



DRIVING AGAINST THE ELEMENTS

SNOW FORCE 2015

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Nanjing-based Architect Zhang Lei shares his passion for architecture and Porsche sports cars.

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Discover some of the key milestones of Asia's premiere racing series over the past 12 years.

ON THE ROAD

DRIVING AGAINST THE ELEMENTS

With powerful Porsche sports cars as companions and professional instructors to guide them, participants in Porsche Snow Force have a chance to push their cold weather driving skills to the limit. This year, Christophorus joined a few customers on the icy tracks to discover their fascination for the exhilarating programme.

Text: Jason Miles & Miranda Mao

Photographer: Lei Gong & Kai Hartmann

China
China

Mr. Ye Bo

Driven to Perfection

2013 Snow Force

2014 Snow Force

2015 Snow Force S & Snow Force RS



Mr. Ye Bo first decided to join Snow Force when he saw Kenneth Lim, Head Instructor of Porsche Sport Driving School navigating the turns of the Shanghai International Circuit. "I was amazed - I wanted to do the same thing," recalls the Beijing-based 991 4S owner. "Kenneth told me I could learn how at Porsche Snow Force, so I joined the programme. This is my third season here." In his time at Snow Force, Ye has learned not only how to master his cold weather driving skills, but also to understand the theory behind it all. "Snow Force S is about the skills of drifting - how to master each turn," he says, "while Snow Force RS takes this to a higher level. It teaches you how to maintain the momentum to connect the turns and make the best route out of it."

As a returning Snow Force participant, Ye is certainly not alone -quite a few

return for three or four years running. But just what is it that keeps enthusiasts coming back for more? The answer, according to Ye, is simple: the instructors. "Porsche Snow Force instructors are not only great drivers, but also great teachers," he says. "They are willing to share and they know how to share. And this makes them the most professional instructor team I have seen so far." This is key for Ye, a driver who holds himself to high standards both on and off the track. "I am very serious about driving," he says. "I bought the 911 4S because it offers better grip, especially on wet and slippery surfaces." No wonder the Tianjin-based enthusiast feels so at home at Snow Force RS, which focuses solely on the iconic 911. "The 911 is my favourite model. But it is also the most difficult model to drift in due to its unique engine layout," he says. "After Snow Force S and RS, I feel more much confident with it."



China
China

Snow Force participants leave a trail of ice and snow in their wake as they navigate the challenging frozen tracks.



Mr. Xu Bin

Breaking Free

2015 Snow Force, Snow Force S & Snow Force RS



For Shanghai-based 911 owner Xu Bin, Snow Force is a chance to break free. “Personally, I find everyday driving a bit too strict,” says Xu, “especially when you’re driving a 911.” This is the 23-year-old’s first time at Snow Force, and he has decided to take all three courses: Snow Force, Snow Force S and Snow Force RS. Using the skills learned in the first course as a foundation, Xu has relished the added challenge of Snow Force S and RS with the addition of 2mm and 4mm stud tyres respectively. “Stud tyres have more traction on ice and snow,” explains Xu. “This makes you go faster, but also makes it harder to drift.” He has also developed a special liking for the ice track, introduced this year specifically for RS participants. “It requires a more precise handling of the car as the surface is even more slippery,” says Xu. “But at the same time, the speed is slower so you have more time and room to grasp the situation. This is

very helpful.” Xu’s progress at Snow Force is certainly impressive. Just 5 days ago when he arrived in Yakeshi, he had never drifted before. Now, 5 days into the programme and one more day to go for Snow Force RS, and the 911 owner has mastered almost every skill he’s been taught. “Right now, I can finish half the track with few, if any mistakes,” he says.

However, the sheer fun of Snow Force is not the only factor Xu is impressed with. “The entire programme is very well organized,” he says. “The instructor team is very professional and the sessions and grouping are very well designed. So is the food and the hotel - even the logistic service of the cars. In all 3 programmes, we switch cars after each session. Not once have we had any problems with the cars. Our driving time is always ensured.”

Ready for game. At any time. Porsche 911.



