

The Legendary Nissan Patrol – a Never Ending Story

The story of Nissan Patrol begins in 1951, when post-war car production in Japan had only restarted, and the nation needed reliable off-road performance from a utility vehicle.

Very early in its history the original Patrol started to demonstrate its unique capabilities. It became the first car to climb Japan's revered Mount Fuji, a 2500-meter ascent that helped its status to grow. Soon Patrol's rugged 4x4 "Go Anywhere" capabilities became a favorite of both professional and recreational drivers, both in Japan and abroad. The legend of Patrol was born.

In the nearly 70 years since, some 1.9 million Patrols* have been produced over six generations and multiple versions, driving on- and off-road in more than 150 countries and creating a global heritage for durability that defines authentic performance in the world's toughest conditions. In some ways, Patrol has never stopped climbing Mt. Fuji in its quest for new feats.

Dubbed "The Hero of All Terrain," Patrol has become an iconic off-road vehicle, as exports from Japan to Asia, Australia, North and South America, India, Europe and the Middle East, created legions of owners and fans.

The 60 Series, the public-oriented second-generation, took on every type of harsh environment imaginable. A short-wheelbase G60 Patrol, driven by an Australian explorer family across hundreds of kilometers and 1,100 sand dunes in 12 days, was the first to cross the nation's grueling Simpson Desert from the Northern Territory to Queensland in 1962. Patrol's legendary accomplishments, though, were only beginning.

The motorsport community adopted Patrol, which became a consistent endurance rally competitor for decades. Known for its bright colors, the Nissan Patrol Fanta Limon became the first diesel vehicle to ever finish the Paris-Dakar in the Top 10 in 1987. Three decades later the Top 10 finisher Patrol Fanta Limon was fully restored by Nissan Technical Centre Europe, later returning to the Sahara to take on the sand dunes once again. In 2000, Patrol captured its first Australian Outback Challenge, and by mid-decade often filled the rally's winning podium.

Beyond its recreational and competitive use, Patrol has been employed extensively by defense, humanitarian and rescue forces, going to regions and locales where off-road conditions are most extreme. Constantly refining its performance capability, Patrol became the reliable partner for those across the globe helping people in harm's way.

In 2007, extended-range Patrols supported an epic 24,000-kilometer journey for the documentary *Long Way Down*, led by actor Ewan McGregor and Charlie Boorman from Scotland to South Africa. Patrol's durability and Go Anywhere spirit literally was conquering the globe from north to south.

The current generation Patrol launched in 2010 further pushed the performance envelope, adding greater driving options and technological sophistication to drive on sand, rock, snow or regular roads with greater luxury and four-wheel independent suspension.

Patrol in the Middle East in Brief

Looking at the Middle East, the first Patrol arrived in Kuwait in 1957, and has contributed greatly to the Nissan brand for its unique durability, quality and reliability. Over the decades, Patrol's many owners have included Gulf royalty and celebrities, who have also valued its all-terrain domination and premium driving experience.

The Patrol as a family heirloom is a reality for many families from this region, and that is why so many examples from previous decades remain on the roads, lovingly maintained to this day. As a story of remarkable people and a very special automobile, the continuing narrative of the people of the Gulf and their beloved Patrol is as inspiring as it is unique.

Since 2011 alone, sales of the Patrol in the region have quadrupled, as Patrol is the most feted SUV in the Middle East, garnering more than 26 awards since the latest generation was launched in 2010, including "SUV of the Year." The legendary SUV holds three Guinness World Records, one for the largest synchronised car dance, which featured 180 Patrols (October 2018), another for the fastest ascent of a 100-meter sand dune by car – in a rapid 4.9 seconds (September 2015), and the first for towing the world's heaviest aircraft more than 164 feet (August 2013).

Now comes the new 2020 Nissan Patrol, a vehicle with added premium features and performance that will take the next chapter of the legend's story to even greater heights.

**Sales data includes Nissan Armada*

Nissan Patrol in Middle East - in more details

The story of Nissan Patrol in the Gulf region dates back to the very first iteration of this legendary 4WD, when the first example appeared in Kuwait. It was the start of a love affair between the desert people of the Arabian Peninsula and the Patrol that continues to this day.

