

Fascination

# Time Machine

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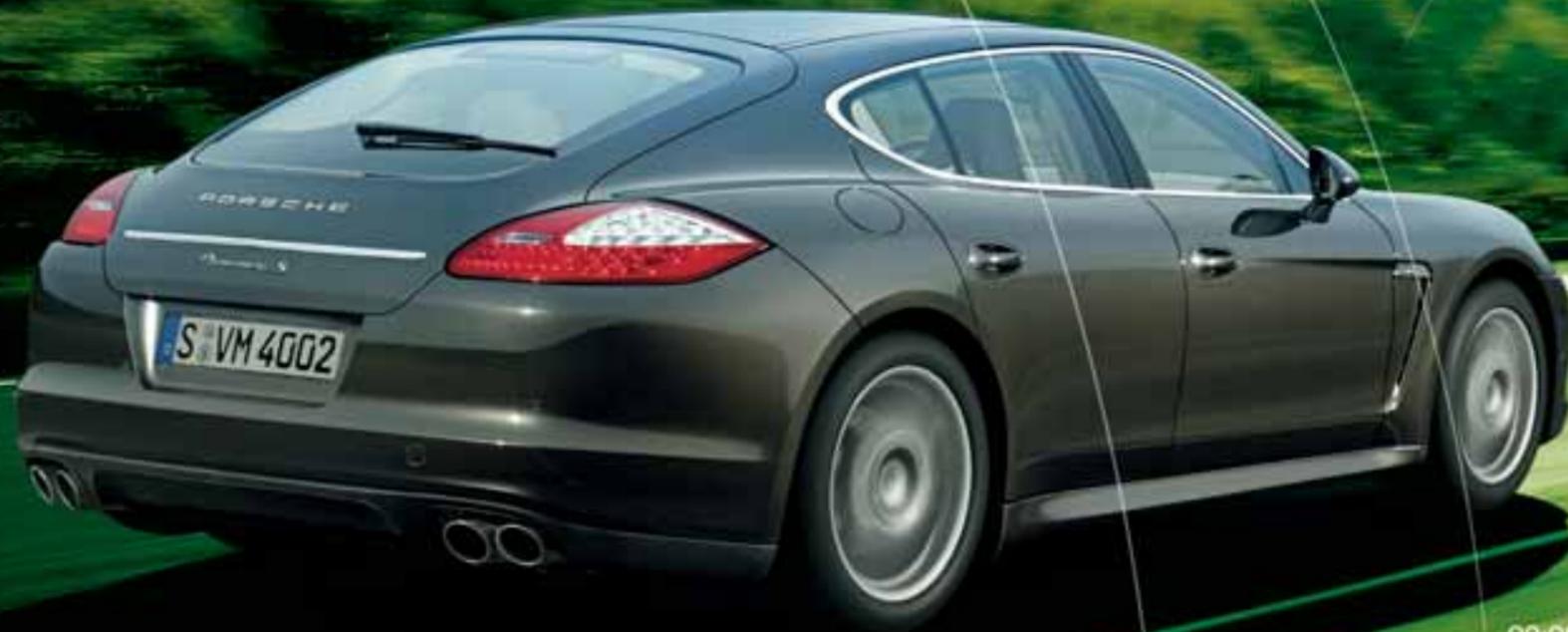
It won't be long before the speed of the Panamera is expressed in nanoseconds rather than miles per hour. It's just a matter of time. And that's exactly where this trip will lead us—to the eternal human longing to outrun time. Let's take a peek into the time tunnel.

#### "Driver's Perspective": The Porsche Calendar 2010

The original motif is borrowed from the product calendar for 2010, in which striking images convey the fascinating diversity of the current model range. [www.porsche.com/shop](http://www.porsche.com/shop)

We just couldn't wait, so we decided to turn the Panamera into a time machine this New Year's Eve. After all, what better date could there be for our experiment—and for the beginning of the new era that has dawned at Porsche? Modern technology, on the roads and elsewhere, has indeed brought us ever closer to this old dream. The thought is exciting, and also a little scary—science fiction becomes reality.

Unlike the scientists in the 1960s TV show *Time Tunnel*, we don't need to set up our time machine in secret labs under the desert sand, and we probably won't land on board the *Titanic*, either. We pick seemingly unremarkable stretches of highway, like the one from St. Joseph in Michigan to Michigan City in the neighboring state of Indiana. Others lead from the Spanish town of Vigo to Viana do Castelo in Portugal and from the Mediterranean coast of Greece to Sarandë in Albania. Still others will take us along the Amazon river from Brazil to Peru, through the Australian Outback, or across Scandinavia's far north. As different as these roads are, ▶



04:00

03:00

02:00

01:00

00:00

23:00

22:00

21:00

they all have one thing in common: they all pass over boundaries between two time zones and thus allow us to “cheat time,” in a manner of speaking.

A simple, yet enticing idea, especially on New Year’s Eve: getting ahead of time and being able to usher in the New Year twice. Or if there’s something you need to do before the old year is out—maybe hand in a lottery ticket?—you can do it the other way around. What a wonderful thought, what great expectations—being a wanderer between worlds, linking the past and the future while your hands on the steering wheel keep you firmly rooted in the present. But a word of caution: depending on how often you give in to the temptation to jump between years, too frequent glances at the clock in the cockpit might lead to a slight feeling of dizziness.

The perfect trip through time would lead across the International Date Line, located along the 180th degree of longitude, which is inconveniently located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. It runs right through the tiny island nation of Kiribati in Micronesia, about halfway between Hawaii and Australia. The islands of Kiribati were divided by the date line until the beginning of the new millennium, when the government asked that it be shifted. Its request was granted, and since then each New Year officially begins first in the eastern part of Kiribati.

However, the record for the most New Year déjà-vu experiences would have to go not to our Panamera crews, but to the crew of the International Space Station (ISS), who can greet the new year

sixteen times while orbiting Earth. But while they can go only in one direction, we can go back and forth as we please. What a privilege: if we’re tired of yesterday, we can just turn around.

But is the rush of speed, completely legal and performed in abundance of the rules of the road—our very own self-orchestrated Big Bang, creating a new framework of time and space—really the key to bliss? Or might we just find that we’re happiest in the here and now? No matter. Either way, our little excursion into time travel will have been worth every minute.

A word of consolation for those who have to stay behind: not everything in life can be reduced to simple physics. Longing will always be faster than time. Back to the future. Just take the time—at least enough to wrap your mind around that. ◀