Mr. Li Wei & Mr. Zhou Jia
A Shared Passion and Friendship

Zhou Jia, Hangzhou
2012 Snow Force
2014 Snow Force S
2015 Snow Force S
and RS

Li We, Shanghai
2012 Snow Force
2013 Snow Force S
2015 Snow Force S
and RS



Li Wei and Zhou Jia first met at Snow Force 2012, where they became friends thanks to their shared passion for driving and Porsche. Both are perfectionists when it comes to driving. And both have returned to Snow Force several times since, honing their skills while savoring the fun. For Zhou, one of the biggest attractions of the programme was the design of the courses. “They suit my level every step of the way,” says the Hangzhou-based enthusiast. “The instructor team has been very helpful. In Snow Force and Snow Force S, they cheer for your every little improvement, while at RS, they always push you further. They know you are here to learn. I really like that.” After taking part in Snow Force S and RS four days in a row, Zhou has seen his driving skills rapidly progress. “The most important improvement for me is that now I know where I went wrong and how to get better. The more I learn, the

more fun I have.” His friend, three-time participant Li sees things the same way. An avid driving fan, he has finished every Porsche Sport Driving School programme in addition to all the Snow Force courses, keeping a record of his lap time since the very first day. “I know the Snow Force instructors very well and that’s one of the reasons I keep coming back,” he says. “Over the years, my lap time has improved by at least 3 to 5 seconds, which is a big thing for me.”

For both Zhou and Li, Snow Force is not just a driving event, but an all-round enjoyable experience. “I think the logistics of Snow Force are very professionally done,” says Li. “The food, the hotel, the pick-up service, the video - everything is amazing. Every day spent here has been very comfortable.” Li was especially impressed by the tracks. “I have been to other winter tracks abroad,” he says. “But

China
China

Certified Snow Force instructors are dedicated to helping guests every step of the way.



The heated Porsche tent offers a welcome break from the ice and snow.



Traditional Mongolian performance provides a taste of local culture.



none as good as these ones here. They are so beautiful, especially in the morning. It is astonishing how much effort was spared to make sure we enjoy the event.” Three-time Snow Force participant Zhou agrees. “The food, service and hospitality are indeed perfect.” Even more impressive for Zhou however, are the custom Snow Force videos made for each customer. “Each video is unique,” he says, “beautifully photographed and edited by the Porsche team using footage from individual participant’s experience - and they are ready as soon as we finish each programme. They are perhaps the best videos I have ever seen.”



DID YOU KNOW?

1. The average temperature in winter is -35 Celsius in Yekeshi. Yunlong Lake is frozen from November to end of March and can freeze up to 5 metres deep.
2. The snow tracks on Yunlong Lake at Yakeshi are designed and maintained by ATM, a professional test track development company based in Sweden.
3. The stud tyres used in Snow Force S and RS are imported from Finland. They are made by Nokian Tyres, a company which specializes in winter tyres.

With its high performance and unmatched comfort, the Panamera is the perfect companion on Zhang's long commutes.



Located near the Nanjing City Wall, Furong Lake is a good place to test drive the Panamera.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

A PERFECT PAIR: AN ARCHITECT AND HIS PANAMERA

There are countless reasons to buy a Porsche. But one stands above all: a Porsche car perfectly embodies the values of its owner. Formed through passion and pursuit, these shared values promise to bind the two together – often at their very first encounter.

Text Huang Ning
Photo Zen Gu

That is why for many customers, buying a Porsche is not a question of choice, but that of instant attraction. This was certainly the case for Nanjing-based architect Zhang Lei. “There was no need to look around and compare,” recalls Zhang, “the moment I saw the Panamera, I knew this was it.” So began the architect’s love affair with the Panamera.

INNOVATION COMES
FROM TRADITION

Named by *Icon* magazine as one of the 20 architects shaping the future, Zhang holds the past in great reverence. For him, tradition is the soil from which innovations spring, and things that can stand the test of time must be respected and awed. This blend of new and old – the modern expression of the traditional soul – is a philosophy the Swiss-educated architect champions with immense enthusiasm.

China
China

The Concrete Slit House, one of his most famous works, shows us the beauty of what he calls “familiar strangeness”. Enmeshed within a quiet 1920s neighbourhood in central Nanjing, the entire structure of the building is made from concrete and shaped to a similar scale and form as its century-old neighbours. “The last thing we wanted was a completely modern thing out there, and we didn’t want a replica of the old buildings either, which would be so unimaginative,” explains Zhang. “Concrete is the brick of the 21st century in terms of popularity, so we decided to evoke the old feelings with modern materials and forms.”

