

# The Evergreen Best PS2 Games of All Time

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## In brief

The best PS2 games of all time include legendary titles like Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas, Metal Gear Solid 3: Snake Eater, Resident Evil 4, Shadow of the Colossus, Final Fantasy X, God of War, and Kingdom Hearts.

The PlayStation 2 (PS2) remains one of the most iconic gaming consoles ever released. Launched in 2000, it revolutionized gaming with its diverse library of over 3,800 games, cutting-edge graphics for the time, and engaging gameplay experiences. The PS2's influence continues to be felt today, with many of its titles shaping modern gaming trends and mechanics.

In this article, we will check some of the best PS2 games of all time. Whether you're feeling nostalgic or just discovering these classics, this list will highlight why the PS2 remains a legend in the gaming world.

## 1. Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas (2004)

- Developer: Rockstar North
- Genre: Open-World Action-Adventure
- Why it's iconic: San Andreas introduced an expansive open world spanning three cities, a compelling story of gang life, and deep RPG elements. Players could customize their character, explore at will, and engage in endless side activities, making it one of the most immersive games of its time.

## 2. Metal Gear Solid 3: Snake Eater (2004)

- Developer: Konami
- Genre: Stealth-Action
- Why it's iconic: A masterpiece in stealth gameplay, MGS3 brought a Cold War-era storyline filled with espionage, camouflage mechanics, and unforgettable boss battles. The game's survival elements and emotional storytelling set it apart from other action titles.

## 3. Resident Evil 4 (2005)

- Developer: Capcom
- Genre: Survival Horror
- Why it's iconic: This game revolutionized the survival horror genre by introducing an over-the-shoulder camera perspective, intelligent enemy AI, and action-packed gameplay. Leon S. Kennedy's mission to rescue the president's daughter remains a benchmark in horror gaming.

## 4. Shadow of the Colossus (2005)

- Developer: Team Ico
- Genre: Action-Adventure
- Why it's iconic: A breathtaking experience, Shadow of the Colossus features 16 massive boss battles instead of traditional enemies. Its emotional storytelling, stunning landscapes, and innovative gameplay mechanics make it one of the greatest video games of all time.

## 5. Final Fantasy X (2001)

- Developer: Square Enix
- Genre: RPG
- Why it's iconic: The first fully 3D Final Fantasy introduced voice acting , a turn-based combat system , and an emotional narrative that still resonates with fans. Its Sphere Grid leveling system was also a significant innovation in RPG mechanics.

## 6. God of War (2005)

- Developer: Santa Monica Studio
- Genre: Hack-and-Slash Action
- Why it's iconic: Kratos' journey for revenge against the Greek gods delivered brutal combat, epic boss fights, and cinematic storytelling . The Blades of Chaos combat system became a defining feature of the series.

## 7. Kingdom Hearts (2002)

- Developer: Square Enix
- Genre: Action RPG
- Why it's iconic: A magical crossover between Disney and Final Fantasy , Kingdom Hearts combined fluid combat mechanics, beloved Disney characters, and an emotionally driven storyline that captivated players worldwide.

## 8. Gran Turismo 4 (2004)

- Developer: Polyphony Digital
- Genre: Racing Simulation
- Why it's iconic: Featuring over 700 cars and 50 tracks , Gran Turismo 4 set a new standard for realistic racing simulations with lifelike physics, an extensive career mode, and stunning visuals for its time.

## 9. Devil May Cry (2001)

- Developer: Capcom
- Genre: Action Hack-and-Slash
- Why it's iconic: Featuring fast-paced combat, stylish action sequences, and Dante's charismatic personality , this game established the hack-and-slash genre and inspired many successors.

## 10. Silent Hill 2 (2001)

- Developer: Konami
- Genre: Survival Horror
- Why it's iconic: A psychological horror masterpiece , Silent Hill 2 delivered a haunting narrative, disturbing atmosphere, and emotional depth that few horror games have matched.

## 11. Burnout 3: Takedown (2004)

- Developer: Criterion Games
- Genre: Arcade Racing
- Why it's iconic: The game introduced aggressive driving mechanics , spectacular crashes, and an adrenaline-fueled gameplay experience, making it one of the best arcade racers ever.

## 12. Jak and Daxter: The Precursor Legacy (2001)

- Developer: Naughty Dog
- Genre: Platformer
- Why it's iconic: One of the best 3D platformers , Jak and Daxter featured seamless open-world exploration, engaging platforming mechanics, and humorous storytelling .

### **13. Tekken 5 (2005)**

- Developer: Bandai Namco
- Genre: Fighting
- Why it's iconic: With fast-paced combat, diverse characters, and deep combo mechanics , Tekken 5 remains one of the best fighting games ever made.

### **14. Dragon Quest VIII: Journey of the Cursed King (2004)**

- Developer: Level-5
- Genre: RPG
- Why it's iconic: A beautifully crafted turn-based RPG , featuring an engaging story, cel-shaded visuals , and a vast world filled with unforgettable characters.

### **15. SOCOM II: U.S. Navy SEALs (2003)**

- Developer: Zipper Interactive
- Genre: Tactical Shooter
- Why it's iconic: One of the best multiplayer shooters , SOCOM II introduced tactical squad-based gameplay , offering an intense combat experience both online and offline.

## **Conclusion**

The PS2 era was filled with groundbreaking titles that shaped modern gaming. From action-packed adventures and horror classics to RPG masterpieces and fast-paced racing, the PS2 had something for everyone. Even in 2025, these titles hold their charm, making the PlayStation 2 an unforgettable part of gaming history.