

Ready to play

BY JOE SAGE

A trend has emerged wherein the Sport name—rather than signaling a trim level with racing stripes, spoiler, bigger engine and sportier suspension—is used by several makers for a new, smaller vehicle with a familiar name. Range Rover and Range Rover Sport have done a version of this for awhile, though the Sport does offer a supercharged engine and other performance edges.

The Land Rover Discovery Sport introduced a couple of years ago (with styling evocative of the Range Rover Evoque) joined the lineup in lieu of the Land Rover LR2. The five- or seven-seat Land Rover Discovery new this year (see our May/June issue) replaces the LR4, completing a regrouping of the family into Range Rover and Discovery sub-brands (note hood badging in the manner of Range Rover). America's LR4 was already a Discovery in the rest of the world; this unifies things globally.

Built on the same platform as Range Rover and Range Rover Sport, the new Discovery has clearly spent a lot of development time in the wind tunnel, smoothed out from stem to stern. The roof retains only a hint of its former stepped-up nature, while a rakish C-pillar (with third-row side glass shortened) adds to the new flow. The new Discovery moves to

the aluminum construction of Range Rover (and Jaguar), shedding over 1000 pounds. This seven-seater is big—about two inches wider than a Ford F-150, with a turning circle about the same as a Toyota Tacoma Double Cab.

We drive in a Pacific Northwest on-road/off-road awards event each spring, Mudfest, where Discovery Sport won the Premium Compact Utility trophy in 2015. This year, this big new Discovery won the Extreme Capability Vehicle class and also top crown as Outdoor Activity Vehicle of the Year.

In this event's toughest stages, we've learned to appreciate the extensive electronic handling features Land Rover includes in their generally higher price of entry—meaningful and useful, implemented by a team clearly enthused by their brand's heritage. You will benefit from spending more time than average learning these features. Ditto its main screen and its binnacle display (which shows more vitals than the big screen). One feature highlight: audio has fully four different flavors, including standard stereo, Meridian, Dolby and DTS.

The new Land Rover Discovery is high equipped and ready to play. Price of entry is reasonable for such a capable premium vehicle. Add-ons take it to another level but are hard to resist, so if you're ready to shop for yours, also be ready to play. ■



SPECIFICATIONS

SEATING CAPACITY	.....(5- or) 7-passenger
ENGINE	.....3.0L quad-cam supercharged 6-cyl
DRIVETRAIN	.....4WD
HP/TORQUE	.....340 hp / 332 lb-ft
TRANSMISSION	.....ZF 8-spd automatic
TRANSFER CASE	.....2-spd, active lock center diff
SUSPENSION	.....F: SLA, twin lower links, electronic air suspension, passive dampers, passive anti-roll bar; R: integral link, electronic air suspension, passive dampers/anti-roll bar
STEERING	.....speed-prop elec pwr rack & pinion
BRAKES	.....F: 14.17" vent / R: 13.78" vent discs
WHEELS (STANDARD)	.....20-in 10-split-spoke
LENGTH / WHEELBASE	.....195.67 / 115.08 in
TURNING CIRCLE	.....40.4 ft
GRND CLEAR	.....(stand) 8.7 in / (air) 11.1 in
APPR/BRKVR/DEPART	.....(air) 29.5 / 28 / 25.5°
WEIGHT / TOW CAPACITY	.....4751 / 8201 lb
HEADROOM (1/2/3)	.....39.41 / 39.02 / 37.87 in
LEGROOM (1/2/3)	.....39.07 / 37.56 / 33.50 in
LUGGAGE CAPACITY (1/2/3)	.....82.7 / 45 / (tbd) cu.ft
FUEL CAPACITY	.....23.5 gal
MPG	.....16/21/18 (city/hwy/comb)

BASE PRICE \$63,950

INCLUDES: Power gesture tailgate w power inner tailgate, power sliding panoramic sunroof w power blind, rear privacy glass w infrared reflective windshield, LED auto headlights, fog lights, rain sense wipers, heated washers, power fold mirrors w approach lights, 16-way power driver & front passenger seats w memory, third row seats, power tilt/tele heated wheel, premium carpet floor mats, Windsor leather seats, extended leather trim, 3-zone climate, ambient interior lighting, keyless entry/start, Bluetooth/USB, InControl remote, front/rear park aids, 825w Meridian audio, sat/HD radio, touchscreen interface w/nav, rear camera, cruise, DSC, ABS, CBC, EBD, GAC, HDC, RSC, HLA, emergency brake assist, perimeter alarm w engine immobilizer.....incl

DRIVE PRO PACKAGE: Adap cruise w queue assist & intelligent emerg braking, intelligent speed limiter, traffic sign recog, lane keep assist, blind spot assist, reverse traffic detect, driver condition monitor...2350

DYNAMIC PACKAGE: Dynamic body kit, ebony headliner, sport pedals, Narvik Black grille, side cladding, tailgate, appliqué, gloss black Discovery script & mirror caps, 22-in wheel spats, chrome paddle shifters, ebony floor mats w contrast stitching, upper IP & door inserts in titanium mesh trim finish, Windsor leather sport wheel & door top roll, dark brushed aluminum center console2000

CAPABILITY PLUS PACKAGE: Terrain Response 2, all-terrain progress control, active rear locking diff, 16-way memory seats w/ Windsor leather.....1250

VISION ASSIST PACKAGE: LED headlights w LED signature, auto high beam assist, auto-dim exterior mirrors, surround camera1000

FULL SIZE SPARE + USB charge points 2nd row .440

EBONY HEADLINER350

LOADSPACE PARTITION NET100

ROVER® TOW PACKAGE650

21" 5-SPLIT-SPOKE SATIN GREY WHEELS1700

360-DEGREE PARKING AID275

FRONT CONSOLE COOLER350

HEADS-UP DISPLAY950

ROOF RAILS / BLACK400

LOADSPACE COVER150

AUTON EMERG BRAKING125

ACTIVITY KEY400

BLACK CONTRAST ROOF650

PARK ASSIST800

REAR ENTERTAINMENT2270

SILICON SILVER PAINT1495

HEADLINER CREDIT(350)

DESTINATION CHARGE995

TOTAL **\$82,300**