

Thunderbird



2026 MID-ENGINE CONCEPT

HERITAGE. INNOVATION. AMERICAN SPIRIT.

AN INDEPENDENT DESIGN STUDY
EXPLORING THE RETURN OF AN ICON
AS A MODERN AMERICAN GRAND TOURER.

This is an independent enthusiast concept and is not
affiliated with, endorsed by, or representative of
Ford Motor Company.





THE ORIGINAL MISSION, REIMAGINED

THUNDERBIRD DOESN'T NEED TO RETURN TO THE PAST. IT NEEDS TO RETURN TO ITS PURPOSE.

When Thunderbird launched in 1955, Ford introduced a new kind of American performance car—one that blended exhilaration with comfort, style with substance, and personal luxury with everyday usability.

IT WASN'T BUILT TO BE A CORVETTE.
IT WAS BUILT TO BE A THUNDERBIRD.

Today, the world is ready for that idea again. A modern Thunderbird can reclaim its place as America's grand tourer—distinct from anything else on the road.



1955 A NEW AMERICAN IDEA



Ford introduced Thunderbird to a new generation of drivers seeking more than just speed. It delivered elegance, innovation, and long-distance comfort in a performance car.

Personal. Stylish. Different.
THAT WAS THE ORIGINAL THUNDERBIRD.

THUNDERBIRD EVOLVES



Through every era, Thunderbird stood for American ingenuity and a spirit of independence. It adapted with the times while remaining true to its core—offering a unique blend of performance, luxury, and presence.

Always evolving. Never ordinary.

2026 RETURN TO THE ORIGINAL MISSION



The all-new mid-engine Thunderbird returns as a modern grand tourer—combining thrilling performance, advanced technology, and timeless design.

Heritage inspires us.
THE FUTURE DRIVES US.

HERITAGE. INNOVATION. AMERICAN SPIRIT.

Thunderbird



A THIRD LANE IN AMERICAN PERFORMANCE

THUNDERBIRD DOESN'T COMPETE BY BEING A BETTER CORVETTE.
IT COMPETES BY OFFERING SOMETHING CORVETTE ISN'T TRYING TO BE.

CORVETTE



Thunderbird



FORD GT

Heritage



CORVETTE

PERFORMANCE DEMOCRATIZED

Sports car • Attainable exotic performance • Volume

THUNDERBIRD

THE AMERICAN GRAND TOURER

Mid-engine • Premium • Performance + Luxury
Daily capable

FORD GT

ENGINEERING WITHOUT COMPROMISE

Halo car • Extreme technology • Exclusivity

SPORTS CAR

DRIVING CHARACTER

GRAND TOURER

ATTAINABLE

MARKET POSITION

HALO

DISTINCT PURPOSE. DISTINCT EXPERIENCE. UNIQUELY AMERICAN.

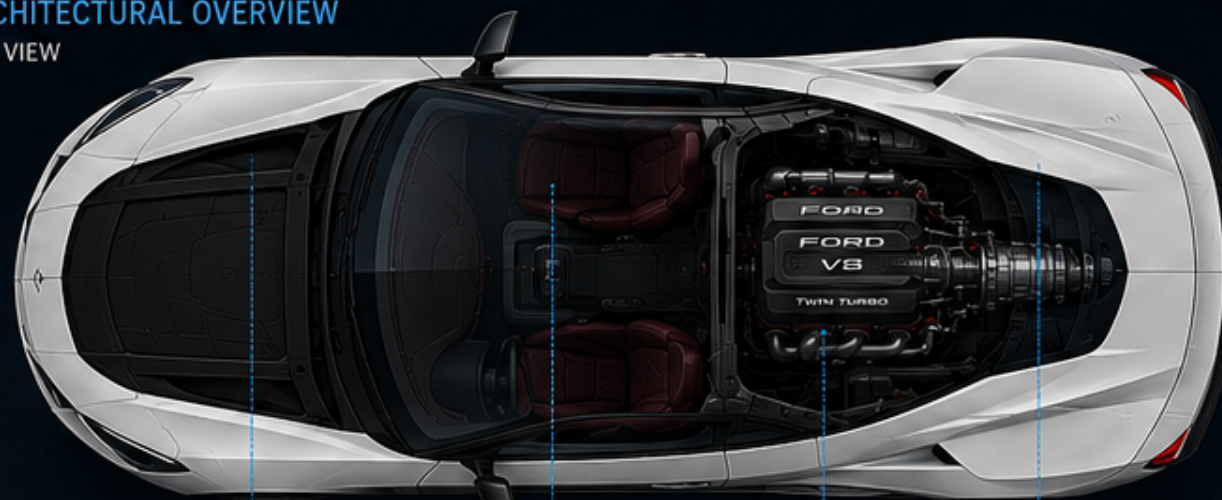
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HONEST MID-ENGINE ARCHITECTURE DESIGNED AROUND THE ENGINE— NOT JUST STYLED LIKE IT.

