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Porsche Club Deutschland, Cayenne Register

Sheer Adventure: With the Cayenne across the Libyan Sahara

With the Cayenne across the Sahara – not more than a dream for most Porsche fans a while ago. Four teams from Porsche Club Deutschland took on this challenge in November last year and made their dream come true.

With close to 35 million square miles, the Sahara is the biggest desert in the world and stretches across several North African countries. Libya itself covers an area of approximately 685,000 square miles of which around 90 percent are desert. The approximately 6.2 million population therefore lives mainly in the coastal region on the Mediterranean and in the few green oasis areas inland.

Two members of the Porsche Club Schwaben who had already driven through different regions of the Sahara on previous visits made this adventurous trip to Libya possible. Contact to a Libyan businessman who organises such trips was also helpful. Because travelling through Libya is not allowed at the moment without being accompanied by a Libyan national who looks after the frontier formalities, the regular official controls in the country and the safety of foreign guests. The "Porsche Cayenne Libya Tour 2007" was introduced with support of the Cayenne Register by the Porsche Club Deutschland, an extremely individual and demanding trip which has never before been offered by the Porsche Club.

Nine vehicles took part in the tour. In addition to the four Cayenne teams there were another four teams of friends with other offroad vehicle brands as well as a support vehicle.

The exciting thing about this tour was of course to find out how the Cayenne coped with the desert and how safely you can move in the Sahara. The participants also encountered sights, wonders of nature and experiences which are unique in the world.

All the participants met on 3rd of November in Genoa for the ferry crossing to Tunis. From there they travelled to Hammamet and on the next morning continued to the Libyan border. Here the teams learned their first lesson: you need time and patience for the border formalities – even though our Libyan companion was there to deal with them. Finally the visas were issued, the Libyan licence plates fixed to the vehicles and the passports stamped. Then the journey continued to Zuwara for the first overnight stay. Six other fellow travellers were waiting for us there: the drivers of the guide vehicle and the support vehicles, the security officer and the cooks, all at the same time, as well as helpers who were willing to help out in an emergency. Now the team was complete and we set off to the South the next day.

The first destination of the trip was the Akakus Mountains in the extreme south west of Libya which have been declared a world cultural inheritance because of their century old rock paintings and the bizarre landscape. Stony tracks alternated with vast sandy expanses and high dunes. It soon became clear to the Cayenne teams what was important in these inhospitable surroundings: The PSM had to be switched off to drive through the soft sand and as low as possible a tyre pressure was a prerequisite for good traction in the dune sand. Clearance and gear reduction were helpful wherever the sand was deep and the hills steep. The right feel for the vehicle and a delicate dosing of power and speed were ultimately important for climbing a steep dune with the Cayenne and descending gently and safely again from the summit on the other side. After just two days crossing the Akakus Mountains everyone agreed: this unique experience and the knowledge of what the Cayenne is capable of was certainly worth the 1,865 mile trip from home.





But the best was still to come. Once the Cayenne had firm ground under its wheels again, off we took to the North East to that part of the Sahara in which no stone is to be found and which swallows you up in the unbelievable infiniteness of the desert. The next adventure was already waiting: the trip to the Mandara Lakes which can only be reached by vehicles that are really fit for the desert. The Libyan guides had already pointed out that, because of the very high dunes and the very deep sand, the most difficult leg of our journey lay before us. The convoy plunged into the indescribable expanse of dunes which demanded the most of man and material. But the handling of the Cayenne grew more adept with every dune and every mile. Nevertheless the rescue strap and sand shovels had to be used now and again both for the Cayenne and the other vehicles. Because, unlike the Libyan guides who spend a lot of their lives in the desert and know how to find the right way through the sand, desert "greenhorns" cannot always tell whether the so-called "soft sand" is waiting for them. But with real team spirit every vehicle was freed in no time and the journey could continue. In between there were many infinitely wide tracks where the Porsches got the best out of their performance to move a little faster and with a lot of fun towards the

next dunes looming in the distance. After a strenuous but eventful drive the troop reached the oases with the famous salt lakes which are embedded like small jewels in the heart of the Sahara – an almost surreal postcard picture. In the evening a camp in the middle of nowhere surrounded by nothing but dunes as far as the eye can see, the absolute silence and a fantastic starlit sky wiped away the exertion of the last few days. So the convoy was very reluctant to set off the next day, to gradually leave the desert behind them and head homewards.

