

# Vanagon

and Vanagon Camper





**Our Philosophy at Volkswagen.**

Thirty-three years ago a pair of small strange looking cars appeared on American roads. And almost overnight America discovered Volkswagen made extraordinary cars.

Our long history of being at the front of automobile design and innovation is no accident. It comes from never being completely satisfied by what we've built before. No matter how good it is, it's never good enough.

And that simple philosophy has guided us since our first Volkswagen. It forced us to push back established limits of design and performance. To set standards for excellence. To seek creative solutions to stubborn problems. And we've done it so well, for so long, that every time we introduce a car, the world expects something unique.

**Vanagon GL: Breaks tradition in order to create tradition.**

The Vanagon stands on its own. Only a foot longer than a Porsche and 6 inches wider; it parks easier than some station wagons, holds more and is more efficient\* no matter where you're driving.

The Vanagon handles and drives more like a car than a van or bus. Yet when it comes to space, the Vanagon doesn't cut corners. Pack up the family and take off to the country. It holds seven.

The Vanagon carries nearly a ton in its 200 cubic feet of interior space. The middle seat is easily removed while the back seat can be folded down for maximum capacity. No other passenger vehicle could possibly be as versatile.

How is all this possible in a fuel efficient vehicle? Experience. German engineering experience, synonymous with performance. Performance without compromise. The same Volkswagen know-how that resulted in the design of the Volkswagen Bus originated this totally unique concept in German automotive engineering. The Vanagon. A space saver. A gas saver. And the continuation of a great tradition on the road.

Pictures shown in catalogue may display optional equipment that is available at extra cost. (See your dealer for more details.)

The wide open spaces, inside. Remove 4 bolts, slide out the center seat. Fold down the rear seatback for luggage, groceries, recreational equipment. Or back seat can be removed by loosening 2 additional bolts. **(1)(2)**

Merian Brown/Timor Beige Vanagon GL. **(3)**

\*1983 EPA (Diesel) <sup>(30)</sup> estimated mpg, 32 highway estimate. (Gasoline) <sup>(16)</sup> estimated mpg, 22 highway estimate. (Automatic transmission) <sup>(16)</sup> estimated mpg, 21 highway estimate. California <sup>(17)</sup> estimated mpg, 23 highway estimate. Use estimated mpg for comparison to other cars. Your actual mileage will vary with speed, weather and trip length. Actual highway mileage will probably be less. Please ask your salesman for a free 1983 EPA Gas Mileage Guide.

**Vanagon GL: Judge a Vanagon by what's inside.**

Sure the Vanagon GL looks great with its special two-tone exterior, but there's more to the design than meets the eye. There has to be. The Vanagon was built to endure.

Unit body construction provides rigidity and structural strength. So the Vanagon holds its own on rough terrain. It offers you superb handling qualities and a ruggedness that will surprise you when you take to the road.

You wouldn't expect a vehicle as solidly built to be as luxurious inside. The Vanagon GL is both. Contoured front bucket seats, arm rests, velour cushioning, and color-coordinated headliner, door, and side panels, convey an impressive ambiance you won't find in any other conveyance of this type. And, for those long stretches of road, controls are placed for maximum comfort—to give you plenty of room to stretch so you don't feel cramped.

The Vanagon GL handles as easily as a car. Fully independent front and rear coil spring suspension enable you to hold the road and enjoy a smooth ride even when the road isn't smooth. Wider front track gives you the kind of lateral control you need, with better traction even in snow. When you get behind the wheel, you'll realize, once again, the Vanagon GL is unique.

Rack and pinion steering responds easily to your touch, giving you light and responsive handling. And because you sit above the front wheels, you're on top of it all, with the kind of wide view you'll appreciate driving in heavy traffic or cross country, when you and your passengers want to take in all the view.

Once you put the key in the ignition, you'll appreciate the Vanagon. Test drive one and see for yourself.

