View the online version

ROAD BOOK -D-7

A NEW ROUTE, A RECORD NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

After three editions designed by David Castera and his team starting from Fez and Zagora, it is now Agadir's turn to host the Rallye du Maroc, from October 1st to 6th. A route along the Atlantic coast, wilder than the previous years, punctuated by four bivouacs, where sand and navigation will be the main themes of this dress rehearsal for the next Dakar. An opportunity that both amateur and professional competitors have seized with both hands. The expected field exceeds the record set last year with all the stars present and correct.

ON TRACK
Back to the roots of rally-raid
After two years of global pandemic, David Castera has finally been able to give free rein to his creativity designing the 22nd edition of the Rallye du Maroc. Driven by the desire, shared with Morocco, to take the competitors towards ever more adventure, they have deliberately chosen to move away from the Kingdom's classic desert territories to turn this year to those of its Atlantic facade and its wilder immensities.

2316 kilometres are waiting for the candidates of this giant loop, with the departure and finish in Agadir. 741 kilometres of liaison and 1575 kilometres of special stage divided into five stages and punctuated by four nights in bivouac. A first night in Tan Tan – a historical stage on the Dakar where the rally went in 2007 on the last African edition - two consecutive nights in Laâyoune, before returning to the first bivouac in Tan Tan and then to the finish along the ocean.

More sand on the track than usual, dunes around Laayoune that are maybe not so well known but are no less demanding than those of Ergs Chebbi and Chegaga and four consecutive nights shared in bivouac, ingredients similar to those awaiting the competitors of the 2023 Dakar. Clearly no coincidence, given that **David Castera** is the architect of both events: *"The Kingdom of Morocco has some of the most varied a territory in the world, where we can find almost all the elements of the Dakar. When I designed the route here, I also had in mind what awaits the competitors a few weeks later and I want to prepare them for it. Navigation and sand will be big parts this edition which will take place in wilder territories, on tracks often much less marked than those that competitors have encountered on previous editions. They will be similar to those of Saudi Arabia and will give this edition the profile of a small Dakar 2023."*

Entries on the rise!
With 140 motorcycles, 100 cars (+25%) and 9 trucks, the rally-raid community has confirmed its growing attachment to the Moroccan event. The record number of entries set in 2021 has been maintained for the motorcycle category and exceeded in the other categories. Nearly 250 vehicles are expected to go through administrative and technical scrutineering at the Agadir Stadium on September 30 and the morning October 1 (see Programme).

The entry is not just big, it is also top level, with almost all of the stars of the

discipline present. In the motorcycle category, 14 out of the 16 factory riders will be at the start of the third W2RC round. Pablo Quintanilla (Monster Energy Honda), title holder and second on both the Dakar and in the provisional World Championship standings, will be accompanied for the first time in a race by his new teammate Adrien Van Beveren. Sam Sunderland (GasGas Factory Racing), winner of the first two rounds of the W2RC (Dakar and Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge) will be attempting to win three in a row. Toby Price and Kevin Benavides will represent the Red Bull KTM Factory Racing team, while Hero Motosports, Husqvarna and Sherco will have their full squads. In the quad category, Alexandre Giroud, winner in Jeddah last January, will make his return to competition against a dozen contenders, including the likes of Manuel Andujar, winner of the 2021 Dakar.

In the cars, the spotlight will be on two big battles: that of the returning Audi team against their rivals and also that of the two tenors of the category, Loeb (Bahrain Raid Xtreme) and Al Attiyah (Toyota Gazoo Racing), neck and neck in the 2022 World Champion title race.

In the Audi clan, Peterhansel, Sainz and Ekström will not only be in full formation for the first time since last January, but also at the controls of the new RS Q e-tron Evo 2. The latest generation Audi will reveal the German brand's capabilities to achieve their stated goal of winning the next Dakar. The two leaders of the W2RC, separated by just a single point in favour of Loeb, will enter the second half of the championship before the final round in Andalusia two weeks later. The Frenchman is aiming for a tenth world title while the Qatari, a six-time winner and Rallye du Maroc record holder, will be trying to claim his seventh crown in Agadir. But they will have to stay focused on their objectives in the face of the attacks from contenders such as Yazeed Al Rajhi and Erik Van Loon (Hilux Overdrive Racing), Orlando Terranova (Hunter Prodrive), Jakub Przygonski and Sebastian Halpern (Buggy X-Raid Mini JCW), Martin Prokop (Raptor RS Cross Country) or the returning Guerlain Chicherit who will make his debut in the same car as Loeb (Hunter Prodrive). So many great names and vehicles in the final stages of preparation for the Dakar that will undoubtedly give the race an exceptional flavour.