The four Cayenne teams had done pioneer work with this tour. By "learning by doing" they had proven the desert fitness of their vehicles far away from the asphalt roads. None of the Libyan guides had ever seen a Cayenne crossing the Sahara before now and they were all impressed by the capabilities of this sporty offroad vehicle. And all the drivers confirm that an offroad training in Reutlingen was a good preparation for taking part in this tour.

They all headed back home with a feeling of pride. The teams will never forget their desert adventure and they already have the next challenge for their Cayennes in mind.

For all those who have become interested in offroad driving, the Cayenne Register is offering the following events: A safe driving training is being held on 19th of April at the Nürburgring with an offroad training for Cayenne. On the 4th of May, as in the past two years, the tried-and-tested offroad training is being held at the Motocross Track in Reutlingen.

Further information can be found under www.porsche-club-deutschland.de.

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Sheer Adventure: Impressions of the Libyan Sahara



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Porsche Club South Africa, Central Region

**Porsche Club GT3 Day in Kyalami:
A suspected Record**

The Porsche Club South Africa, Central Region stages its Fun Days at the Kyalami Race Track twice a year. The Porsche Club GT3 Day took place on the 4th of November 2007 during these Fun Days. The Porsche Centre Randburg sponsored the event and provided two Cayennes for offroad training.

The Centre had written invitations to all its GT3 and GT3 RS customers because the event had a sporting ambition: to break the GT3 attendance record. The Porsche Centre Randburg also had a number of second hand GT3 and GT3 RS on show for sale. Michelin had provided three sets of tyres for the offroad and racing track demos and a current 911 GT3 Cup was on show at a Michelin booth.

Forty eight customers met with their GT3s at the Porsche Centre Randburg for the Breakfast Run. From there they drove to the Kyalami Race Track. The Cayenne demo runs started after breakfast in the Hospitality Tent. The Club had organised special race track events for its members and the 80 Porsche guests who also attended. The guests were also given the opportunity to take part in a Cayenne offroad training under the supervision of experienced Porsche instructors.

In total, the Porsche Club South Africa, Central Region and the Porsche Centre

Randburg were able to offer forty eight 911 GT3s and GT3 RSs. Together with the 12 second hand vehicles on show there was a total of 60 cars at the Race Track. An impressive record which rounded off a successful Porsche Club Fun Day.

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Porsche Club Japan

**Japan meets Greece:
Porsche Spoken**

A group of Porsche Club Japan members visited the factory in Leipzig in May 2007. Apart from the fascinating factory tour, a new friendship was sealed at the Hauptbahnhof Promenaden.

Following a visit to the production site in Zuffenhausen and the Porsche Tour Bavaria, Kiyoshi Ozaki and his friends from Osaka, Japan were visiting Leipzig for the first time.

They were already fascinated by the sight of the Leipzig Porsche factory from the window of the aeroplane before landing at Leipzig/Halle airport. After lunch in the exhibition area they were taken to the Cayenne production which welcomed them with an atmosphere very different to Zuffenhausen and impressed them immensely. Another exciting part of the program was the circuit taxi in a new Cup 911 on the test track.

A city tour and shopping were planned for the next day. The first stop was at the Hauptbahnhof-Promenaden, the arcades of the central railway station. After shopping inside the station building Kiyoshi Ozaki spotted another group of foreign tourists. From their T-shirts he recognised them as members of the Porsche Club Greece who were also in Leipzig to have a look at the factory.

Both groups, who spoke neither German nor English, soon got to know each other with "Porsche Talk" and documented their new-found friendship in group photos. They also swapped Porsche Club business cards. Later they coincidentally met again in the afternoon in the Westin Leipzig and the "Porsche Talk" continued there at the bar for awhile over drinks and cigars.

After returning to Japan, the group received T-shirts from the Porsche Club Greece, which the President of the Club, George Varsamis, sent perso-

nally. Porsche Club Japan also sent their T-shirts in return. By having the same strong passion for Porsche, the language was not a barrier at all for communication. Because "Porsche" is a real global language.

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