Sliding door provides easy access to the front seat and thanks to the wide aisles there's room to stretch out on the seats and between the seats. **(1)**

The Vanagon's operating controls and dashboard are functional, contribute to appearance and driving comfort. **(2)**

Blue cloth interior Vanagon GL shown with optional radio. **(3)**





**Vanagon L Diesel: Now there's a fuel efficient alternative with the Vanagon. A diesel.**

By its very design, the Vanagon is economical. With a fuel efficient diesel engine it's even more so. There's nothing like a diesel to help you save on fuel. And, only the diesel can offer you the standard 5-speed transmission for versatility and for greater comfort at cruising speed.

Should you opt for a Vanagon with a standard 2-liter gas engine, you're still making a wise choice. It's lightweight, reliable and the AFC (Air Flow Control) fuel injection affords you precise fuel control for economy and good performance.\*

When it comes to transmission, you get a smooth, direct, even transfer of power from engine to wheels. Both engines use a transaxle—a compact design that combines the transmission and the differential in a single unit.

Rear mounting of the engine is standard procedure for a Vanagon, providing for optimum weight distribution regardless of the load. When you're climbing steep hills, the Vanagon gives you an advantage for even better traction. Again, thanks to the rear drive and weight shift on the driving wheels.

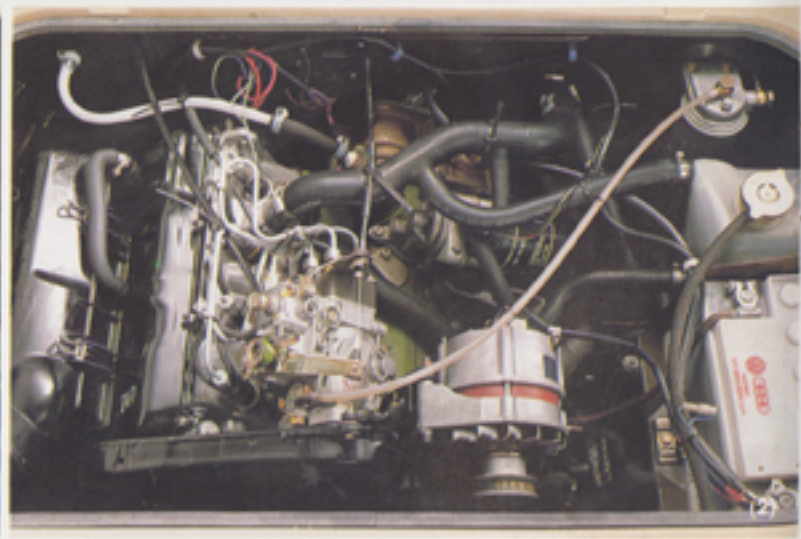
Volkswagen thoroughly designed and engineered the Vanagon so you could have alternatives. You can select the Vanagon L or the Vanagon GL. Both give you the choice of a diesel or a gas engine. No matter what you choose, it's still a Vanagon.

The spare tire is stored up front in the hinged metal tray. It's accessible by removing just one bolt with the lug wrench. **(1)**

Open the rear door and roll up the luggage compartment flooring for convenient servicing of the Vanagon's angled diesel engine—or the standard horizontally opposed air-cooled gasoline engine. **(2)**

Pastel White Vanagon L Diesel. **(3)**

\*See 1983 EPA fuel economy estimates inside front cover.



**Vanagon Camper: All the comforts of home when you're away from home.**

Now you can travel with just about all the conveniences you'd find at home even where there are no conveniences to be found. Precisely designed with careful attention to detail, the Vanagon Camper encompasses the precision engineering of the Vanagon. Not just your usual camper, the Vanagon is trim and compact outside. So compact, you'll be amazed when you get inside. All the features you'd expect in a camper plus all the features of a standard Vanagon make the Vanagon Camper not just for camping.

Because it's too spacious and comfortable to be considered ordinary, it's superior to any ordinary 4-passenger vehicle for daily transportation. For commuting, car pooling, or weekend escapes, the Vanagon Camper takes you where you want to go.

This spacious get-away-from-it-all vehicle easily converts into sleeping quarters with two double beds. The roof opens like a tent, providing standing room for 6-footers. Should the rain dampen your spirits, the camper won't. It's waterproof.

