

# Men's Skeleton Watches: From Affordable to Luxury [Price Guide]



The price of a men's skeleton watch ranges dramatically - from a \$1,250 Hamilton Jazzmaster to a jaw-dropping \$400,000 F.P. Journe Vagabondage III. This makes skeleton watches one of the most diverse categories when it comes to pricing.

Skeleton watches have surged in popularity lately. Most major brands now include at least one skeleton model in their lineup. The intricate Aventi Sapphire Skull Ghost requires 500 hours to complete, while the more budget-friendly Tissot Chemin des Tourelles Squelette costs \$2,200. These timepieces reveal their movement's beautiful inner workings through transparent or partially cut-away dials.

Let's take a closer look at skeleton watches at every price point. You'll discover what the market offers - from affordable options to ultra-luxury pieces that cost as much as a house.

## Affordable Skeleton Watches Under \$500

You don't need deep pockets to own a skeleton watch. The market has some amazing affordable options that show off their mechanical movements for less than \$500.

Bulova's Maquina Skeleton is a standout choice with its unique skull-shaped dial cutout that shows the Miyota 8N26 automatic movement. This timepiece really shines with its 100m water resistance - a rare feature in skeleton designs. At just \$165, this PVD steel watch blends modern style with everyday durability [\[1\]](#).

Fossil has created some eye-catching skeleton watches for men at great prices. Their Everett Automatic Smoke Stainless Steel Watch costs around \$75 and borrows design elements from the Royal Oak without the hefty price tag [\[2\]](#). The Townsman Automatic line ranges from \$66 to \$75, giving you classic skeleton looks with reliable movements [\[3\]](#).

Swatch brings something special to the table. Their Sistem51 collection features a groundbreaking automatic movement that uses just 51 parts connected to a single central screw. The Sistem Through Again costs about \$69 and gives great value, even though you can't service the movement [\[2\]](#). Looking for something different? Swatch's Clearly Striped Black quartz skeleton watch comes with a see-through case and vibrant hands for only \$26 [\[2\]](#).

CIGA Design makes modern skeleton watches affordable. Their Series Z Edge brings Richard Mille-inspired looks at around \$77, with options in steel, titanium, and DLC [\[4\]](#).

The market has plenty of other great choices. Orient's Classic "open heart" models run about \$112 [\[2\]](#), while Seiko 5 SKX Series watches with see-through dials cost \$93 [\[2\]](#). Stürhling's Special Reserve 3921 adds dual time and moonphase features for roughly \$135 [\[2\]](#).

The Islander Baiting Hollow Steel Skeleton is perfect for dive watch fans. It combines function with a clean monochrome look and jubilee-style bracelet at \$91 [\[2\]](#). These watches show that you can enjoy fascinating timepieces without spending a fortune.

## Mid-Range Skeleton Watches (\$500-\$5,000)

The mid-range segment is a great way to get serious horological value. You'll find beautifully finished skeleton timepieces that won't require a second mortgage. These watches blend Swiss craftsmanship with captivating open-worked designs.

The **Hamilton Jazzmaster Skeleton** shows off classical skeleton styling through two large cutout areas on the top and bottom dial halves. This 40mm dress watch costs around PKR 347,102 (\$1,250) and runs for an impressive 80 hours thanks to its ETA C07.111-based H-10 movement [\[5\]](#). Its versatile size makes it perfect for daily office wear, and it will keep ticking even after a weekend off.

**Tissot's Chemin des Tourelles Squelette** brings another fantastic value. The 42mm timepiece comes in stainless steel or gold PVD cases with a wide sapphire crystal that shows off the manual-winding ETA 6497 movement. Prices start at PKR 513,711 (\$1,850) [\[6\]](#) and go up to PKR 610,899 (\$2,200) [\[5\]](#), making Swiss skeleton craftsmanship available to more people.

**Raymond Weil's Freelancer Bronze Skeleton** takes things up a notch. This 42.5mm watch costs PKR 816,384 (\$2,940) [\[5\]](#) and strips away bridges and plates to show almost the entire gear train—you can even see the mainspring inside the barrel. The balance assembly at 6 o'clock adds visual interest, while the Swiss Sellita SW255 automatic movement keeps reliable time.

