

Porsche 959 Paris-Dakar

With the 959 super sports car, Porsche realises numerous groundbreaking technical solutions in the mid-eighties. Even before the first 959 are delivered to customers, the sports car achieves its first internationally acclaimed victory in motorsport in January 1986. With the #186 Porsche 959, Frenchmen René Metge and Dominique Lemoyne win the 14,000-kilometre rally from Paris to Dakar in West Africa ahead of Jacky Ickx and Claude Brasseur in a second factory-run 959. The third 959, a “flying service car” helmed by project manager Roland Kussmaul and his colleague Wolf-Hendrik Unger as co-driver, finishes in sixth. Like its production counterpart, the 959 Paris-Dakar is powered by an air/water-cooled boxer engine with sequential twin turbochargers. Due to the poor fuel quality, Porsche reduces the output of the six-cylinder unit to 400 hp. A cutting edge, electro-hydraulically controlled centre differential distributes torque between the front and rear axle. Like the 1984-winning 911 4x4, the 959 Paris Dakar features a reinforced suspension with dual shock absorbers at the front axle. The six-speed transmission is geared for a top speed of 210 km/h. The carbon-fibre and fibreglass reinforced plastic body contributes to the relatively low weight of 1,260 kilograms.

Model Year:	1986
Engine:	6-cyl. flat, turbo
Displacement:	2,849 cc
Power Output:	294 kW (400 hp)
Weight:	1,260 kg
Top Speed:	210 km/h