And efficient. Inside it easily converts into a dining room and kitchenette. The table tops swivel out and serve double duty, giving you plenty of room to prepare a meal. Driver and front passenger seats swivel around for comfortable dining and facilities include a 3-way refrigerator and a 2 burner stove.

Of course, the Vanagon Camper has plenty of storage space to hold just about all you need to hold. Little extras like sliding windows and screens, window curtains and two 110 volt outlets for small appliances (like a TV) make you feel at home when you're not.

Whether you're dropping the kids at camp or camping with the kids, you can do so in the luxury of a Vanagon Camper without the expense of a motel. And you won't need a reservation ahead of time. In the Vanagon Camper, you're already where you want to be.

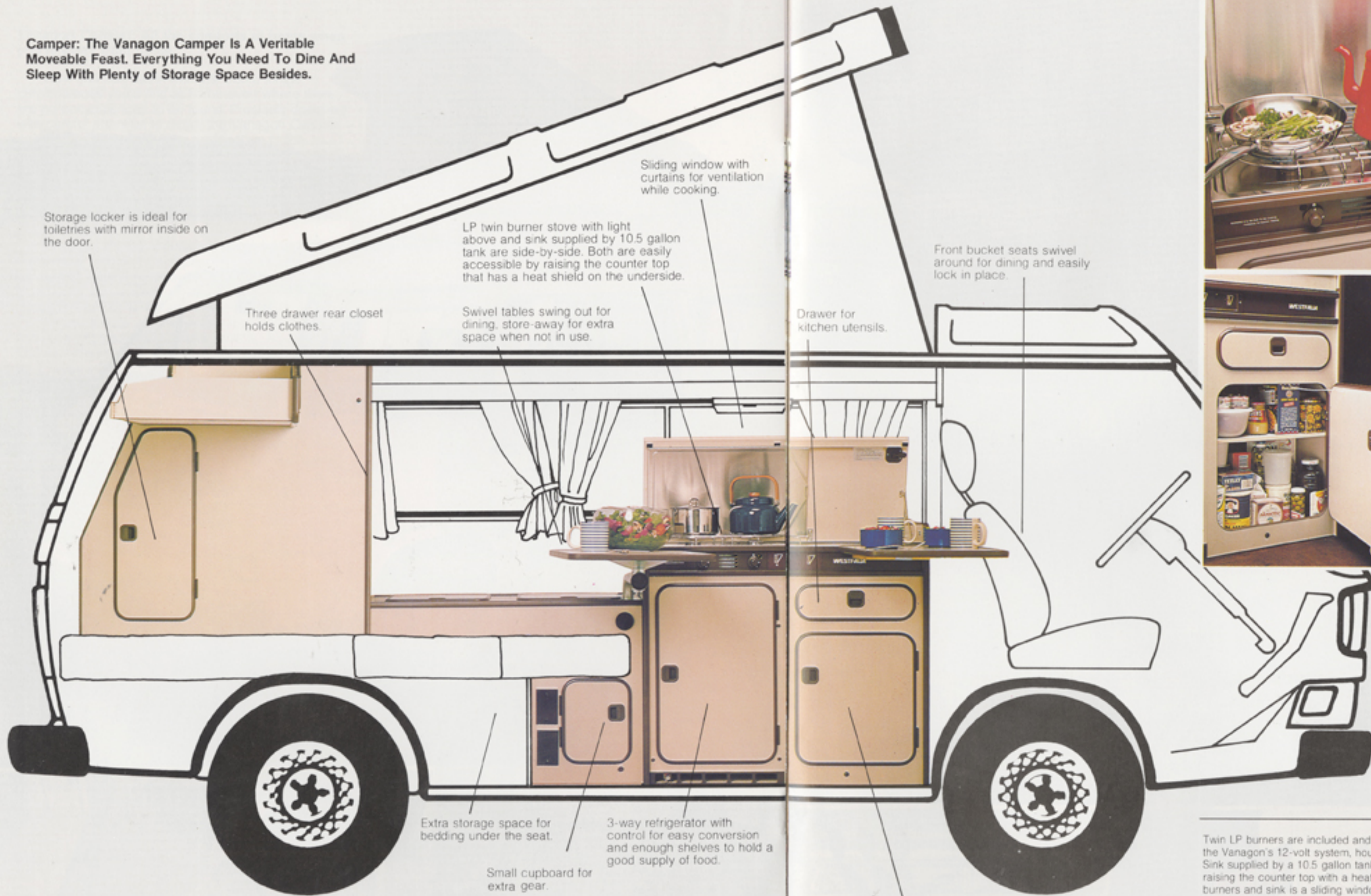
Plenty of room to store what you need. Storage below the seat, in the roof with a divided compartment, 3 drawer rear closet and a storage locker with a mirror inside. **(1)**

