



## 1997 Jaguar XK8 Coupé

---

This Ice Blue XK8 Coupé car was built on 2 June 1997 and was supplied to a private owner through Swain and Jones of Farnham in Surrey. Astonishingly, the car has covered little more than 5,000 miles, and is in outstanding original condition. In 2005, the second owner generously donated the car to the JDHT for preservation.

The XK8 sports car, first introduced at the Geneva Motor Show in March 1996 (sometimes referred to by its product code of X100) was the replacement for the XJS. The new XK8 was a typical Jaguar, combining tradition with innovation. The inspiration for the elegant design clearly came from the style of classic Jaguar sports cars of the past, notably the E-type of the 1960s, but interpreted in a modern manner. The car was styled by Fergus Pollock, working under the late Geoff Lawson. The Project Director was the engineer Bob Dover, who went on to become Jaguar's Chairman.

Under the bonnet lay the first Jaguar V8 engine. Although the Daimler sister marque had made some excellent V8s in the 1960s, and a Jaguar V8 design had been under consideration at the same time, this was the first Jaguar car to be fitted with this type of engine. As used in the XK8, capacity was originally 4 litres, later increased to 4.2 litres. The AJ8 engine was of all-aluminium construction, with two overhead camshafts per bank and 32 valves producing 290bhp.

In 1998 a supercharger was fitted on the XKR version, even more powerful at 370bhp, although the top speed of both models was identical, limited to 155 mph. Both the XK8 and XKR were available in coupe and convertible form.

They made a significant impact on the world market for luxury sports cars, with most of the production being exported, especially to the USA.

---

**Registration mark:** P55 XKB (23.06.1997)  
**VIN number:** SAJJGAED3AR015648  
**Owner:** The Jaguar Daimler Heritage Trust

**Engine:** 3,996 cc, V8  
**Price new:** £47,950  
**Inventory no:** 158/J.98

Donated in 2005 by Mr and Mrs Malcolm Inglis