

“Soulful Driving” in Thailand

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24/04/2020 The latest issue of Curves magazine is out – and this time the spotlight shines on the incredible roads of Thailand. The Porsche Newsroom provides a look behind the scenes.

The story of the current Curves issue begins in Bangkok. It begins with a man driving in his Porsche to see a friend. They sit and chat and, at some point, the Porsche driver tosses the key to his 911 to his friend’s son. “Fetch some drinks,” he says with a grin. He had seen how the young man had been eyeing up the Porsche. The lad can hardly believe his luck and drives off.

His name is Sihabutr Xoomsai. His friends call him Tenn, and he went on to organise southeast Asia’s first Porsche meeting in 2016. It’s called: “Das Treffen” (The Gathering). A German name that is short and sweet, and says it all. It contains a certain sympathy for the unembellished nature of the German language, as well as recognising the German-ness of the Porsche brand – and of course, the name says exactly what it’s all about.

As the size and success of Das Treffen continued to grow, Curves creator Stefan Bogner couldn't resist the temptation to see it for himself. He booked a flight to Bangkok – and was utterly stunned.

"Das Treffen is a force of nature, both global and regional at the same time, a melting pot of the most diverse car stories and biographies, a moving reminder of the binding, equalising, democratic effect of the Porsche brand. And a festival of friendship. It is exactly the same as the idea behind Curves," explains Bogner.

When he left Bangkok, he had found friends: Tenn, the Renndrive gang, the Porsche community of southeast Asia. And he knew that he would be back next year. After the 2018 Treffen, plans were put in place for a Curves-style extension – a road trip in northern Thailand, out of Bangkok and into the mountains.

"Tenn told us that the roads up there are amazing, and I was keen to find out for myself," Bogner recalls. "A few stunned days later, it was clear that one of the next issues of Curves would definitely take place in Thailand. Not merely a small, controlled and tentative trip in a strange world, but a bold dive head-first into this wild, confusing parallel universe of southeast Asia. Total immersion, with no going back.

"During production of the magazine, we moved our lives to Thailand for several weeks and drove 4,700 miles – a good 3,000 of them on roads that were unbelievably intense and emotional, full of surprises and our favourite thing in the world – curves," says Bogner.

"We would also like to thank Porsche Asia Pacific, Porsche's regional office for Asia Pacific in Singapore, for allowing us to abduct the new Porsche Taycan Turbo for a few days in Bangkok."

On the stages through the northern highlands as well as the coastal stint in the south, Bogner and his team were able to rely on the company of his friends from Renndrive. "They took good care of us in the way that only real friends do, and showed us their version of road-tripping. Traveling in Thailand; on a magical journey so uniquely alien, yet, because of you, strangely familiar."

Stefan Bogner is certain that "these amazing guys did things for us behind the scenes of which we remain blissfully unaware to this day. And the many wonders of which we are aware bring a great big lump to the throat. You have our love, you have our friendship, you have our respect. The same also applies, of course, to our families and friends at home. We go, just have to go, but we always return. You are the destination of every journey. Thousands of miles long."

Info

Photos: Stefan Bogner
Text: Ben Winter

"Curves 12: Thailand" is available for purchase at this link.

Note

"Curves 12: Thailand" was produced before the outbreak of Covid-19. Curves magazine and Porsche are aware of their social responsibilities and are advising against recreating such a trip until it is safe and travel is permitted.

Consumption data

Taycan Turbo (Predecessor model)

*Further information on the official fuel consumption and the official specific CO_2 emissions of new passenger cars can be found in the "Leitfaden über den Kraftstoffverbrauch, die CO_2-Emissionen und den Stromverbrauch neuer Personenkraftwagen" (Fuel Consumption, CO_2Emissions and Electricity Consumption Guide for New Passenger Cars), which is available free of charge at all sales outlets and from DAT (Deutsche Automobil Treuhand GmbH, Helmuth-Hirth-Str. 1, 73760 Ostfildern-Scharnhausen, www.dat.de).

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Dr. Ing. h.c. F. Porsche Aktiengesellschaft
Porscheplatz 1
70435 Stuttgart