Rear seat unfolds into a full-length double bed. Roof opens to allow entry to additional "bunk" bed. **(2)**

Ivory Vanagon Camper. **(3)**



**Camper: The Vanagon Camper Is A Veritable Moveable Feast. Everything You Need To Dine And Sleep With Plenty of Storage Space Besides.**



Storage locker is ideal for toiletries with mirror inside on the door.

Three drawer rear closet holds clothes.

LP twin burner stove with light above and sink supplied by 10.5 gallon tank are side-by-side. Both are easily accessible by raising the counter top that has a heat shield on the underside.

Swivel tables swing out for dining, store-away for extra space when not in use.

Sliding window with curtains for ventilation while cooking.

Drawer for kitchen utensils.

Front bucket seats swivel around for dining and easily lock in place.

Extra storage space for bedding under the seat.

3-way refrigerator with control for easy conversion and enough shelves to hold a good supply of food.

Small cupboard for extra gear.

Food cupboard with two shelves for maximum food storage



Twin LP burners are included and 3-way refrigerator operate off the Vanagon's 12-volt system, household current or propane gas. Sink supplied by a 10.5 gallon tank. Burner and sink accessible by raising the counter top with a heat shield on the underside. Behind burners and sink is a sliding window with curtain. **(1)**

Kitchen pantry has a door smaller than the compartment so that items can be better secured for storage. Drawer above is a convenient place for utensils. **(2)**

Refrigerator door handle is recessed to prevent accidental opening and spillage. Each shelf has a forward safety lip. **(3)**

**Vanagon and the Vanagon Camper: The Vanagon decision. We give you a lot of choices but it shouldn't be hard to decide.**

The Vanagon offers you balanced design for superlative performance, responsive ride, excellent handling and roadability. Whether you select the Vanagon L, the Vanagon GL with the great indoors or the Vanagon Camper for the great outdoors, you're getting big car value in a compact, fuel efficient multi-passenger vehicle.

The Vanagon offers you plenty of room whatever model you choose. More head room, leg room and trunk room for storage than any passenger vehicle of its type.

Choose the diesel for extra economy\* with a standard 5-speed transmission or the 2-liter fuel injection gas engine for smooth power when you need it. The gas engine is available with automatic or manual 4-speed transmission. All combinations still ride and handle with the efficiency of a car, yet provide the space of a van.

It pays to own a Vanagon. If you're looking for a smooth ride, efficiency, quality, and lots of passenger room. Invest in a Vanagon, engineered in Germany. It's a Volkswagen. And it's worth the investment. Nothing else is a Volkswagen.

Rear mounted engine and transmission provides the best weight distribution loaded or unloaded. **(1)**

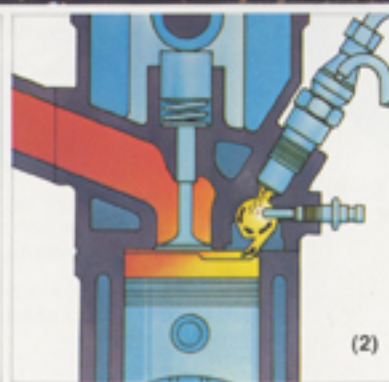
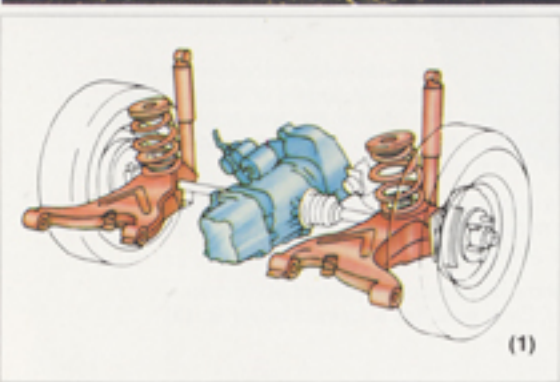
Economical diesel engine features swirl-type combustion chambers where air is properly mixed with injected fuel. Fast warming glow plugs allow cold starts in less than 12 seconds at 0° F. **(2)**

