

CLASSIC DRIVER

Range Rover Classic 3.5: From Bond St to the jungles of Borneo

Lead

This is the original. Like a pair of Levi 501s, Ray-Ban Wayfarers and a Rolex Explorer, the original 1970 Range Rover has become more than a mere consumer product. It is a legend and a placeholder in the fabric of modern life...

With coil springs, disc brakes and a powerful (for the day) 3.5-litre V8, the Range Rover that made its debut over 40 years ago was quite a step forward for Land Rover. Up until then, the British company was known for its hardy but basic off-roaders much beloved by users worldwide, ranging from sheep farmers in New Zealand to Her Majesty the Queen.

The new car was inspired by upmarket American utility 4x4s, and was intended to be the sort of machine equally suited to the varied tasks of shopping in Mayfair, towing a horsebox to a three-day event, or transporting the family (plus nanny) on the annual skiing holiday. It could also plug mud with the best of them on the Camel Trophy.

It was, and still is, highly accomplished in any of the above roles. Early 'Rangies' are now highly sought-after – as practical and stylish as ever.

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Photos: LandyPoint GmbH

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