

Defender – Research

2023 Land Rover Defender

Body style: Sport Utility Vehicle

Acceleration 0-62 mph: 5.2 to 8.3 seconds

Cargo volume: 176 to 499 L, 1,263 to 2,291 L with seat area

Dimensions: 4,323-5,098 mm L x 1,996 mm W x 1,967-1,974 mm H

Engine cylinder configuration: Straight engine, V engine

Number of doors: 3, 5

What makes the Defender so well-liked?

A Fantastic Off-Roader

The Defender's foundation is the first factor in its superior off-road performance. This car has extraordinarily good wheel articulation thanks to the coil-sprung suspension, solid front and rear axles, and suspension geometry installed by Land Rover.

Production of the Land Rover Defender has actually been ongoing since 1948. There are also not many locations it hasn't travelled to in its over seven decades of existence. It's a good moment to reflect on the amazingness of the car that helped establish Land Rover as a brand with these 9 facts about the Defender that you probably didn't know.

1. The Defender name has only existed since 1990

While it is true that the Defender has been around since World War II ended, it wasn't given that name officially until Land Rover built the Discovery and decided to avoid confusion by calling the venerable 4x4 the "Defender". It was formerly referred to as the Land Rover Series I, II, and III.

2. The very first prototype had a center-mounted steering wheel

The Land Rover was designed as an agricultural and industrial vehicle with no need for passengers, drawing inspiration from the Willys Jeep. Nevertheless, it developed the middle driver concept decades before the Ferrari Tre Posti and McLaren F1.

3. All Defenders are made with aluminum skin, thanks to post-WWII steel supply shortages

Steel had to be rationed in the UK after World War II as the nation recovered. Because aluminium was actually the less expensive choice, it was chosen. Aluminium is now, of course, more expensive than steel and is favoured in production due to its lightweight characteristics.

4. It's the Queen's vehicle of choice when she's not in a limo

Let's see how the Popemobile does on an off-road trail.

5. Not only does she drive one, she once used one to make a profound political statement

She proposed a tour of Her Majesty's Scottish estate at Balmoral when then-Saudi Prince (later King) Abdullah paid an official visit there despite the fact that women aren't permitted to drive in Saudi Arabia. She immediately climbed into the driver's seat and sped down trails at such a rate that Abdullah begged her to calm down (via his interpreter, no less).

6. You could order one as a monster truck

Who cares? Technically, this vehicle is known as the Forest Rover and was created for, well, forestry work. It's an old, factory-built monster truck that is unquestionably cooler than most modern 4x4s.

7. Or you could just get one with treads

The Cuthbertson option you can see here was created to make it easier for you to navigate through marshy areas without getting bogged. Whatever the case, this is evidence that Land Rover produced some of the most stylish and important cars available in the 1960s.

8. The early station wagon models were built by the same company that did Rolls-Royce's bodies

Land Rover sought out Tickford, a coachbuilder well-known for its work with Rolls-Royce (among others) because not everyone desired a harsh, utilitarian 4x4. Wooden additional passenger rooms were constructed by Tickford, who also added luxuries like heaters and leather seats.

9. After the Tickford, the 12-seat, 109-inch "Station Wagon" was actually a brilliant tax dodge

The largest Series/Defenders properly qualified as a minibus under British legislation. This meant that you could purchase it tax-free and that you could even utilise the bus lanes to avoid London's notorious gridlock.

Thrillist. (n.d.). *9 Things You Didn't Know About The Land Rover Defender*. [online] Available at: <https://www.thrillist.com/cars/9-things-you-didn-t-know-about-the-land-rover-defender-facts-and-history-of-the-iconic-british-4x4> [Accessed 19 Apr. 2023].

Landrover.co.uk. (2019). *The New Land Rover Defender - Land Rover UK*. [online] Available at: <https://www.landrover.co.uk/vehicles/defender/index.html>.