It proved that luxury didn't have to be slow, that performance could be elegant, and that a four-door saloon could be every bit as exciting as a sports car.

Location

Classicmobilia

Braystone House, Salford Road, Aspley Giuse, Milton Keynes,
MK17 8HY

07889 805432

Monday	Appointment only	Tuesday	Appointment only
Wednesday	Appointment only	Thursday	Appointment only
Friday	Appointment only	Saturday	Appointment only
Sunday	Appointment only		