Fusing tradition with innovation, the building corresponds directly to Zhang’s Panamera: built with the most advanced technologies, but at the same time remaining true to its pure DNA. “At first glance the car fascinated all of us: me, my

wife and my daughter,” explains Zhang. “We have always had complete trust in the engineering and performance of Porsche, thanks to its long-standing success and reputation for excellent German craftsmanship. So there was little hesitation when buying it.”

PRACTITIONER OF “FORM FOLLOWS
FUNCTION”

Four years on, what impresses Zhang most about the Panamera is its practicality, which to him boils down to the pleasant 300-kilometre commute between Nanjing and Hangzhou. “The long drive used to be such a headache that I got tired just thinking about it,” says Zhang. “But having the Panamera changed everything. The journey became exhilarating, enjoyable and much shorter.” Zhang’s appreciation of the car’s utility speaks of the importance he places on function in his

design philosophy. With decades of experience behind him, Zhang, a Design Vanguard selected by *Architectural Record* in 2008, no longer sees fashion and style as a priority in his design, but instead ponders more over how buildings function in serving people’s real-world needs. In an age of fast growth where buildings are torn down and put up every day by the thousands in China, he is especially concerned with recreating a sense of community and tradition in his work.

The Guangfu Garden in Yangzhou, designed by Zhang in 2011, shows us how it could be done. The 700,000 square-metre resettlement complex features a wide variety of functional public areas for interaction, ranging from gate ball courts and playgrounds to dancing areas for the elderly and Ping-Pong tables. Zhang’s design even accommodates places for weddings and funerals. “The result is a



The third floor of Zhang's office houses many of his architectural models.

China
China

The creative use of concrete in the Slit House has gained Zhang Lei international acclaim.



Photo: Ivan Babin

Zhang describes his passion both for design and for Porsche.



Please scan the QR code to watch our 'Enthusiast Driven' video with Mr. Zhang Lei.



community as closely knit as possible, with the old lifestyle and warmth of a neighbourhood well preserved," he says.

CONNECTING MAN WITH THE MANMADE

While stressing the function of architecture in connecting people, Zhang is also interested in its connection with people. Take for example the Urban Planning Exhibition Centre in Zhengzhou. Designed to be inviting and spacious, the landmark building opens to an intersection, with its main gate divided to allow for multiple entryways. A scenic route from the streets all the way to its rooftop is available even during closing time, while inside, a network of walkways interweave with functional areas in a clear and convenient manner.

The relationship between man and architecture is not only catered to in Zhang's

public building designs, but also in his private projects. Commissioned by a local poet, the Brick House in Gaochun, Nanjing, is widely famous for its outlandish facade, which is made up of three different textures of brick skin, creating an in-

"TAKE THOSE RESETTLEMENT BUILDINGS FOR EXAMPLE, OUR BIGGEST CHALLENGE THERE IS HELPING THE RESIDENTS FIND THEIR OLD WAYS OF LIFE, THE FAMILIAR SENSE OF BELONGING, WHICH IS WHAT WE ALL NEED AS HUMAN BEINGS."

terlocking pattern that leaves perforations between bricks. But the soul of the house, according to Zhang, is its inner courtyard, which includes a space for meditation and a patio. The spread-out courtyard is designed to enhance the building's spaciousness and allow residents to interact with their environment. This, says Zhang, is key to good architecture: com-

munication between man and the man-made. The same, of course, can be said of cars. The best cars respond as though they were part of you, without any delay or interruption, a source of wonder and joy. "When driving a Porsche, I feel like the car and I are one," says Zhang. "It is something I have never felt with other cars."

Zhang insists that architecture is all about living, a belief perfectly echoed by his Porsche, which is all about driving. The pleasure of it, the comfort, the practicality - all achieved at the highest level. It is no wonder then, why Zhang and others like him find the allure of Porsche cars so irresistible - they are the perfect reflection of their own values. ●

Since coming to China over a decade ago, the Porsche Carrera Cup Asia has paved the way for Asian motorsport with top-tier talent and thrilling races.



MOTORSPORT
12 YEARS OF PURE RACING

12 years ago, Porsche made Asian motorsport history when it launched its first ever one-make racing series in the region. What started with 18 drivers from 6 different countries has become something much bigger.