Angled steering wheel, low windshield for visibility and high seats are designed for comfortable seating behind the wheel. **(3)**

Vanagon Camper in climate controlled wind tunnel. **(4)**

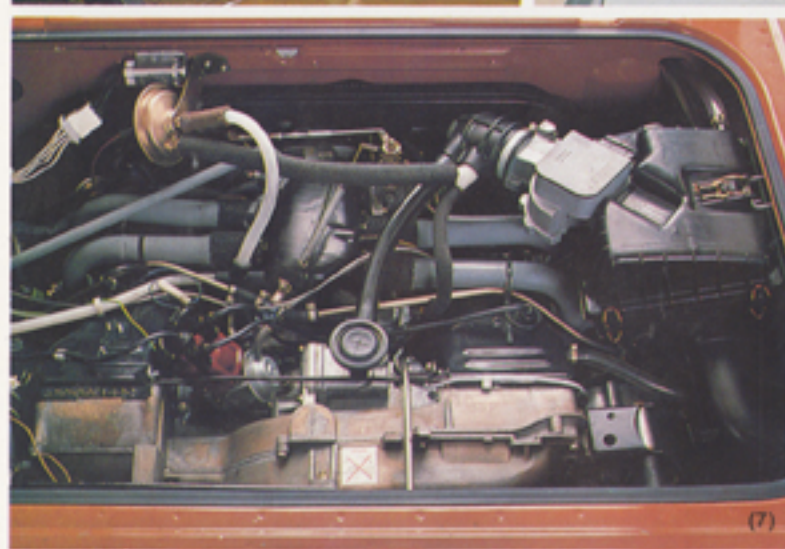
Kuril Blue/Monaco Blue Vanagon GL and Assuan Brown Vanagon Camper. **(5)**

\*See 1983 EPA fuel economy estimates inside front cover.



# Engineered our way so you can have it your way.

Special features make it a Vanagon. Choice of options makes it yours!



## SPECIAL FEATURES

- Rack and pinion steering with offset gear box for more precise handling and better control. **(1)**
- Large side-view mirror for better visibility. **(2)**
- Gas tank located in center of vehicle for better weight distribution. **(3)**
- 3-way utility hook up includes water storage tank, 110 volt and flue vent. **(4)**
- 52" high sliding side door. **(5)**

## OTHER FEATURES

- 2-liter gas engine with AFC (Air Flow Control) fuel injection. **(7)**
- 2-speed windshield wipers help ensure clear view when the weather isn't.
- Power-assisted brakes with front discs and rear drums.

- Inertia-controlled brake pressure regulator.
- Steel belted radial tires.
- 4-wheel independent suspension with coil spring and hydraulic shock absorbers.
- Electric rear-window defroster.
- 3-speed automatic transmission or 4-speed standard transmission (gas only).
- Flow-through ventilation system for comfortable riding without drafts.

## SPECIAL OPTIONS

- AM/FM stereo radio with cassette player **(6)**
- Diesel engine with 5-speed transmission
- Sliding steel sunroof **(8)**

# it your way.

makes it yours!