In 1957, the first Nissan vehicle entered the Middle East marketplace where right after, the Patrol became central to its offering given the region's undeveloped road infrastructure at this time. Instantly, Patrol struck a chord with people in the region who were hungry for a solid, reliable and affordable mode of personal transport that would expand their horizons yet keep them close to their desert roots. The special relationship between Patrol and the desert people had begun!

In 1959, the second generation, 60-series Patrol was introduced and continued to build on the then well-established reputation of a vehicle that was a benchmark for rugged durability.

This generation Patrol received various updates over the two decades it was in production, with each version endearing it more and more to the ever-growing ranks of devotees in the gulf who recognised its uncommon prowess in desert terrain, and its ability to cope with the region's harsh climate. The special relationship was by now firmly established between people from this region and the Patrol, as vehicles would be handed down from generation to generation, lovingly maintained and effectively treated as part of the family.

The third generation, known 160, arrived in 1980. This was the iteration which saw the addition of features, which would make Patrol more of an option for on-road motorists, as well as keeping the model's off-road fans happy. Long trips across the deserts could be taken in greater comfort and the sight of families of the Gulf in fully laden Patrols with smiling children on the rear seats and luggage on the roof became commonplace.

In 1987, the fourth generation Patrol was announced. This vehicle was a massive success in the Gulf as it was not only a great leap forward in terms of technical sophistication but it featured enhanced levels of comfort which appealed greatly to owners. A rear differential lock, live rear axle and rear disc brakes were among the technical upgrades, and as a package the vehicle hit a sweet spot in the region with its amazing off-road ability and superior levels of comfort.

In 1997 - the fifth generation - Patrol appeared, bringing the vehicle into the modern age of motoring. Buyers in the Gulf now demanded ever greater levels of both comfort and off-road performance,

which Nissan was more than prepared to deliver. The motoring community in the Gulf loved the enhanced styling, greater luxury and increased levels of technical sophistication which allowed them to take the vehicle where others simply would not dare follow. With its heavy-duty suspension, robust wheels and tough tyres the Patrol Safari was and is more than equipped for the dunes. The strong differential, robust transmission and powerful engines have proved themselves time and again in the hands of skilled and demanding drivers.

In 2010, the sixth generation Patrol had its World Premiere in the Gulf region. A breath-taking technological tour de force. It instantly captured the imagination of those who crave cutting edge technology, seductive styling and levels of prestige and comfort previously unseen in this class of vehicle. If ever a vehicle was designed to make a whole new generation of drivers in the Gulf fall in love, with effortless and luxurious desert and on-road driving, this was it. With a choice of 275 hp in a 4.0L V6 engine or up to 400hp in a 5.6L V8 engine, mated to a 7-speed automatic transmission with manual mode or a 6-speed manual - desert driving has never been so much fun and cross country trips have never been completed with such ease or in such a pleasant environment. Since its introduction, this model broke three Guinness records, one by pulling a three ton cargo plane in 2013, one by ascending 100m sand dune in 4.9 secs in 2015, and most recently for the largest synchronized car dance in 2018.

The location of the world premiere of the sixth generation Patrol was certainly a deliberate choice. Patrol devotees, especially in the gulf, are always pushing Nissan for more, and the carmaker in turn is always willing to listen and respond to their demands. That's why the Desert Edition of Patrol was created in collaboration with the Middle East's most famous and influential motorsports personality, Dr Mohammed Ben Sulayem, specifically for owners in the Gulf who like to push their vehicles to the limits in the dunes.

Equally, for those who seek style and performance on the tarmac, Patrol has been given the full NISMO treatment. The NISMO variant ups the engine output to 428hp, thanks to the famed Takumi engineers, who also increase the unit's torque to over 70% of the rev range. Bilstein shock absorbers give improved handling and ride comfort, added styling features include 22" forged alloy wheels and a Zero-Lift aerodynamic body kit.

Patrol was clearly a winner right from the start of its introduction into the Gulf region and it was therefore inevitable that the motorsport community would adopt it as one of their own and use it for competition purposes. And what success it has had in the hands of the region's rally drivers. Indeed, it is fair to say that Patrol dominates the off-road motorsport scene in the Gulf region like no other vehicle, demonstrating a winning combination of blinding speed, supreme reliability and colossal levels of endurance.

