



DEFENDER DEFENDER TIMELINE



ABOVE & BEYOND

1947

Christened 'Land Rover' the initial 'mule' prototype features a central driving position. By September, board approves 'the all-purpose vehicle on the lines of the Willys-Overland post-war Jeep'.

1948

Rover introduced the first Land Rover Station Wagon in December 1948, however it was expensive due to attracting purchase tax. Only 641 were built mainly for export.

1949

Within a year, production totals 8,000 and the British Army orders its first trial batch of Land Rovers.

1950

Facelift incorporating 7in exposed headlamps introduced in May, gives the Land Rover a 'face' it would keep until February 1969.

1952

Engine enlarged to 1997cc with 52bhp.

1954

Long wheelbase model introduced (107in) and short wheelbase model is increased to 86in.

1958

Series II launched. Recognisable by deep side sills and rounded shoulders in the side panels. The petrol was also enlarged to a 'two-and-a-quarter' litre engine.

1961

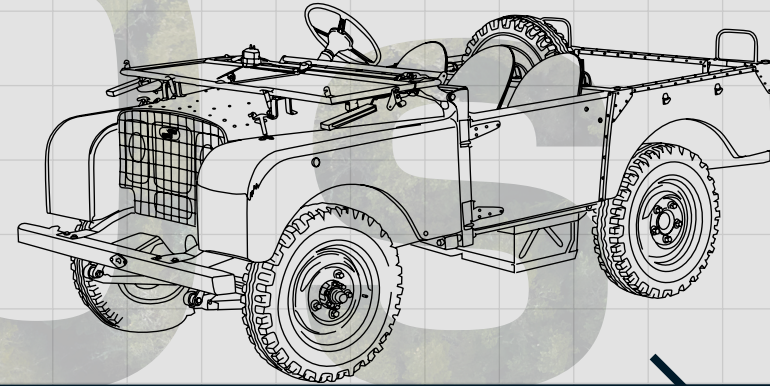
Series IIA launched with larger 62bhp 2286cc diesel.

1966

500,000th vehicle produced.

1948

The Land Rover is launched at the Amsterdam Motor Show on 30 April. Later known as the 'Series I' it has an 80in wheelbase, 50bhp 1595cc petrol engine from the Rover P3, pick-up body and priced £450.



1951

Freewheel 4x4 system replaced by selectable two- or four-wheel drive.

1953

The first 86in custom-built State Review Land Rover enters servicewith the Royal family.

1957

Wheelbases increased to 88in and 109in with the launch of the optional 52bhp 2052cc diesel engine.

1962

Series IIA Forward Control model launched with four-cylinder diesel and six-cylinder petrol. Heavy duty model with 30cwt (3360lb) payload on 109in chassis. Most fitted with dropside bodywork. Replaced in 1966 by SIIB 110in Forward Control with lower headlights, wider track and front anti-roll bar – it runs until 1972.

1969

Headlamps are moved outboard onto the front wings, due to foreign market safety legislation.

1993

Land Rover North America follows up the success of the launch of the Defender 110 with the Defender 90 soft top.

1992

Land Rover North America is founded in the summer with a limited edition of 500 Defender 110 vehicles powered by a fuel-injected 3947cc V8 engine. It is the first Land Rover to sell here since the SIII in 1974. A 3947cc 182bhp V8 is available from 1992, and the twin-carburettor 134bhp 3.5-litre V8 option ceases in 1995.

1990

Ninety and One-Ten range is renamed Defender 90, 110 and 130. Launched with 107bhp 2495cc turbodiesel 200Tdi, the unit is superseded in 1994 by the 111bhp 300Tdi.

1985

Current 2286cc petrol replaced by 2495cc type.

1983

SIII 109in replaced by new One-Ten model (110in wheelbase) in March. Leaf springs replaced by coils (influenced by the Range Rover). Four-cylinder engines with all-synchromesh five-speed gearbox. Identifiable by full-width black plastic grille and wheelarch lips fitted to house wider track suspension.

1982

The County Station Wagon, featuring plusher trim, is launched in April along with the High Capacity Pick-up.

1979

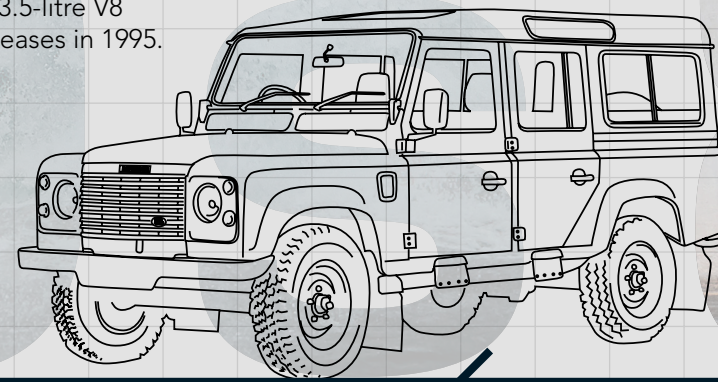
3528cc V8 engine option introduced to 109in with permanent four-wheel drive via a central differential lock. To accommodate the V8, the Land Rover loses its inset nose.

