

Cliff Unofficial L322 Full Fat Range Rover Buyers Guide: A Comprehensive Overview



Cliff's Unofficial L322 'Full Fat' Range Rover Buyers Guide: From the Publisher of OffRoadRover.com

by Dino Buzzati

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The L322 Range Rover, also known as the "Full Fat Range Rover," is the third generation of the iconic luxury SUV from Land Rover. Introduced in 2002, the L322 was a major departure from its predecessors, featuring a more modern and aerodynamic design, a more luxurious interior, and a host of new features and technologies.

The L322 was a critical and commercial success, and it remains one of the most popular luxury SUVs on the market today. However, as with any used car, there are some things to keep in mind before buying an L322.

In this comprehensive buyers guide, we will cover everything you need to know about the L322 Full Fat Range Rover, including its history, specifications, features, reliability, common problems, and buying advice.

History

The L322 Range Rover was developed under the codename "Enigma" and was intended to replace the aging L320 Range Rover. The L322 was designed to be more modern and luxurious than its predecessor, while still retaining the off-road capability that Range Rovers are known for.

The L322 was unveiled at the 2002 Paris Motor Show and went on sale in early 2003. It was initially available in two trim levels: SE and HSE. A third trim level, the Autobiography, was added in 2006.

The L322 received a facelift in 2009, which included a revised front grille, new headlights and taillights, and a new interior. The facelift model also introduced a new 5.0-liter V8 engine.

The L322 was discontinued in 2012 and was replaced by the fourth-generation Range Rover, the L405.

Specifications

The L322 Range Rover was available with a variety of engine options, including:

- 4.4-liter V8
- 4.2-liter V8
- 5.0-liter V8

- 3.6-liter V8
- 4.4-liter SDV8

The L322 was also available with a choice of two transmissions: a six-speed automatic and a six-speed manual.

The L322 had a curb weight of approximately 5,500 pounds and a towing capacity of 7,700 pounds.

Features

The L322 Range Rover was available with a wide range of features, including:

- Leather upholstery
- Heated and cooled seats
- Satellite navigation
- Rear-seat entertainment system
- Panoramic sunroof
- Off-road suspension
- Hill descent control
- Terrain Response system

Reliability

The L322 Range Rover has a mixed reputation for reliability. Some owners have reported experiencing few problems, while others have had to deal with a variety of issues, including:

- Engine problems
- Transmission problems
- Suspension problems
- Electrical problems

It is important to note that these problems are not necessarily common, and many L322 owners have had positive experiences with the vehicle.

However, it is important to be aware of these potential issues before buying an L322.

Common Problems

Some of the most common problems reported by L322 Range Rover owners include:

- **Engine problems:** The L322's V8 engines are known to be prone to a variety of problems, including head gasket failures, timing chain failures, and piston ring failures. These problems can be expensive to repair, so it is important to have the engine inspected by a qualified mechanic before buying an L322.
- **Transmission problems:** The L322's six-speed automatic transmission is also known to be problematic. Common problems include slipping gears, delayed shifts, and complete failure. If you are considering buying an L322, it is important to have the transmission inspected by a qualified mechanic.
- **Suspension problems:** The L322's suspension is complex and can be expensive to repair. Common problems include worn bushings,

leaking shocks, and broken springs. If you are considering buying an L322, it is important to have the suspension inspected by a qualified mechanic.

- **Electrical problems:** The L322's electrical system is complex and can be prone to a variety of problems. Common problems include battery drain, alternator failure, and electrical shorts. If you are considering buying an L322, it is important to have the electrical system inspected by a qualified mechanic.

Buying Advice

If you are considering buying an L322 Range Rover, there are a few things you should keep in mind:

- **Do your research:** Before you buy an L322, it is important to do your research and learn as much as you can about the vehicle. This includes reading reviews, talking to other owners, and having the vehicle inspected by a qualified mechanic.
- **Set a budget:** L322s can be expensive to buy and maintain, so it is important to set a budget before you start shopping. Be sure to factor in the cost of insurance, repairs, and maintenance.
- **Find a reputable seller:** When you are buying an L322, it is important to find a reputable seller. Avoid buying from private sellers or used car dealerships that do not have a good reputation.
- **Get a pre-purchase inspection:** Before you buy an L322, it is important to have the vehicle inspected by a qualified mechanic. This will help you identify any potential problems and avoid buying a vehicle that has hidden issues.

- **Be prepared for repairs:** Even if you buy a well-maintained L322, you should be prepared for the possibility of repairs. L322s are complex vehicles and can be expensive to repair.

The L322 Range Rover is a capable and luxurious SUV that offers a unique blend of on-road and off-road performance. However, it is important to be aware of the potential problems that can come with owning an L322. By ng your research, setting a budget, finding a reputable seller, getting a pre-purchase inspection, and being prepared for repairs, you can increase your chances of buying a reliable and enjoyable L322



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