Text Jason Miles

Today, the Porsche Carrera Cup Asia sees anywhere up to 30 entries, with nationalities ranging from China to New Zealand to the USA. In the last decade, the championship has raced in many challenging Asian locations, including Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, China and Korea, with the latest addition being the Fuji International Speedway in Japan. As the Porsche Carrera Cup Asia has grown, so too has Asian motorsport as a whole. By nurturing local talent with initiatives such as the China Junior Development Programme, while keeping standards high with elite international drivers year after year, the series has seen local participation in motorsport continue to soar - both from drivers and fans. In recent years, many prominent drivers have risen up through the ranks, particularly those from China. Last year, the series saw six drivers from Mainland China competing in Class A. As a result, the championship

has come to represent the opportunity of a lifetime for young motorsport enthusiasts in the region: a chance to make their racing dreams come true.

Looking back on 12 years of the Porsche Carrera Cup Asia, it is important to remember that the incredible success of the championship did not happen overnight. The following time line showcases some of the key milestones that have paved the way for Asia's premiere racing series and made it what it is today.

China
China



The Porsche Carrera Cup Asia bursts onto the regional motorsports scene with a starting grid of 18 drivers from six different countries.

Entries: 18

A landmark in the development of motorsport in China, the championship takes part in the first Formula 1 Chinese Grand Prix in addition to introducing the Class B section for non-professional drivers. A total of 17 drivers take part in the newly established class.

Entries: 17



Breaking new ground, the Porsche Carrera Cup Asia attracts some of the best young international talents and, at just 19-years-of-age, Briton Jonathan Cocker is crowned its youngest champion.

Entries: 14



The new Porsche 911 GT3 Cup makes its Asian debut with the championship. The series adds Indonesia to its rota with the first race taking place at the Sentul International Circuit in July, 2006.

Entries: 18



Christian Jones, son of former Formula 1 World Champion Alan Jones, joins the field as its quality continues to soar.

Entries: 19



The Porsche Carrera Cup Asia makes an electrifying debut at the first ever Formula 1 night race on Singapore's Marina Bay Street Circuit. For the first time, the series holds a race outside of South-east Asia, with the season finale taking place at the Bahrain International Circuit in the Middle East.

Entries: 24



Porsche China takes over the organisation of the championship representing a massive boost in resources and expertise, while opening a brand new chapter in Asia's most successful sportscar series. Wang Jian Wei becomes the first Mainland Chinese champion in history when he takes the Class B title. Meanwhile, Rose Tan becomes the first female driver in the competition's history.

Entries: 29
Chinese Drivers: 3



The finest field of international sportscar drivers ever assembled in Asia contests the 2012 title, with a record 28 registered entries and 11 drivers from China. Joining the grid is renowned Chinese racer Ho-Pin Tung, who takes 5th place overall in a stunning performance.

Entries: 28
Chinese Drivers: 11 (5 Class A)



A stellar international cast of nine nationalities do battle, with the championship decided by just a single point.

Entries: 15



The Porsche Carrera Cup Asia introduces the new, faster, wider and more powerful Porsche 911 GT3 Cup car, based on the 911 GT3 RS. Class B champion Mok Weng Sun became the first non-professional driver to stand on the overall podium.

Entries: 23

China
China



The championship celebrates 10 years as Asia's premier racing series as well as the 50th anniversary of the iconic Porsche 911.

Entries: 26
Chinese Drivers: 6 (5 Class A)



The 12th season of the Porsche Carrera Cup Asia sees a brand new race on the Fuji International Speedway in Japan and a grid featuring more professional Chinese drivers than ever before. Meanwhile, the China Junior Development Programme is initiated with the aim of nurturing local racing talent.

Entries: 28
Chinese Drivers: 6 (6 Class A)

