

# 2018 VW Atlas

*Continued from page 1*

route, but this an SUV, not a sports car, and by the standards of the breed, Atlas handles confidently. Ride quality was trip worthy and quite smooth, even on the 20-inch wheels. Smooth too were the roads — more so than ours — so there was no opportunity to test for

available torque can be fed to the back axle. The electronic differential locks act laterally as well, so power can be shifted from side to side as well as front to back. We didn't have the occasion to test Atlas off-road chops. The angles of approach, break over and departure are better than average for its competitive set,

(though all lag the Touareg). In any event, given its clearance numbers and the 4Motion AWD system, Atlas tackles light off-roading with ease, and is well equipped to handle whatever winter throws at you. The 4Motion Driving Mode selector offers four switchable settings — On road, Snow, Off road and Custom Off road. “On road” is further divided into four modes — Eco, Normal,

Sport, Individual — each with specific parameters for throttle response, shift mapping and steering assist.

Three-row seating for seven is standard. Captain's chairs for the second row will be available optionally later in the model year (\$625, on SE & SEL trims). There's adequate headroom for kids or adults in row three. Whether the same can be said for leg room depends

on who is sitting in front of them. The second row seats have 7.7 inches of travel, and taller adults in this row will make it kids-only in back. Third-row seatbacks fold to a flat load floor. Second row seatbacks fold forward too — even with child seats in place.

Slide into the front seat, and Atlas presents a clean, straight forward dash design. A digital gauge setup is swapped for the standard instrument panel on SEL Premium models. It features a customizable, 12.3-inch TFT display. HVAC controls are managed by a trio of dials and surrounding buttons mid-way up the center stack. Just above is a touchscreen display (6½ inches on S, 8 inches otherwise) that accesses the MIB II infotainment system and VW's Car-Net connectivity system. Sound system options top out with the 12-channel, 12-speaker, 480 watt Fender Premium audio system. A full complement of entertainment and safety technology is available, added in layers as you prog-



Volkswagen's all-new Atlas presents a clean, straight forward dash design, with the digital gauge swapped for a standard instrument panel on SEL Premium models.

ress up the trim walk. Cabin storage is found mainly amidships. The covered center console bin is generously sized. Cell phones, keys and other pocket cargo find refuge in the cubbyhole just below the HVAC deck and there's a concave dish scooped into a spot dead center on the dash top. The latter is deep enough to hold things with no fear of them flying out during maneuvers.

When the newest VW begins arriving in showrooms next month, it will be carrying a new, longer warranty. At the New York Auto Show this week, the company announced that Atlas will be carrying a six-year or 72,000 mile bumper-to-bumper warranty. The coverage will be transferrable beyond the first owner.

A regular contributor to the Times Union for more than 25 years, Dan Lyons is the award-winning author of six books, and photographer of 180 calendars.

A regular contributor to the Times Union for more than 25 years, Dan Lyons is the award-winning author of six books, and photographer of 180 calendars.

A regular contributor to the Times Union for more than 25 years, Dan Lyons is the award-winning author of six books, and photographer of 180 calendars.



Don't miss next week's Test Drive:

**2017 Lincoln Continental**

