

# T8 is not a V8, but it is fast!

BY JOE SAGE

The Volvo XC90 T8 overall is a lot like its drivetrain: either very complex or very simple, depending how you look at it. This is the second generation of XC90, introduced in 2015 and receiving endless awards since its inception.

There are T5, T6 and T8 powertrains, the first with a 2.0L 4-cylinder, the next adding both supercharging and turbocharging, and the T8 we're driving here adding a complex battery electric plug-in hybrid system. The names no longer match cylinder counts, but traditions and goals carry on, with the T8 still easily delivering the power of a V8.

XC90 base prices run from a T5 at \$48,350 (the only front-driver) to T6 Inscription at \$62,600. An upper-midpriced R-Design emphasizes sporty style versus Inscription's luxury leanings. The \$73,300 Inscription adds items listed at right, including premium audio and wheels, though you'll see ours added another \$4000 to upgrade both of those again (surprising when already in the top end trim).

The Volvo XC90 comes as a seven- or pricier new six-seater (ours was seven). Legroom is generous up front, average in the other rows, while headroom, thanks to a mildly curvaceous yet generally boxy form, is about the same front to back.

The interior has a cut-crystal-style shift knob, knurled metal controls and other points of elegance—defining touches, though

overall the interior is simply Scandinavian clean and uncluttered. The older Volvo center stack—with dozens of buttons so tiny we joked you'd need a knitting needle to operate them—is replaced by a clean screen, simple at a glance, but still needing multiple layers to accomplish many tasks. New this year is tailored wool upholstery, as on our sample—a surprise, as luxury has long meant leather, but a neat and refreshing alternative (there are still five leathers), comfortable, stylish, still decidedly high-end in look and feel.

Speaking of surprises, others on the road didn't seem to expect the performance delivered by 400 horses and 472 lb-ft in this streamlined big box—smooth and always on tap, with its complex gasoline-electric system all but invisible to the driver. (We could occasionally feel a power change, say while parked but running, about like a nerf ball hitting us from behind.) Steering (for which no specification is given) is—mostly—among the smoothest and most accurate we've driven lately.

An annoyance was the electronic shifter, requiring two distinct yanks to get from Park to N to R or D, and from D or R to the other—four yanks to back out of a space and go, points off as a robber's getaway car despite all that smooth power.

While much of Volvo has migrated to China, the XC90 T8 for the US is still built in Sweden. ■

## SPECIFICATIONS

<b>FINAL ASSEMBLY PLANT</b> .....	Gothenburg, Sweden
<b>ENGINE</b> .....	2.0L supercharged & turbocharged 4-cyl
<b>ELECTRIC MOTOR</b> .....	87-hp 7000-rpm
<b>BATTERY</b> .....	11.6 kWh high-voltage (270-400V)
<b>HP/TORQUE</b> .....	combined 400 hp / 472 lb-ft
<b>DRIVETRAIN</b> .....	E-AWD
<b>TRANSMISSION</b> .....	AW TG-81SD 8-spd auto
<b>0-TO-60</b> .....	5.3 sec
<b>TOP SPEED</b> .....	140 mph (elec-only 78 mph)
<b>SUSPENSION</b> .....	optional 4-corner air suspension
<b>STEERING</b> .....	na
<b>BRAKES</b> .....	F: 14.4x1.2; R: 13.4x0.8 disc
<b>WHEELS / TIRES</b> .....	opt 21" 8-multi-spoke wheels
<b>LENGTH / WHEELBASE</b> .....	195.0 / 117.5 in
<b>TURNING CIRCLE</b> .....	41.0 ft
<b>GROUND CLEARANCE</b> .....	at curb weight 8.8
	.....w 2 people 8.3 in / w opt air suspension 9.9 in
<b>APPRCH / BRKVR / DEPART</b> .....	21.4 / 21.3 / 23.3°
<b>WADING DEPTH</b> .....	17.7 in
<b>HEADROOM (F2/3)</b> .....	39.3 / 39.3 / 36.3 in
<b>LEGROOM (F2/3)</b> .....	40.9 / 37.0 / 31.9 in
<b>CARGO CAPACITY</b> .....	41.8 / 85.7 cu.ft
<b>WEIGHT</b> .....	4993 lb
<b>TOW CAPACITY</b> .....	5000 lb
<b>FUEL CAPACITY</b> .....	18.5 gal
<b>MPG</b> .....	55 MPGe / 26/28/27 (city/hwy/comb)

### BASE PRICE: T8 Inscription ..... \$73,300

**INSCRIPTION INCL:** Exterior elements, tailored dash, linear walnut wood inlays, power front seat cushion extensions, 600W Harman Kardon 14-sprk premium audio, high-level interior illumination, 20" Inscription wheels w all-season tires, front park assist.

**ADVANCED PKG:** Active bending full LED headlights w high-pressure cleaning, 360° surroundview camera, graphical heads-up display.....2450

<b>HEATED STEERING WHEEL &amp; REAR SEATS</b> .....	750
<b>CRYSTAL WHITE METALLIC PAINT</b> .....	645
<b>INTEGRATED CENTER BOOSTER CUSHION</b> .....	300
<b>CHARCOAL HEADLINER</b> .....	200
<b>BOWERS &amp; WILKINS PREMIUM AUDIO</b> .....	3200
<b>4-CORNER AIR SUSPENSION</b> .....	1800
<b>21" 8-MULTI-SPOKE WHEELS</b> .....	800
<b>DESTINATION CHARGE</b> .....	995

### TOTAL ..... \$84,440

#### VOLVO XC90 MODELS:

XC90 Momentum.....	\$48,350
XC90 R-Design.....	56,100
XC90 Inscription.....	62,600

