



Göttingen 2025 das 26. Puma-Treffen

23 Pumas und mehr als 50 Pumeiros



Puma Meetup 2025 – Four federal states in three days!

Lower Saxony, Hesse, North Rhine-Westphalia, and Thuringia

The Ascension Day weekend, the traditional date for the Puma community meetup, usually guarantees stable, beautiful weather. Not so in 2025 – heavy showers were forecast for central Germany. Nevertheless, 23 big cats with accompanying vehicles and a total of around 50 participants made their way to Göttingen in Lower Saxony. Most of them reached the venue largely dry, and at least for the drives, the sunny spring weather held out until their departure on Sunday.

A conference hotel conveniently located near the highway with plenty of space was chosen as the base, offering ideal conditions for parking our coupes and roadsters in single-model rows with its hectare-sized parking lot. All the necessary infrastructure for servicing the cars and crews was also available in the immediate vicinity. This proved to be useful the very next day at the start of the first outing, when a replacement battery had to be procured at short notice. For dinner together, we had the hotel lobby to ourselves, which gave us plenty of space for Jens' warm welcome and the briefing by the organizing team, Indina and Frank, but above all for the many reunions between Puma friends and getting to know the new Pumeiros in the group.





Briefing before the first departure

We were supposed to get going early on Friday morning – if it hadn't been for the incorrect coding of some parking barrier cards, which slowed our departure down a little. But a bold grab at the red and white bar solved the problem, and one of the longest Puma traffic jams quickly cleared. We headed west towards the Weser Valley, and a winding drive through the Bramwald forest with its stunning views led us to the medieval Bursfelde monastery, reaching our first highlight after just under half an hour.

The Romanesque double church was open for us to visit, and a nun parking her anthracite-gray Skoda next to our colorful fleet did not criticize our not-so-monastery-quiet convoy – no, she was really happy to see our oldies, because: “In the old days, cars were still colorful, much nicer than today!”



“Technical break” at Bursfelde Monastery

We continued across the river to Hesse and its former port—Bad Karlshafen—from where many emigrants left the poor mountainous region centuries ago to head for America. The mayor himself had approved the positioning of our fleet in front of the town hall at the picturesque harbor basin, allowing us to spread out for a lunch break in the garden restaurants and cafés overlooking the river or the old town. The latter had been designed in the style of southern France by immigrants from that region, bringing a touch of Mediterranean flair to our route.





Display on the harbor promenade in Bad Karlshafen

Refreshed, we rolled on, passing through North Rhine-Westphalia for a few meters, through the dense Solling Forest with its fresh greenery, and along a panoramic route toward Einbeck. The “PS.Speicher” there is considered the largest vehicle collection in Europe, with a special focus on two-wheelers, small cars from the 1950s, commercial vehicles, and model vehicles. It was impossible to see everything in one afternoon. So most of us limited ourselves to the mobility exhibition, which was lovingly put together and had great cultural and historical value. It spans the arc from the first balance bike to the mobility of the future. For the last stage to Göttingen, the Pumas had the choice of hitting the highway again or taking a more leisurely route through the countryside. In the evening, everyone met at a Mexican-themed restaurant near the hotel and reviewed the day's 200 km circuit.





The first evening

On Saturday, we planned to go a little further afield. This time, unhindered by bulky parking barriers, we headed east—with a chorus of horns blaring through the organizers' neighborhood. The first meeting point caused quite a scare: an ignition key broke in two when the car was parked. But what would a community of interest be if expert help hadn't been on hand right away? Short-circuiting isn't always illegal, so after a few minutes we were able to continue. With their tires well warmed up, the field reached Höherberg, a place of pilgrimage where cars and carriages are blessed every year, via winding country roads. Does something like this also exist in Brazil? Definitely... The huge grassy area was an ideal location for the obligatory group photo, with a wide panorama in the background.



The community at the Höherberg pilgrimage chapel

View over the entire Harz Mountains and Eichsfeld region, from Lower Saxony via Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia to Hesse. Back on the move, the group rolled north towards the Harz Mountains, and after a short time began the ascent through the romantic Sieber Valley, already in the Harz National Park, to Sankt Andreasberg, where one of the steepest inner-city roads in Germany, with a gradient of 22%, finally brought the vehicles up to operating temperature. But there was also an alternative route for those who were concerned about their clutches – after all, what can happen will happen, as was to become apparent.

At around 700 meters above sea level, the field rolled along a beautifully constructed panoramic route – unfortunately with a sad view of the Harz heights, which had been almost completely deforested by bark beetles. At least the tentative green of spring showed that new forest was sprouting here too.



View from the Harzturm tower onto the Puma fleet

At Torfhaus, the meeting point for many classic car and motorcycle trips in northern Germany, the Pumeiros gathered to climb the recently opened new “Harzturm” tower, Germany's tallest wooden observation tower. From the 50-meter-high platform, you could see the neighboring Brocken or Blocksberg and far down into the lowlands towards Braunschweig and Hanover. But at our feet, we could see the colorful field of Pumas, looking like toy cars – but that's what they are to us, after all...

On the short way to our lunch break, there was a moment of panic – a problem with the fuel supply slowed down the convoy, unfortunately at the narrowest point of the federal highway and on the most unsuitable day, when it felt like all the motorcycle groups in northern Germany were taking advantage of the beautiful weather for a mountain trip at the same time. But even the police patrol that happened to be passing by looked sympathetically at the line of Pumas forming, and the problem was quickly resolved. The same was true for the owner of the restaurant where we stopped for lunch. At first, the service was not particularly noteworthy, but that changed when the group set off again. Due to the heavy holiday traffic, it was practically impossible to turn left out of the parking lot. But the innkeeper quickly stood in the middle of the highway, completely blocking traffic in both directions and waved us out en bloc. It works!

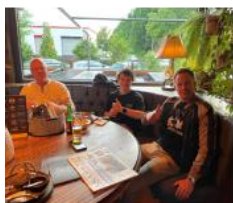




Lunch break with giant cream puffs – and community briefing by Jens

On the downhill stretch heading south, the technical gremlin struck the lead vehicle of the convoy: its master brake cylinder failed, but the handbrake took over, so nothing worse happened. Even without the Puma leader, who knew the area well, the field safely reached the starting point via various possible routes through Thuringia, formerly Eastern Germany. Some followed the course of the former inner-German border, including the Borderland Museum near Duderstadt, where a Trabant and a VW Beetle, the genetic core of our Pumas, are displayed outdoors as reminders of the vehicles from the days of national division.

In the evening, after the 230 km long circuit, everyone was able to fortify themselves with hearty portions in another American-style themed restaurant. With heavy rain setting in during the night, all the convertible tops were closed, and the next morning the sun was shining again for the general departure. Our conclusion is that we had extremely pleasant encounters, beautiful routes, and joy at the successful reunion – thank you all for your inspiring participation! We look forward to 2026 in our beautiful neighboring region of East Westphalia-Lippe! And once again, a warm welcome to all new members of Puma Col Europe!



The final evening 😊

P.S. And finally, an original Brazilian master brake cylinder was even found for our GTS in the depths of a Dutch Puma trunk – we are grateful for that too and are ready for next time! And remember, everyone: check your oil level...

Indina and Frank Woesthoff