The 2026 Thunderbird is engineered from the inside out. Its proportions, surfaces, and signature details flow from a mid-engine layout that delivers balance, performance, and everyday usability.

ARCHITECTURAL OVERVIEW TOP VIEW



FRONT LUGGAGE
COMPARTMENT

PASSENGER
CELL

MID-MOUNTED
V8 ENGINE

TRANSMISSION

REAR
AXLE



CABIN FORWARD

The passenger cell is positioned forward for better weight distribution and a true grand touring proportion. A functional front trunk adds everyday versatility without compromise.

POWERTRAIN CELEBRATED

The mid-mounted V8 is the visual and emotional centerpiece of the car. A glass engine cover and raised spine honor Thunderbird's heritage while showcasing modern performance.

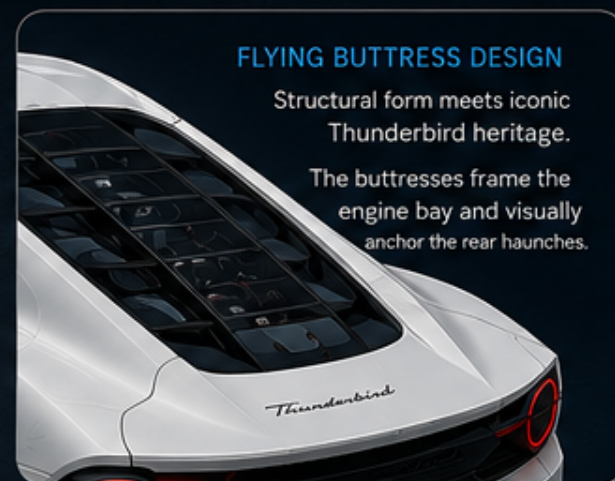
FUNCTION DRIVES FORM

Side intakes feed the engine with cool air. The rear haunches are sculpted to communicate the mechanical mass they house. Form follows purpose—clearly.

FLYING BUTTRESS DESIGN

Structural form meets iconic Thunderbird heritage.

The buttresses frame the engine bay and visually anchor the rear haunches.



CONCEPTUAL PACKAGE — FOR DESIGN INTENT

-  **LAYOUT**
Mid-engine, RWD
-  **ENGINE**
Twin-Turbo V8 (concept)
Target: 600+ HP
-  **TRANSMISSION**
8-speed dual-clutch (concept)
-  **TARGET DISTRIBUTION**
Approx. 40% Front / 60% Rear
-  **FOCUS**
Grand touring capability with true performance balance

Thunderbird
HERITAGE. INNOVATION. AMERICAN SPIRIT.

INTERIOR PHILOSOPHY

DRIVER FOCUSED. AMERICAN SOUL.



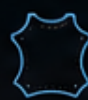
The Thunderbird cabin blends classic GT proportions with modern precision. Every surface, switch, and seam is designed to put the driver at the center of the experience—connected, comfortable, and in command.

This is Thunderbird.



DRIVER FIRST

Angles, controls, and visibility—designed around you.



MATERIALS THAT MATTER

Premium leathers, real metal accents, and authentic textures everywhere.



MODERN TECHNOLOGY

Digital where it adds value. Analog where it matters most.



THUNDERBIRD IDENTITY

Heritage touches integrated with purpose, not nostalgia.

CONTROLLED FROM THE CENTER

DIGITAL DRIVER DISPLAY

Clear, configurable, and designed for focus.

VERTICAL TOUCHSCREEN

Intuitive interface with quick access to the information you need.