## 1983 VANAGON SPECIFICATIONS

### BODY DIMENSIONS AND CAPACITIES

Unit body/chassis construction with two forward doors, a rear storage area door supported by a pneumatic spring and a sliding door on passenger side.

|                            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Length                     | 179.9"     |
| Wheelbase                  | 96.9"      |
| Width                      | 72.6"      |
| Height, unloaded           | 77.2"      |
| Track, front/rear          | 62.3"      |
| Ground clearance, loaded   | 7.5"       |
| Storage capacity (cu. ft.) | 49.7/201.0 |

### ENGINES

#### COOLING AND FUEL SYSTEMS

Four-cylinder horizontally opposed, air cooled engine with finned cast iron cylinders and aluminum alloy cylinder head, pushrod operated overhead valves. Fuel tank capacity 15.9 gallons. Unloaded gasoline required. Optional Diesel engine: four-cylinder in-line, water-cooled with pressurized, cross-flow radiator, thermostatically controlled radiator fan. Fuel injection through a belt-driven distribution pump into "swirl" chambers preheated by fast-acting (less than 12 seconds at 0°F.) glow plugs. No. 2 diesel fuel required.

#### ENGINE SPECIFICATIONS

|                           | STANDARD GASOLINE | OPTIONAL DIESEL |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Bore x stroke, in.        | 3.70 x 2.80       | 3.01 x 3.40     |
| Displacement, cu. in./cc. | 120/1970          | 97/1588         |

#### REAR SUSPENSION

Independent with semi-trailing arms, coil springs and telescopic shock absorbers.

#### BRAKE SYSTEM

Power-assisted with front discs and rear drums, self-adjusting. Dual hydraulic circuits. Mechanical handbrake on rear wheels.

#### WHEELS AND TIRES

|           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| Rim size  | 5 1/2 x 14 |
| Tire type | Radial-ply |
| Tire size | 185R14     |

|                                     | STANDARD GASOLINE | OPTIONAL DIESEL |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Compression ratio                   | 7.3:1             | 23.0:1          |
| Horsepower (SAE net) at rpm         | 67 at 4200        | 48 at 4200      |
| Torque (SAE net) Foot pounds at rpm | 101 at 3000       | 71.5 at 2000    |

#### ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

12 volt with 65 amp alternator, 54 amp/hr battery (63 amp/hr with Diesel). (Breakerless transistorized ignition in California.)

#### DRIVE TRAIN

Rear wheel drive with twin constant-velocity jointed drive axles. Single dry plate clutch for Manual and Torque Converter for 3-Speed Automatic.

#### TRANSMISSION RATIOS

|             | STANDARD 4-SPEED MANUAL | OPTIONAL 3-SPEED AUTOMATIC | DIESEL 5-SPEED MANUAL |
|-------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| First       | 3.78:1                  | 2.55:1                     | 4.11:1                |
| Second      | 2.06:1                  | 1.45:1                     | 2.33:1                |
| Third       | 1.26:1                  | 1.00:1                     | 1.48:1                |
| Fourth      | 0.85:1                  | —                          | 1.02:1                |
| Fifth       | —                       | —                          | 0.77:1                |
| Reverse     | 3.28:1                  | 2.46:1                     | 3.67:1                |
| Final drive | 4.57:1                  | 4.09:1                     | 4.86:1                |

#### STEERING SYSTEM

Rack and pinion with safety column. Turning circle (curb to curb) 34.5'.

#### FRONT SUSPENSION

Independent with upper and lower control arms, coil springs and telescopic shock absorbers. 0° steering roll radius.

Volkswagen of America, Inc. believes the specifications in this brochure to be correct at the time of printing. However, specifications, standard equipment and options are subject to change without notice. Some options may be unavailable when your car is built. Please ask your dealer for advice concerning current availability of options and verify that your car includes the optional equipment you ordered.

## OTHER OPTIONS

- Tinted glass (Standard on GL)
- Auxiliary heater

## COLOR AVAILABILITY

- Vanagon L  
Pastel White  
Two-tone-Samos Beige Top/Assuan Brown Bottom, Damuso White Top/Marsala Red Bottom, Damuso White Top/Medium Blue Bottom
- Vanagon GL  
Two-tone-Monaco Blue Top/Kuril Blue Bottom, Timor Beige Top/Merian Brown Bottom
- Vanagon Camper  
Pastel White, Ivory, Escorial Green, Assuan Brown





Nothing else is a Volkswagen.