



Sports

Siberian Tigers

By
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Just running your finger over the map lets you feel the adventure of the Transsyberia Rally: 7,108 kilometers (4,417 miles) from Moscow to Ulan Bator. Twenty-four Cayenne S Transsyberias followed the trail of the czar's couriers.

The Panthera tigris altaica lives in the Russian Far East and Mongolia: it is muscular and a good climber, but also moves very gracefully on level ground. When running down prey, it can put on a fast gallop. This summer, the famous Siberian tiger got some competition—from 24 Porsche Cayenne S Transsyberias that headed east on August 3 from Moscow's Red Square. The specially prepared Cayennes also have these same attributes, but with wheels instead of paws. For the first time, Porsche has built a limited-edition series for such a competition. In addition to the characteristic rally design, this 385-hp V8 model also includes a roll cage, a shorter axle ratio, a reinforced multi-component underbody guard, and Porsche Dynamic Chassis Control adapted for extreme conditions.



The Russian summer got rained out this year, too. “Muddy, messy, miserable,” the boy scouts reported about the route through Siberia. The rally participants soon knew why Transsyberia organizer Richard Schalber had symbolically given them bread and salt for the road—the traditional protection from accidents and fire. Even the pros, who otherwise trust only their off-road-capable navigation systems and their front-seat passengers, were grateful for this moral support, because the orientation drive was anything but a drive in the park. Water holes, tree-trunk bridges, rocks—real pioneering work. Among the 24 Cayenne teams, which functioned as national teams, there was camaraderie: one might pull the other out of the muck on occasion, for example.





Marathon men:
Rod Millen and co-driver Richard Kelsey (USA/New Zealand) reached the finish first in their Cayenne S Transsyberia; second and third place went to Cayenne drivers Antonio Tognana/Carlo Cassina (Italy) and Adel Abdulla/Norbert Lutteri (Qatar/Italy)

Adventure Transsyberia

Start: August 3, 2007, Moscow
Goal: August 17, 2007, Ulan Bator
Length: 7,108 km (4,417 miles)

The road from Europe to Asia is bumpy—and not only proverbially. Covering 4,549 kilometers (2,827 miles) of Russian and 2,559 kilometers (1,590 miles) of Mongolian “roadway,” the Transsyberia participants had to overcome every conceivable kind of landscape: marshland, taiga, mountains, desert. It was a supreme challenge to human and machine. “The key to success in this tremendously tough marathon were experi-

ence and circumspection. It’s unbelievable to come through such a rally in a luxury vehicle,” said winner Rod Millen, from the USA, at the end of the ordeal for the 33 teams from a total of 15 countries. For nine days, the German duo of former European rally champion Armin Schwarz and Oliver Hilger had held on to the lead. The Transsyberia Rally 2007 was certainly one of the great adventures on four wheels.

