



# RSRNURBURG YOUR WAY TO LEARN THE 'RING

RSRNURBURG PROVIDES EXPERT GUIDANCE AND CAR RENTAL SERVICES ON THE ULTIMATE DRIVING TRACK, THE NORDSCHLEIFE. WE SENT **JASON HARDY** TO TRY IT.

**M**y instructor's final words to me were simple: "Don't crash." I've done my fair share of track days, but as a Nordschleife novice, I was absolutely bricking it. Normally I take a morning to learn a circuit I've never driven before, but the Nordschleife would probably take a year to master properly. It requires a different approach because you can't go out and take

everything in at once. You have to break it down section by section and learn a little part at a time, but at least I wasn't completely in the dark.

For my first of four laps, I had RSR instructor Luis Ramirez alongside me to deliver a constant feed of instructions; braking and turn-in markers, together with general rules of the 'Ring. But with a steady stream of cars and bikes in the mirrors, you can never just concentrate on the bit of road you're on. You have to look as far down the track as possible to anticipate what's coming up and be aware of everything happening around you at the same time.

I did some preparation by driving the track on PlayStation, but it really doesn't do the place justice. It's good for knowing when to turn left or right, but it can't show you the elevation changes or give you the same sensations. The Karussell is more like a wall of death than a regular corner, my arms were shaking as I tried to grip the wheel. This was no picnic!

If you're not on the ball, the place will bite. On my first lap driving solo, I lost my bearings approaching Adenauer Forst and didn't brake because I was too busy looking in the mirror. Fortunately I gathered it up, but it was definitely an eye-opener as I didn't want my beautifully-prepared Porsche Cayman GTS rental to star in a YouTube crash compilation...

For the next two laps, I backed it down and I actually went quicker as a result. It's often the smallest details

## EXPERT VIEW: HOW JASON GOT ON

"He had an idea of how to drive on track, but he can still improve his progressive learning, which is something I always say, even to racing drivers. It doesn't matter how much experience you have, this track changes all the rules. Knowing a track from the simulator is just a reference to know where the track is going, but driving and doing laps is where you can start to really learn."



Heralding from Mexico, RSRNurburg instructor Luis Ramirez, 27, has coached at the Green Hell since 2015.

where you can gain the most time; by braking earlier and approaching the corners with more caution, I was able to get on-power sooner. Even things like moving the seat nearer to the steering wheel so I could apply more braking pressure was a really helpful tip that I can call on next time.

The Green Hell is the most terrifying yet rewarding experience I've ever had in a car, an adrenaline rush the likes of which I've never had on any UK circuit. Knowing that you're on a track where so many great names have raced and many have lost their lives necessitates that you pay it maximum respect. Just being in that environment as a car enthusiast is very special and no matter how many track days you do, I don't think you could find anything that compares.

But as much as I could feel myself getting more confident, I know I've still got a long way to go before I'm race-ready. Next for me is a trip to RSR's Driving Academy at Spa-Francorchamps, before hopefully returning to tame the 'Ring later in the year. Wish me luck...



Jason was out of his comfort zone on the Nordschleife

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