1971

Land Rover Series III launched in October featuring plastic grille, flatter door hinges and full-width dashboard with optional fresh-air heater. 750,000th Land Rover produced.

1998

In December, the 122bhp five-cylinder Td5 engine becomes the Defender's standard engine.

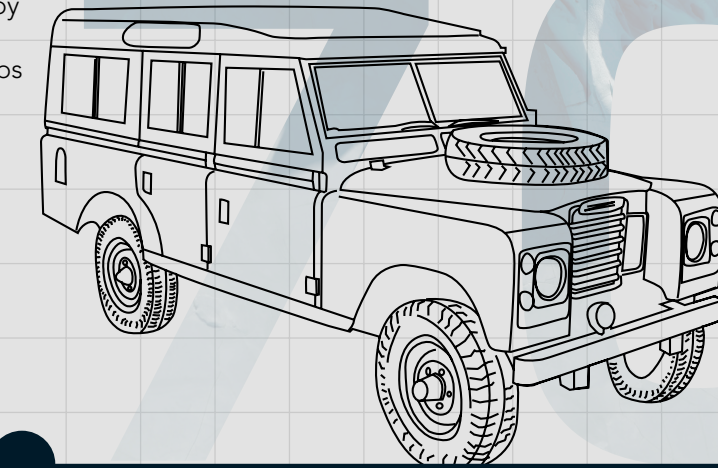


1986

New 85bhp 2495cc turbo-diesel engine launched.

1984

Coil-sprung Ninety (wheelbase closer to 93in) launched with four-cylinder engines. In March 1985, the V8 becomes available.

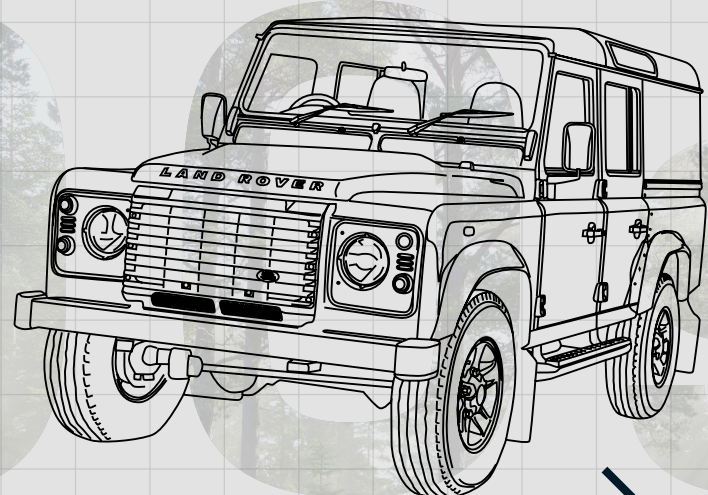


1976

1,000,000th Land Rover built.

2007

Major Defender evolution includes the replacement of the Td5 with the four-cylinder Puma/DuraTorq four-cylinder turbodiesel, the addition of a six-speed gearbox, a more modern dashboard and safer forward-facing rear seats in the Station Wagon. New Utility body becomes available.



2012

New smaller 2.2-litre diesel engine replaces previous 2.4-litre unit. Power levels remain with Euro V compliant emissions.

2013

LXV Special Edition celebrates 65 years of Land Rover. Model is painted Santorini Black with Corris Grey roof, grille and headlamp surrounds. Inside, the LXV has full leather seats with contrasting orange piping and 'LXV' (Roman numerals for 65) embossed front headrests.

2015

Built to a unique specification, the 2,000,000th Series Land Rover and Defender to come off the Solihull line is sold at a charity auction by Bonhams, for a record £400,000.

2015

The Year of the Defender is celebrated by a number of events, including a 1km-wide sand drawing of the original Land Rover shape on the beach at Red Wharf Bay in Anglesey, the launch of three new Limited Edition Defenders and the recreation of the Series I production line at Solihull.

2016

On 29 January and after 68 years of continuous production, the last of the current Land Rover Defenders rolls off the famous production line in Solihull. The final car, a 90 Heritage Soft Top, wears the registration 'H166 HUE' – the perfect tribute to the first pre-production Series Land Rover, which was nicknamed Huey.

2019

On 10 September, the New Land Rover Defender makes its world debut at the Frankfurt Motor Show. Redesigned for the digital age, it features a stunning new design and many innovative technologies, all designed to make this the toughest and most capable Land Rover ever built.

