



BRAZILIAN VW PUMA SPORTS CARS

The Puma is a Volkswagen based specialty sports car built in Brazil. Strict Brazilian regulations which banned imports to encourage domestic automobile production led to the development of the Puma and other specialty vehicles. Production began in 1964 using DKW components, with a switch to VW components in 1967. This necessitated a change from front engine, front wheel drive to rear engine, rear wheel drive. The first Pumas were built strictly for racing, but it was not long before they were being built for street use. Pumas were sporadically imported to the U.S. during the 1970's and 1980's. Although the Puma was not designed as a kit car, the cars were imported in kit form. The "kit" was actually a complete car less the front suspension, transaxle, engine, wheels, and tires. The missing components were available from the distributor, or the buyer could supply the needed parts. Less restrictive regulations permitted the importation and marketing of complete cars in Canada. Pumas were also popular in South Africa, and were assembled there for a time. Puma built some front engine rear wheel drive models based on Brazilian Chevrolet components, but these were not exported. Once the Brazilian market was opened to imports, the domestic market for the Puma declined significantly. This, combined with the (at least temporary) end of air cooled VW production in Brazil, spelled the end of this attractive line of cars. A few rear engine Pumas with water cooled VW engines were made during the final years of production, but sales of these were low. In total, some 20,000 Puma automobiles were produced over the life of the marque. Alfa Metais, which controlled Puma at the time, continued to produce special bodied trucks under the Puma name after the end of Puma automobile production.

1967 Puma DKW Coupe



This was the immediate predecessor to the VW powered Pumas.

1970's Puma GTS Convertible



1970's Puma GTE Coupe



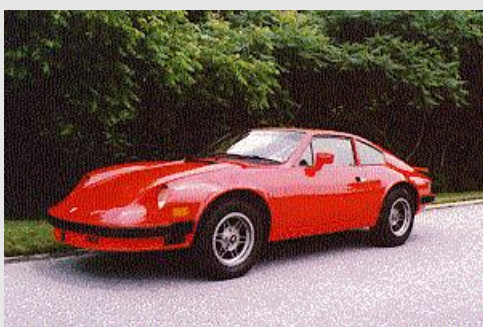
The stock chrome bumpers have been removed.
Owner: David Morton



A Similar Puma GTE in Yellow



1980's Puma Coupe



Note spoiler and factory wheel with Puma emblem in center cap.
Owner: Don Vought

1982 Puma GTI Coupe



Former Puma Corvair now back to VW power.
Owner: Jim Wilcox.

1973 Puma Coupe



This is reported to be the only Puma in Australia.
Owner: Carl Bruce



1978 Puma Coupe Rear View



This coupe has early style nonwrapping tail lights.
Owner: Paul Jung

1985 Puma GTC Convertible



This show car has 2275 cc's and dual Dellorto carbs.
Owner: Jorge Matias

Puma GTI Coupe



This car also belongs to Jorge Matias.

1981 Puma GTC Convertible



1981 Puma GTC and 1972 Karmann Ghia



This GTC is also a turn-key Canadian car.
Owner: Sylvain Girard (Puma GTC)



This turn-key Canadian car has Puma dual carb setup.
Owner: Victor Alksnis



1992 Puma AM-4



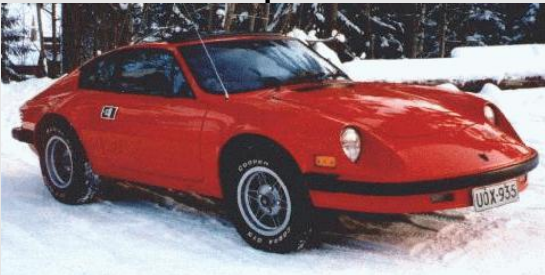
Late model with water cooled VW engine in the rear.

South African Puma Coupe



This is a second run car from 1989-1991.

Puma GTI Coupe from Finland



Owner: Timo Tapper

Canadian Market GTI Coupe



This picture was taken September 1998.
Owner: Francois Lemieux

1984 Puma GTC Convertible



1979 Puma GTS Convertible



Owner: James Esposito

1977 Puma GTE Coupe



Blue is a relatively uncommon color.
Owner: Ron Sample



SOME INTERESTING LINKS

[Master Fibras](#). Brazilian Puma truck dealer who also sells Puma car parts.

[Volkswagen of Brazil](#). Official VW company site.

[Alta Veiculos](#). Brazilian Volkswagen dealer.

[Guaruja Veiculos](#). Brazilian VW dealer in Sao Paulo.

[Caraiga Volkswagen Audi](#). Brazilian VW Audi Dealer. Great pictures.

[Fiorenza Volkswagen](#). Brazilian VW dealer in Rio de Janeiro.

[Carozine](#). Includes Brazil only Pumas and other makes. Maintained by Jose Geraldo.

[Wouter's Page](#). A South African Puma owner. Good stuff here.

[Jim Frontiero's Home Page](#). Jim owns a Puma GTI with Ford Bronco V-6 Power.

[South American Specialty Cars](#). Located at the KTUD Auto Archive.

[VW SP Page](#). VW of Brazil factory specialty car.

[Brazilian Karmann Ghia Page](#). Another VW factory specialty car.

[Veteran Car Club of Brazil](#). Great site! Check it out.

[Blumenau Autos Veteranen Club](#). Another Brazilian antique car club.

[O Globo Classicos](#). Classic cars Brazilian style profiled by Jason Vogel.

[Quatro Rodas](#). Brazil's top enthusiast automobile publication.

[Megastar Veiculos Emme](#). A Brazilian specialty car maker that is still in business.

[Adam's VW Fox Home Page](#). Brazilian VW export model for the U.S. and Canada.

[Mike's VW Museum Page](#). Neat VW page maintained by Mike Hansell.

[Rare Component Cars](#). Kit car site maintained by John Mellberg.

[Hemmings Motor News](#). The premier source for collector car information.

[Classic Motor Monthly](#). Nifty U.K. sports car oriented site.

[Bill Jackameit's Studebaker Page](#). Another of my automotive passions.

[Bill Jackameit Diecast Toys](#). My diecast toy page.