

ARMORED B6 VOLVO 960 ROYAL LIMOUSINE

The last classic armored limousine by Volvo.
One of a kind.

A CAR OF AN ERA



Armored B6 Volvo 960 Royal Limousine
Official service registration number BFJ 650 –

a unique executive vehicle, custom-built by special order of the Swedish government and used by the Swedish Security Service to escort foreign heads of state, emperors, and members of royal families between 1997-2005.


- it took part in 15+ of the most significant official and state visits.



- it transported leaders from Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America – from Nelson Mandela to Emperor Akihito, from Jacques Chirac to King Abdullah II.





 Nelson Mandela (President of South Africa) – Official state visit to Sweden – March 17, 1999



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South Africas President Nelson Mandela möter kungen, vid hovstallet inför statsbesöket i Sverige som varar i två dagar.
South Africas President Nelson Mandela meeting King Carl Gustaf at arrival in Stockholm Sweden for a two day State visit to Sweden.

South African President Nelson Mandela, accompanied by his wife Graça Machel, was welcomed at Stockholm Palace by Crown Princess Victoria, King Carl XVI Gustaf, Queen Silvia, and Princess Lilian.

PRICELESS HISTORY OF THE SERVICE

The last classic Volvo limousine –

hand-built in an era of different standards, the last Volvo model to feature rear-wheel drive. It is massive, with strict angular lines, monumental, featuring an extended wheelbase by 80 cm, well-protected, and equipped with a B6-level armored passenger capsule.



©FLT-PICA, Stockholm, Sverige, 1998-11-24, Foto:Mark Earthy/FLT-PICA code 50050.
Islands President Islands Olafur Grimsson (L) is greeted by King Carl Gustaf of Sweden at the Royal Palace/Stockholm, Picture shows: Inspection of the Guard.

President Olafur Grimsson inleder statsbesök. Ankomsteremoni Stockholms slott.



©FLT-PICA, Stockholm, Sverige, 1998-11-24, Foto:Mark Earthy/FLT-PICA code 50050.
Islands President Islands Olafur Grimsson is greeted by Princess Lillian of Sweden at the Haga Palace 4km outside of Stockholm, Picture shows: Icelandic horses giving an escort to Grimsson before his meeting with King Carl Gustaf at the Palace.

🇮🇸 Ólafur Grímsson (President of Iceland) – Official State Visit,
November 24, 1998

THE ARMORED VOLVO 960 ROYAL –

every component of the car is crafted in accordance with the protocols for the reception and security of the highest-ranking state officials.



CONDITION OF THE CAR

- the car received an official condition assessment from the German company Classic Data. It was rated Note 1-, which is a very high result and corresponds to museum-quality.

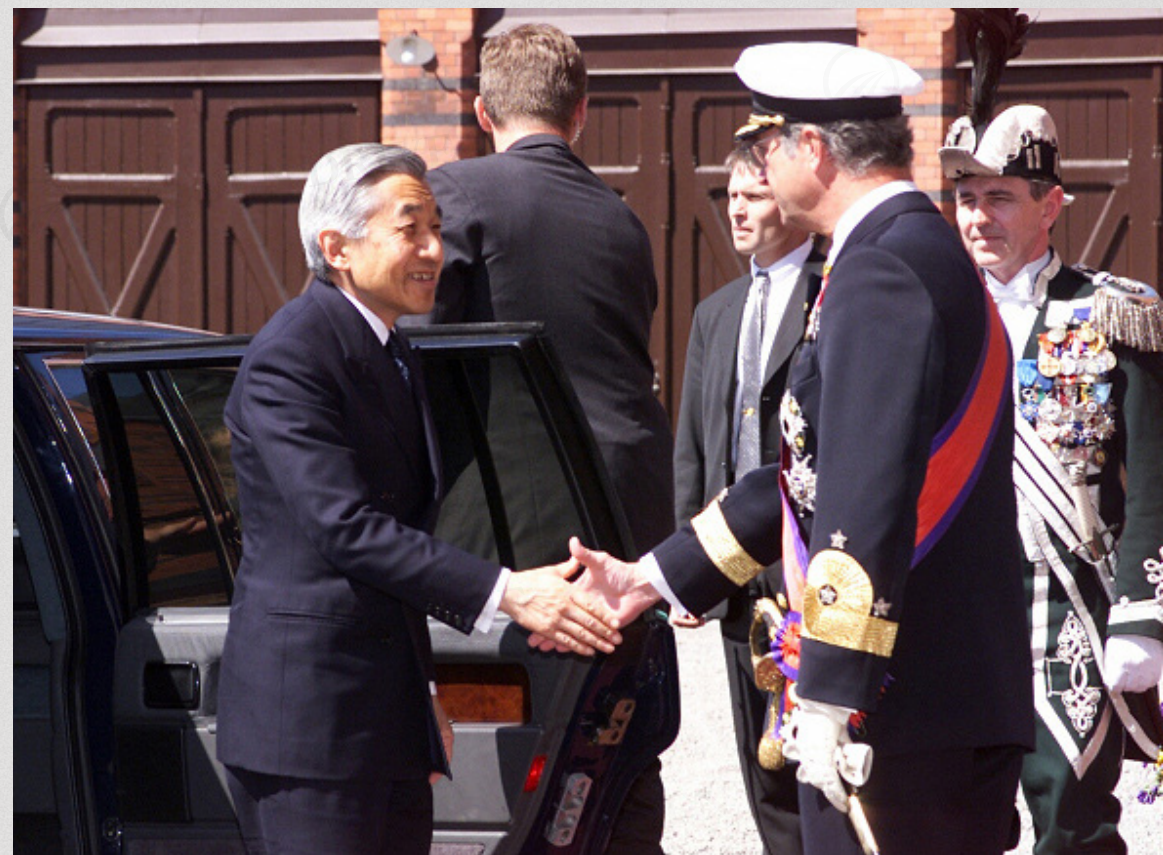
The armored Volvo 960 Royal

the only confirmed one of its kind





Emperor and Empress of Japan Akihito and Michiko -
State Visit, Sweden, May 28, 2000



Emperor of Japan Akihito
and King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden

THE ARMORED VOLVO 960 ROYAL –

a unique Scandinavian artifact from the state
era of the late 20th century.