CULTURE AND HEALTH

RETREAT FROM DAILY LIFE

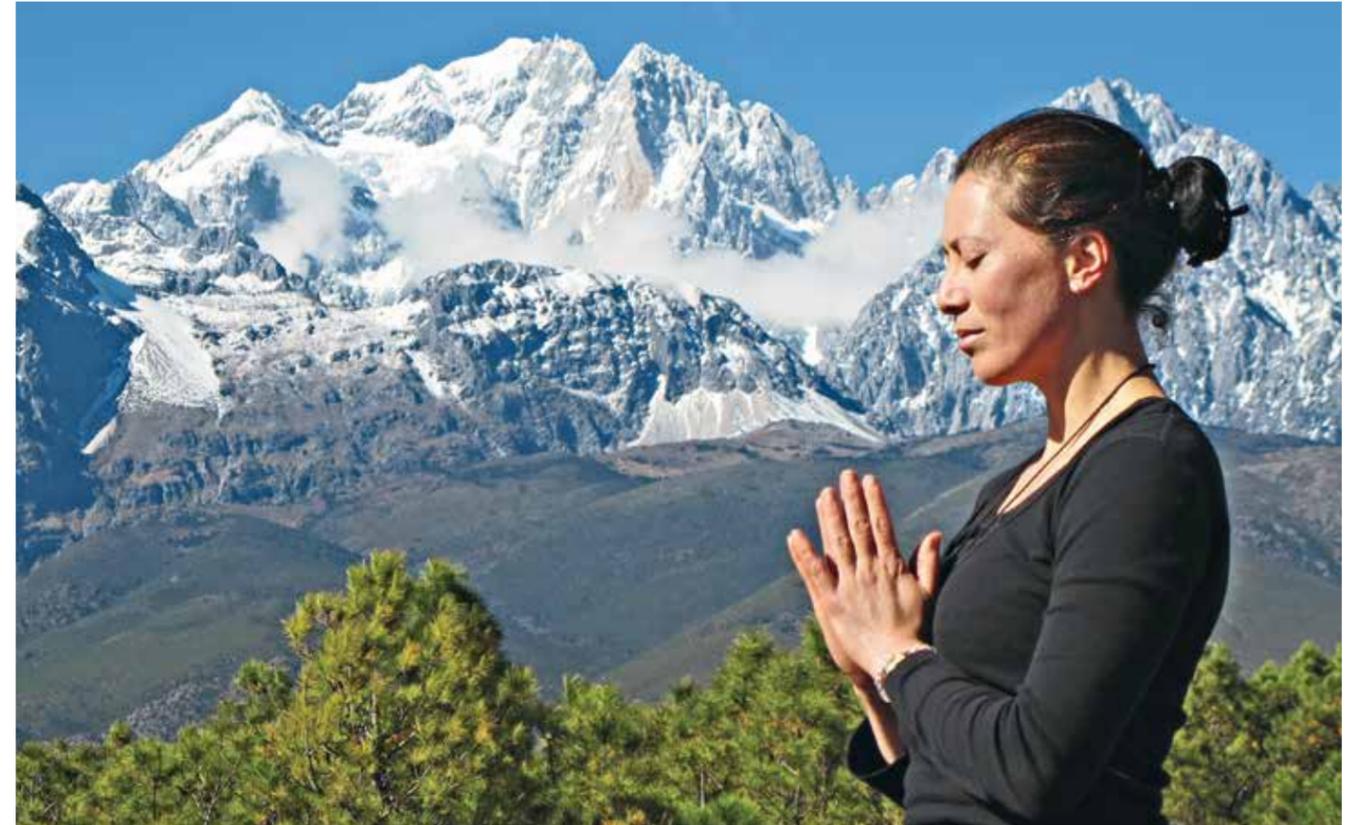
As an interest in health and wellness sweeps the nation, gyms, studios, parks and spas are filling up with those eager to get fitter, more flexible and better connected with nature.

Text Jason Miles



China
China

The Yulong snow mountain forms the perfect backdrop for outdoor yoga.



Whether soaking up the warm mineral-filled waters from hot springs or unwinding with the growing practice of yoga, the benefits are clear: a healthier mind, body and soul. But where does one begin? To help you along in your health and wellness journey, Christophorus has hand-picked three of the top health retreats in China. From the Capital city Beijing to the southwestern snow mountain in Lijiang, each one offers a chance to live healthier and have fun at the same time.

SNOW MOUNTAIN YOGA RETREAT

Reaching an estimated 10 million followers in just under a decade, yoga has never been more popular in China. And for good reason: it works wonders for both mind and body. But how does one get started?

With a unique approach to yoga and healthy living, highly experienced teach-

ers and picturesque southern China scenery, the Snow Mountain Retreat in Lijiang is a good place to begin or continue your yoga journey. As the first holistic retreat centre in China, the Snow Mountain yoga retreat does not promote a specific yoga practice, but rather a yoga lifestyle - a lifestyle of healthy routines that is in harmony with nature. During the programme, guests live and practice according to a fixed schedule which is specifically developed to help one reconnect with nature and oneself. Included in the routine are karma yoga, yoga nidra or "sleeping yoga", as well as a variety of other activities such as meditation, drum circles and afternoon tea. Also on offer are many fulfilling outdoor activities such as including hiking, swimming and kite flying. All programmes allow plenty of time during the day to relax, reconnect with oneself and explore the retreat's magnificent natural surroundings.