HORIZONTAL AIR VENTS

Clean, flush design reinforces the wide stance and keeps the cabin visually calm.

PERFORMANCE STEERING WHEEL

Flat-bottom design with integrated controls and premium materials.

PHYSICAL CONTROLS

Dedicated switches and toggles for the functions you use most.

COMMANDING POSITION

Low seating position with exceptional outward visibility and a true grand touring feel.

CRAFTED TO BE LIVED IN



PREMIUM LEATHER

Deep oxblood leather with contrast stitching and embroidered Thunderbird emblems.



DETAILED & REFINED

Real metal accents, precision knurling, and thoughtfully integrated design details.



BUILT WITH INTEGRITY

Substance where it counts. Materials and construction that stand the test of time.



PURPOSEFUL DESIGN

Ergonomic layout, high-quality finishes, and tactile controls that feel as good as they look.

DISTINCTLY AMERICAN. UNIQUELY THUNDERBIRD.

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EXTERIOR COLOR STUDY

ONE THUNDERBIRD. FIVE EXPRESSIONS.

Every color tells a story. Every angle reveals the same unmistakable spirit.



Purpose-built performance.
Timeless design.
Distinctly American. Undeniably Thunderbird.



BRIGHT OXFORD WHITE

with OXBLOOD ACCENTS

Clean.
Sophisticated.
Understated.
Confidence.

FIRE METALLIC RED

with CAMEL INTERIOR

Bold.
Warm.
Unapologetically American.

METALLIC EMERALD GREEN

with GUNMETAL GREY INTERIOR

Sophisticated.
Grounded.
Heritage in motion.

FIRE METALLIC COBRA BLUE

with NAVY / LIGHT SILVER INTERIOR

Inspired by flight.
Built for the road.
American Spirit.

GUNMETAL GREY METALLIC

with BLACK / GREY INTERIOR

Refined.
Distinctive.
Classic American Luxury.
Reimagined.



AMERICAN HERITAGE

Rooted in a legacy of design and freedom, reimagined for today.



CURATED COLOR PALETTES

Carefully selected exterior tones designed to complement unique interior environments.



TIMELESS APPEAL

Classic proportions and modern execution that never go out of style.



DISTINCTLY THUNDERBIRD

Unmistakable from every angle.
Uniquely American.
Undeniably Thunderbird.

Thunderbird

2026 MID-ENGINE CONCEPT

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Thunderbird



BRIGHT OXFORD WHITE

OXBLOOD / BLACK
RESERVE THEME

Clean. Sophisticated.
Understated.
Confidence.



REFINED. UNDERSTATED. ICONIC.

The all-new Thunderbird returns as a mid-engine grand tourer that blends heritage with innovation. Purpose-built performance, timeless design, and an experience crafted to inspire.

-  MID-ENGINE V8
Twin Turbo
-  650+ HP (Target)
-  0-60 MPH
Under 3.2 Seconds (Target)
-  TOP SPEED
190+ MPH (Target)



ALUMINUM SPACEFRAME
Adaptive Suspension
Track Tuned Dynamics



ACTIVE AERO
Intelligent Downforce
Maximum Stability

Thunderbird
2026 MID-ENGINE CONCEPT



2-SEAT COCKPIT
Driver Focused
Long-Distance Comfort



BREMBO® PERFORMANCE
Carbon Ceramic Brakes
Confident Control



Thunderbird



COBRA BLUE METALLIC
NAVY / LIGHT SILVER
AVIATOR PERFORMANCE THEME

Dynamic. Focused.
Built for the Driver.
American Spirit.



BORN TO FLY.

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Adaptive Suspension
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2026 MID-ENGINE CONCEPT



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Driver Focused
Long-Distance Comfort



BREMBO® PERFORMANCE
Carbon Ceramic Brakes
Confident Control



AMERICAN ORIGINAL
BUILT FOR THE ROAD AHEAD

Thunderbird



METALLIC EMERALD GREEN

FOREST GREEN / GUNMETAL

HERITAGE LUXURY THEME

Refined. Distinctive.

Classic American Luxury.

Reimagined.



ICONIC. REIMAGINED.