🇩🇪 Johannes Rau (President of Germany), Sweden, May 20, 2003



🇫🇮 Tarja Halonen (President of Finland), Sweden, May 2, 2000



🇮🇹 Mr. Oscar Luigi Scalfaro (President of Italy), Sweden, May 5, 1998

Crown Princess Victoria is adjusting her hat while waiting at Arlanda Airport to welcome guests





CREATION HISTORY

In the mid-1990s, the Swedish government set out to update its official state car, intended for meetings with heads of state, official delegations, and special guests of the Kingdom.

The project was handled by the Swedish Security Service, and the Volvo 964-956 was chosen as the platform.

At that time, it was the flagship of the Swedish automotive industry—a symbol of reliability, safety, and quality.

This was not just an elongated car—it was a unique vehicle, hand-built to the highest standards.

KEY

- extended body by 80 cm
- reinforced structural frame
- specially manufactured and installed glass
- B6-level armored capsule providing the highest protection for passengers

DESIGN

- built-in internal intercom between passenger and driver
- rear panel for communication and climate control
- special state communication systems
- emergency escape hatch, integrated into the structure
- additional cabin heater

FEATURES VOLVO 960 ROYAL (B6)

- hidden flashing lights installed both at the front and rear
- siren and loudspeaker system installed
- white lights installed in the rear bumper, used for security illumination
- fire detection sensors installed
- flagpoles installed

THE ARMORED VOLVO 960 ROYAL –

this limousine is a witness to an entire era of diplomacy, security, and international politics, preserved in excellent condition.



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© SCANPIX SWEDEN, Stockholm, Sverige, 1999-05-26, Foto: Björn Larsson Ask/Scanpix 30095
FN:s Generalsekreterare Kofi Annan på besök i Stockholm . Här lämnar Kofi Annan Riskdagshuset idag på morgonen

The UN General secretary Mr Kofi Annan seen here leaving the Parliament in Stockholm Sweden today

COLOR AND STYLE

Scandinavian Diplomatic Tradition

The car was painted in the traditional dark blue diplomatic color, typical for Sweden and Japan in the late 20th century.

- This was no coincidence: blue was considered the most “neutral” and “royal” shade. It is well-suited for official visits, as it conveys calmness, formality, and protocol compliance.

The interior follows the characteristic Scandinavian approach:

- restrained, thoughtful, without excessive luxury
- no bars, televisions, or gilding
Only what is necessary for diplomacy: space, comfort, safety, and impeccable ergonomics.







King Carl XVI Gustaf, Queen Silvia, Empress Michiko, and Emperor Akihito



King Carl XVI Gustaf and Boris Yeltsin



CEREMONY AND PROTOCOL

King Carl XVI Gustaf and Boris Yeltsin
King of Jordan Abdullah shakes hands with King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden at the Royal Stables. He arrived in Stockholm for a three-day state visit with Queen Rania, October 7, 2003.



THE ARMORED VOLVO 960

GOLDEN DRIVE

This is a living artifact of its era, a monument to Scandinavian engineering, diplomacy, and state protocol from the late 20th to early 21st century.

Today, it remains one of the rarest Volvos ever created in the brand's history.




THIS CAR IS NOT JUST A VEHICLE

The armored Volvo 960 Royal became the last classic “square” Volvo limousine, hand-built according to the old state standards, when:

- the factory was located in Sweden
- production was directly controlled by Volvo
- special cars were crafted individually, as top-tier creations; quality was prioritized over speed and cost.



 Jacques Chirac (President of France),
Sweden, November 28, 2000

President of France Jacques Chirac with his wife Bernadette, King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, and Queen Silvia pose for photographers before the official dinner at the Stockholm Royal Palace.



SWEDISH DIPLOMATIC PROTOCOL

Sweden ranks among the world leaders in state protocol. During visits by heads of state, SÄPO operated according to standards similar to those of the USA, the UK, and France.

The armored Volvo 960 Royal BFJ 650 was a central part of these events, escorting world-class guests.

BFJ 650 was the only SÄPO vehicle suitable for monarchs and G7 leaders.





This Volvo as part of the official motorcade during the state visit of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Stockholm, 1997.



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PLO-ledaren Yasser Arafat besöker vice statsminister Lena Hjelm-Wallén (s) på Haga slott på söndagen.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in Stockholm, Sweden March 21. Arafat is visiting european capitals to test support for a unilateral declaration of a state in the West Bank and Gaza.



GOLDEN DRIVE



 Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz al Saud visited Sweden. He met with King Carl XVI Gustaf at the Stockholm Palace. The King (left) is showing the way. Stockholm, Sweden, June 8, 2001.



Göran Persson (Prime Minister of Sweden) and Crown Princess Victoria welcomed Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz al Saud.



THE ARMORED VOLVO 960 ROYAL –

the last official classic state limousine.





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