The Snow Mountain Yoga retreat caters to people of all ages.

Address:
Xinxing of Mudu Village, Baisha, Yulong
County, Lijiang, Yunnan
Contact: +86 888 5139 980

The Jiuhua hot spring bubbles up from 1,230 metres underground, reaching a pleasant surface temperature of 40 C.



JIUHUA SPA AND RESORT

Visiting a spa is much more than just a vacation. It can help you clear your mind, improve your health and bring your entire body into balance. The Jiuhua Spa and Resort in Beijing is one of the most popular hot spring spa destinations in China. Formerly the private retreat of emperors, the resort has 40 pools offering 21 distinct therapeutic applications including mud baths, herbal baths, an Egyptian-themed pool, a foot massage pool, a lotus pool and a medical stone sauna.

Those with tired muscles will be rewarded with head-to-toe relaxation and an assortment of recreational and therapeutic facilities including hydrotherapy, salt baths, Thai spas and skin care treatments. Meanwhile, an advanced healthcare centre incorporates both modern western medical care and ancient traditional Chi-

nese medicines. The centre is staffed by a team of trained western and Chinese medical professionals who provide guests with an assortment of healthcare services.

Address:
500m east of Daliushu Ringroad,
Xiaotangshan, Beijing
Contact: +86 10 61782 288



Yoga is just one of the many healthy, holistic activities offered at the Sun Island Resort.



SUN ISLAND RESORT

Living in the big city, it is easy to admire the many achievements of urban civilization. Yet amidst all the hustle and bustle, we tend to forget the most elemental of truths: that we exist as part of nature. Nestled in the lush greenery north of the Huangpu River, Sun Island Resorts is a reminder of our connection to the natural world and a perfect choice for those who wish to unwind by getting back to nature. The wellness resort features an abundant hot spring SPA facilities as well as several rustic yet comfortable resort villas. Meanwhile, a full-scale medical and wellness compound provides professional restorative and recuperative services to promote well-being. In accordance with the resort's ethos of sustainability, guests and residents enjoy healthily-prepared meals using fresh organic ingredients from the farm. Other

than good food and good rest, a series of fun and relaxing activities will help you discover more about the environment as well as how to live a fresh and holistic lifestyle.

Address:
2588 Shentai Road, Zhujiajiao Town, Qingpu District, Shanghai
Contact: +86 21 61869 650



China
China

Mr. Michael Kirsch, Chief Operating Officer, Porsche China, congratulates Mr. Allen Huang.



PORSCHE CENTRE ZHUHAI OPENING

On 25 November 2014, Porsche Centre Zhuhai celebrated its Grand Opening ceremony, becoming the 70th Porsche Centre in China.

Porsche Centre Zhuhai, the first Porsche Centre in the city, offers an unforgettable experience to Porsche enthusiasts in the Zhujiang Delta region. The approximately 12,000 square-metre facility is capable of displaying up to 15 Porsche cars and a wide selection of Porsche Exclusive and Tequipment Genuine Accessories. The new Porsche Centre provides customers in the region with access to the full range of Porsche sports cars as well as the life-long premium service for which the marque is renowned.

Porsche Centre Zhuhai
Address: No. 11 Innovation Nine Road,
Tangjiawan Town, High-Tech Zone, Zhuhai
Telephone: +86 756 6911911

Guests celebrate the grand opening of Porsche Centre Shijiazhuang.



PORSCHE CENTRE SHIJIAZHUANG OPENING

On 9 December 2014, Porsche added a new member to its dealer network with the opening of Porsche Centre Shijiazhuang.

As the second Porsche Centre in Hebei Province, Porsche Centre Shijiazhuang demonstrates the confidence Porsche places in Shijiazhuang's regional economy. Covering an area of more than 12,500 square-metres, the new facility houses a showroom capable of displaying up to 19 Porsche sports cars as well as a wide selection of Porsche Exclusive and Tequipment Genuine Accessories. Meanwhile, an advanced Service Centre ensures enthusiasts receive world-class customer service and After Sales care.

Porsche Centre Shijiazhuang
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Chang'an District, Shijiazhuang
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MARKET PAGES CHINA

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