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Twin Turbo



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Adaptive Suspension
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Carbon Ceramic Brakes
Confident Control



Thunderbird



FIRE METALLIC RED

CAMEL / ESPRESSO
SADDLE GT THEME

Bold. Passionate.
Timeless.
American Spirit.



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Adaptive Suspension
Track Tuned Dynamics



ACTIVE AERO
Intelligent Downforce
Maximum Stability

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2-SEAT COCKPIT
Driver Focused
Long-Distance Comfort



BREMBO® PERFORMANCE
Carbon Ceramic Brakes
Confident Control

AMERICAN ORIGINAL
BUILT FOR THE ROAD AHEAD

Thunderbird



GUNMETAL GREY
METALLIC

BLACK / GREY
GT THEME

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Timeless.
American Spirit.



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Adaptive Suspension
Track Tuned Dynamics



ACTIVE AERO
Intelligent Downforce
Maximum Stability

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2026 MID-ENGINE CONCEPT



2-SEAT COCKPIT
Driver Focused
Long-Distance Comfort



BREMBO® PERFORMANCE
Carbon Ceramic Brakes
Confident Control

AMERICAN ORIGINAL
BUILT FOR THE ROAD AHEAD

A DISTINCT PLACE

IN THE FORD PERFORMANCE FAMILY

Thunderbird occupies a unique and purposeful position between Mustang and Ford GT—delivering exotic mid-engine performance with the refinement and usability of a true grand tourer.



Thunderbird

MUSTANG

AMERICAN ICON

Accessible performance.
Pure driving exhilaration.



THUNDERBIRD

PREMIUM MID-ENGINE GRAND TOURING

Exotic architecture. Everyday usability.
Distinctly American character.



FORD GT

EXOTIC SUPERCAR

Track focused. Limited production.
Ultimate performance expression.



OWN A UNIQUE LANE

A performance GT that delivers something neither Mustang nor Ford GT was designed to be.



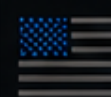
EXOTIC PERFORMANCE

Mid-engine layout and advanced engineering deliver thrilling, everyday performance.



GRAND TOURING COMFORT

Long-distance capability with luxury, technology, and refinement at its core.



AMERICAN BY DESIGN

Purpose-built with an unmistakable expression of American spirit and strength.



DISTINCTLY THUNDERBIRD

Timeless proportions, modern execution, and a name that stands apart.

WHY THUNDERBIRD. WHY NOW.

A legendary name. A modern mission.
The right car, at the right time.



HERITAGE

A NAME THAT MATTERS

Thunderbird is one of Ford's most recognized and respected nameplates—built on decades of innovation and American spirit.



RELEVANCE

A MODERN INTERPRETATION

We honor the original mission—a personal, stylish, high-performance car—reimagined for a new era of drivers and roads.



OPPORTUNITY

A DISTINCTLY FORD ANSWER

The market is ready for an American mid-engine grand tourer with attitude, sophistication, and unmistakable Thunderbird character.



Thunderbird

SOME NAMES CARRY HISTORY.
THUNDERBIRD CARRIES THE FUTURE.

A WHITESPACE OPPORTUNITY.

CREATE SOMETHING **CORVETTE DOESN'T ALREADY OWN—**
AND MUSTANG SHOULDN'T HAVE TO BECOME.



Thunderbird

A MODERN AMERICAN
MID-ENGINE GRAND TOURER
WITH PURPOSE AND POSITION.

Thunderbird



MID-ENGINE PERFORMANCE

Exotic architecture delivers
balance, agility, and
credible performance.



GRAND TOURING

Long-distance comfort,
refinement, and everyday
usability are non-negotiable.



AMERICAN IDENTITY

Proudly American in design,
engineering intent, and
driving character.



THUNDERBIRD CHARACTER

Distinctive design, heritage,
and emotional connection
create true differentiation.



CONCEPT POSITIONING ONLY. Production feasibility, platform strategy, powertrain, pricing, volume,
and timing would require Ford engineering and market analysis.

Thunderbird



SOME NAMES DESERVE
MORE THAN NOSTALGIA.
**THEY DESERVE ANOTHER
CHANCE TO FLY.**



AN INDEPENDENT CONCEPT STUDY EXPLORING THE RETURN OF THUNDERBIRD
AS A MODERN AMERICAN MID-ENGINE GRAND TOURER.