The **Oris ProPilot X** stands out with its unique design at PKR 2,110,381 (\$7,600) [\[5\]](#). This titanium watch displays a nonlinear 10-day power reserve through the massive mainspring that's visible in the top half of the in-house Caliber 115 movement.

You'll find more great choices in the **Oris Artelier Skeleton** models with Sellita-based movements at €1,600-1,750 [\[7\]](#), and the **Maurice Lacroix Aikon Skeleton** at PKR 888,581 (\$3,200) [\[8\]](#), which packs beautiful finishing into a compact 39mm case.

This price range gives you better movement decoration, improved water resistance, and premium materials. These transparent timepieces have evolved from simple novelties into genuine luxury statement pieces.

## Luxury Skeleton Timepieces (\$5,000+)

Skeleton watchmaking reaches its peak when budgets go beyond \$5,000. Master craftsmen turn these timepieces into wearable mechanical art at this level.

**Audemars Piguet** excels at creating skeleton watches. Their iconic Royal Oak Double Balance Wheel Openworked is a technical masterpiece that uses an innovative dual balance wheel system to substantially improve precision. The 41mm stainless steel model costs around PKR 25,380,109 (\$91,400) [\[9\]](#). It features the Caliber 3132 movement with hand-finished bridges that display polished bevels and vertical brushing. The Royal Oak collection also includes this stunning openworked design in 18-carat pink, white, or yellow gold options [\[10\]](#).

**Patek Philippe** shows traditional skeleton artistry through their Calatrava Squelette 5180/1R. This 39mm rose gold masterpiece costs approximately PKR 62,478,386 (\$225,000) [\[9\]](#) and features the ultra-thin automatic caliber 240 SQU that measures just 2.53mm thick. Each piece needs over 130 hours of hand-engraving work [\[9\]](#). The craftsmen meticulously carve intricate floral patterns into the 18k rose gold bridges and plates. The official retail price begins at \$122,900 [\[11\]](#).

**Vacheron Constantin's** Traditionnelle Openworked costs around PKR 61,089,978 (\$220,000) [\[9\]](#) and demonstrates the finest skeletal finishing. The artisans meticulously hand-finish every component with straight graining, black polishing, and hand-beveled edges. Their Overseas Perpetual Calendar Ultra Thin Skeleton in 18k white or rose gold (PKR 36,098,623) [\[12\]](#) provides remarkable value compared to its competitors.

**Piaget** adds to the luxury segment with ultra-thin skeleton watches that feature the remarkable 2.4mm-thin skeletonized self-winding 1200S movement [\[13\]](#). Their Polo Skeleton collection comes in titanium, steel, and precious metal options starting at PKR 7,913,928 (\$28,500) [\[12\]](#).

Of course, these timepieces are more than luxurious accessories—they could be investments too. Skeleton watches from prestigious manufacturers that are managed to keep in good condition often retain or increase their value [\[9\]](#), especially when you have limited editions or pieces with unique complications.

## Conclusion

Skeleton watches showcase remarkable horological craftsmanship and are a great way to get something special at any price point. A \$165 Bulova Maquina or a \$225,000 Patek Philippe Calatrava Squelette represents opposite ends of the spectrum, yet each timepiece reveals its unique character through exposed movements and artistic finishing.

These watches demonstrate how mechanical beauty shines at every price level. Affordable brands like Fossil and Swatch prove that skeleton esthetics can be accessible to everyone. Mid-range pieces from Hamilton and Tissot deliver Swiss quality without breaking the bank. Of course, ultra-luxury models from Audemars Piguet and Vacheron Constantin exemplify the pinnacle of skeleton artistry and often become valuable investments.

Your specific needs and budget should guide your choice of a skeleton watch. A well-chosen piece tells more than just time - it creates conversations and deepens appreciation for mechanical watchmaking's lasting appeal. Few other watch styles allow us to admire the intricate dance of gears and springs that power these captivating timepieces.

## References

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