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Prague's fastest taxi: Rally champion Jan Kopecký giving passenger rides on board ŠKODA FABIA R5

- › Taxi customers in Prague experiencing live action alongside Czech Rally Champion
- › Jan Kopecký drove 23 "passengers" through the Czech capital covering 165 kilometres
- › Final highlight: spectacular co-drive on closed road in Letná area
- › In 2017 ŠKODA teams driving FABIA R5 won World Rally Championship's WRC 2 category as well as 14 national and numerous regional titles
- › Entertaining video of the rally-style taxi drives can be found on [ŠKODA Storyboard](#)

Mladá Boleslav/Prague, 23 December 2017 – ŠKODA Motorsport celebrated the most successful year in its history in spectacular style. With Christmas getting closer, ŠKODA factory driver Jan Kopecký gave a number of people in Prague a special surprise: The five times Czech Rally Champion answered to calls for a taxi, showing up with a 290 bhp ŠKODA FABIA R5 rally car. What followed was an unforgettable drive through the streets of the Czech capital – unforgettable for Kopecký and his guests alike.

"Driving a ŠKODA FABIA R5 through the city of Prague really was an unique experience. Luckily nobody got stomach problems. Nevertheless I was well prepared having sickness bags in ŠKODA colours on board," laughed ŠKODA factory driver Jan Kopecký.

Driving a ŠKODA FABIA R5 the five times Czech Rally Champion normally thrills spectators along special stages around the world. This time, with Christmas getting closer by the day, he made a number of people a very exclusive present: Randomly picked "taxi customers" got the chance to co-drive Kopecký on the streets of Prague's city centre on board the turbo-powered, all-wheel driven rally car. The ŠKODA FABIA R5 was seen all over the Czech capital during the day, starting at Prague's fruit market. Later on "cabby" Kopecký changed to Dlouhá Street, where he turned some more heads during the early evening hours.

Strapped down in the hot seat, normally the "office" of Kopecký's co-driver Pavel Dresler, the passengers had to fulfill difficult tasks during the rides. For example they had to read the pace notes, the meticulous stage description used during a rally, or to figure out how the co-driver can activate the ŠKODA FABIA R5's wipers. So they could experience firsthand the demanding job of a co-driver on board a rally car.

A video of the high-adrenaline taxi drives can be found on the Internet, on YouTube, Instagram and Facebook as well as on the web sites of ŠKODA Motorsport and on [ŠKODA Storyboard](#). ŠKODA Storyboard additionally features an interview with Kopecký about his debut as taxi driver.

ŠKODA FABIA R5 is the most successful rally car of its category

In 2017 the ŠKODA FABIA R5 drove from victory to victory, not only in the WRC 2 category of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) but also in a number of regional and national championships. Thereby the ŠKODA FABIA R5 was the most successful rally car in its category by a long stretch. On World Rally Championship level ŠKODA factory crew Pontus Tidemand and fellow Swede Jonas Andersson won the WRC 2 title – becoming the third team in a row to win WRC 2 honours driving a ŠKODA FABIA R5. At the same time ŠKODA Motorsport took the FIA



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WRC 2 Team Championship. In the Czech Championship Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE), also competing in a ŠKODA FABIA R5, scored their fifth national title. In total 14 crews won their country's national championships. Furthermore, the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC), the FIA South American Rally Championship (CODASUR) and the FIA African Rally Championship (ARC) were won by teams driving a ŠKODA FABIA R5.

In 2018 ŠKODA Motorsport is aiming to continue the success story. Main focus will be on the World Rally Championship's WRC 2 category again, where ŠKODA Motorsport will enter its youngest driver squad ever. Furthermore, ŠKODA Motorsport will support customer teams worldwide. On ŠKODA's home soil Jan Kopecký is going to defend the title of Czech Rally Champion. His ŠKODA FABIA R5 will carry the tricolour of the Czech flag, paying tribute to the 100th birthday of the founding date of Czechoslovakia back in 1918.

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Media video and images:



Video: ŠKODA FABIA R5 turned taxi

Driving a ŠKODA FABIA R5 as taxi through Prague factory driver Jan Kopecký picked up "customers" at the Fruit market and at Dlouhá Street.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA FABIA R5 as taxi in Prague

Czech Rally Champion Jan Kopecký answered to calls for a taxi, showing up in a 290 bhp ŠKODA FABIA R5 rally car.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA FABIA R5 as taxi in Prague

ŠKODA factory driver Jan Kopecký entertaining several "co-drivers" on the roads of central Prague.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA factory team for 2018

ŠKODA Motorsport's driver squad for the 2018 season is one of the youngest ever in the World Rally Championship.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA FABIA R5 in new colours

In 2018 Czech Rally Champion Jan Kopecký is defending his title driving a ŠKODA FABIA R5 in colours celebrating the 100th birthday of Czechoslovakia.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO





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ŠKODA Motorsport Overview

ŠKODA has been successful on the motorsport scene since 1901. Be it on the circuit or in rallies, ŠKODA has celebrated victories and won titles all around the world. Historical highlights include winning the title in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2) for the first time in 2016, numerous title wins in the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC) and the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC), as well as the victory in the European Touring Car Championship in 1981. ŠKODA teams have also triumphed in the world's oldest and most famous rally, taking several class victories in the legendary Monte Carlo, which was first held in 1911.

The ŠKODA FABIA R5, a high-tech 4x4, was homologated by the International Automobile Federation FIA on 1 April 2015. ŠKODA's new FABIA R5 is successfully continuing the long tradition of ŠKODA Motorsport. Its predecessor, the FABIA SUPER 2000, won 50 national and international titles around the world. In the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2) 2016, Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (FIN/FIN) won the title for the Czech car maker. In total, ten of the 2016 season's races in the World Rally Championship were won by a ŠKODA FABIA R5. ŠKODA drivers Gustavo Saba (PRY) and Gaurav Gill (IND) also won the continental championships in South America and the Asia-Pacific region at the wheel of the successful ŠKODA FABIA R5. Nasser Al-Attiyah (QAT) was unbeatable in the Middle East Rally Championship (MERC), while a further ten national titles also went the way of ŠKODA drivers.

2017 was the most successful year in the history of ŠKODA Motorsport. Works duo Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (S/S) became WRC 2 Champions, ŠKODA Motorsport won the Team Championship. Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZ/CZ) won the Czech Rally Championship (MČR) for the third time in a row and are the spearhead of in total 14 crews winning their country's national titles. Furthermore the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC), the FIA South American Rally Championship (CODASUR) and the FIA African Rally Championship (ARC) have been won by teams competing in a ŠKODA FABIA R5.

ŠKODA AUTO

- › is one of the longest-established vehicle manufacturers in the world. The company was founded in 1895 – during the pioneering days of the automobile. Today, the company's headquarters remain in Mladá Boleslav.
- › currently offers the following models in the range: CITIGO, FABIA, RAPID, OCTAVIA, KAROQ, KODIAQ and SUPERB.
- › in 2016 delivered more than 1 million vehicles to customers worldwide.
- › has belonged to Volkswagen Group since 1991. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world. ŠKODA, in association with the Group, independently manufactures and develops vehicles, as well as components, engines and gear transmissions.
- › operates at three locations in the Czech Republic, produces in China, Russia, Slovakia, Algeria and India mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan through local partners.
- › employs over 30,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.