So, continuing to conquer the motorsports podium, being a hit with consumers who value both its power and prestige in urban environments, and its unmatched prowess in the desert - what lies ahead for Patrol in the region? It is clear that Patrol is here to stay. The GCC and Nissan Patrol are synonymous with each other, inseparable and always looking to the future together, developing, improving and making life better for everyone.

Indeed, such is the affection in which Patrol is held by the people of the Gulf, known to express their feelings for this incomparable vehicle in poetry, an art form for which the desert people have long been famed. But their affection is by no means illogical, and in poetry they find ways to praise the very features and functionality which have endeared the machine to them and which have allowed Patrol to contribute so greatly to their quality of life. The Patrol as a family heirloom is a reality for many families from this region, and that is why so many examples from previous decades remain on the

roads, lovingly maintained to this day. As a story of remarkable people and a very special automobile, the continuing narrative of the people of the Gulf and their beloved Patrol is as inspiring as it is unique.

With the next Patrol coming, let's look back at its predecessors:

- **(1951-1960)** Patrol's first-generation that launched the "Go Anywhere" legend, using a 7-litre, six-cylinder 85ps engine with 4-speed manual transmission. Available as a utility vehicle or even a fire truck.
- **(1960-1980)** This consumer model earned a reputation as the Japanese off-roader to contend with, as it took on the world's greatest mobility challenges.
- **(1980-1987)** An ultimate performance vehicle with creature comforts, the 160 Patrol became a family-favorite, particularly in desert conditions by adding air-conditioning.
- **(1987-1997)** Coil springs improved riding comfort, while introduction of a five-speed transmission and vacuum-operated differential lock added to driving performance.
- **(1997-2010)** This Patrol became a benchmark for reliability with automatic gearbox, electric windows and mirrors, and chilled icebox. In 2004 a Station Wagon version offered seating for up to ten, while an extra 40-litre fuel tank allowed long-range off-road adventures, with both gas and turbo diesel engines and advanced horsepower.
- **(2010-2019)** The series was launched in Abu Dhabi with a new platform, enhanced interior comfort and luxury, a new 5.6-litre V8 petrol engine, and 7-speed transmission. The series was equipped with world-first Hydraulic Body Motion Control System and the ALL MODE 4x4 system, allowing driver to quickly switch between four different drive modes. Model known as "The Hero of All Terrain."

- ENDS -

1951 – Nissan Patrol 4x4 launches in Japan, off-road series, 4-speed manual, mainly for military and police use, Mt. Fuji climb

1955 - First generation introduced with Nissan 3.7-litre NB engine, first Patrol in GCC (**1956**), Patrol badges added (**1958**) to 4W65/4W66 series, Nissan P engine introduced (**1959**)

1960 – **Second generation** Patrol begun with 4.0-litre six-cylinder P engine, exported to Australia, Russia, South America – “King of the Off-Road”

1962 – Patrol makes first car crossing of Australia’s Simpson Desert

1962 – Indian army uses Patrol variant (Jonga)

1980 – Third generation Patrol launches with gas or diesel engines, manual or automatic (1981) transmissions, turbocharge diesel (1983)

1983 – Patrol becomes first Nissan made in Europe in Barcelona; by **1988** 50% of Spanish SUV market

1987 – Patrol Fanta Limon diesel first ever to finish Top 10 in Paris-Dakar Rally

1987 – Fourth generation Patrol launched, advanced styling, linked rear axle, disc brakes, Safari Roof (**1991**) and coil-spring suspension; Series II introduced (**1992**) with fuel injection, Turbo Engine (**1995**)

1997 – Fifth generation Patrol, with gas and turbo diesel engines, advanced horsepower

2000 – Patrol wins first Australian Outback Challenge, (2005) top three finishers

2010 – Sixth luxury 4x4 introduced, 5.6-litre V8 gas engine, 8-speed engine

2016 - Nissan Patrol 4x4 donated to the Pilansberg National Park's rhino protection unit in South Africa.

2017 - Adel Abdulla in his Nissan Patrol crowned the 2016 FIA T2 World Champion.

2017 - Rebirth of legendary Patrol Super Safari in Middle East

2018 – Nissan Patrol breaks Guinness World Record for largest synchronised car dance, which featured 180 Patrols.