In T3, the big names will all be there, including "Chaleco" Lopez (Can-Am Factory South Racing), winner of the 2022 Dakar, and the entire Red Bull Off-Road Junior Team. In the T4 category, the South Racing tribe will also have its best representatives present, including Austin Jones, Marek Goczal, Rokas Baciuska, Rodrigo Luppi, second last year, and Lucas Del Rio. Among the ten or so trucks, we will have to keep an eye on the two Iveco Powerstar leaders of the W2RC driven by Kees Koolen (Project 2030 B.V.) and Martin Macik (MM Technology).

RADIO BIVOUAC
A free concert will be held on Saturday, October 1 from 18.00 at the Place Al Amal in Agadir. Organized by Africa Event and TC Euro Afrique with the support of loyal partners Afriquia, OCP and Maroc Telecom, the festival will feature two international headliners. The most listened to French-speaking singer in the world, Aya Nakamura, will be joined by French Montana, the American hip hop star born in Casablanca. On the bill, no less than eight other artists: Dadju, El Grande Toto, Aminux, Grini, Dada, DJ Van and DJ Aymoune.
Before the opening of the festival the public will be able to check out the vehicles and their crews in the heart of the city on the Corniche, to watch a parade at the arrival of the Qualifying Special from 14.30 onwards.

STAT OF THE WEEK: 1000
For the first time in its history, the caravan of the 22nd edition of the Rallye du Maroc will be composed of more than 1000 people! An increase of 25% compared to last year, which can be explained by the entry of the competitors and assistance crews of about twenty extra cars and seven additional trucks, but also by the increased number of media, drawn by the presence of the most prestigious professional competitors in the world. In all, over a hundred press accreditations will be issued.

DECLARATION
David Castera: "With the return to an almost totally normal sanitary situation we have been once again been able to emphasis rally-raid's original DNA: distance, bivouacs and heading south. That is exactly what we are going to offer competitors this year, on the scale of Morocco, with extraordinary landscapes and the joy of racing alongside the ocean, but also with that feeling of venturing into more remote areas, on less frequented tracks, towards more adventure."

PROGRAMME
- Wednesday, September 28:
08.00: opening of the Assistance Park (Agadir Stadium)

- Friday, September 30th:
08.00 – 18.30: administrative checks (Agadir Stadium)
09.30 – 20.00: technical scrutineering (Agadir Stadium)
10.00: opening of the press room and the accreditation centre (Agadir Stadium)
18.00: press conference (Agadir Stadium)
20:00: general briefing / competitors' briefing for stages 1A and 1B (Agadir Convention Center - The Golden Dunes)

- Saturday, October 1: Stage 1A - Agadir - Agadir (liaison: 49 km / SS: 9 km / total: 58 km)
07.00 – 10.30: administrative checks (Agadir Stadium)
08.30 – 12.00: technical scrutineering (Agadir Stadium)
15:55: 1st Rally GP start on Qualifying Special Stage
16:54: 1st FIA start on Qualifying Special Stage
19.00: the first 15 on the FIM Qualifying Special Stage will choose their starting order for SS1B (Agadir Stadium)
19.30: the first 10 on the FIA Qualifying Special Stage will choose their starting order for SS1B (Agadir Stadium)
20.00: publication of the starting order for SS1B

- Sunday October 2: Stage 1B - Agadir - Tan Tan (liaison: 241 km / SS: 316 km / total: 557 km)
12.00 - 21.00: opening of the press room (Bivouac Tan Tan)

- Monday October 3: Stage 2 - Tan Tan - Laâyoune (liaison: 120 km / SS: 315 km / total: 435 km)
12.00 - 21.00: opening of the press room (Bivouac Laâyoune)

- Tuesday, October 4: Stage 3 - Laâyoune - Laâyoune (liaison: 23 km / SS: 299 km / total: 322 km)
08.00 - 21.00: opening of the press room (Bivouac Laâyoune)

- Wednesday, October 5: Stage 4 - Laâyoune - Tan Tan (liaison: 219 km / SS: 346 km / total: 565 km)
12.00 - 21.00: opening of the press room (Bivouac Tan Tan)

- Thursday October 6: Stage 5 - Tan Tan - Agadir (liaison: 89 km / SS: 290 km / total: 379 km)
12.00 - 22.00: opening of the press room (Agadir Stadium)
18.00: publication of the final results
21.00: Awards ceremony (Agadir Convention Center - Golden Dunes)

MEDIA CONTENT
Entry list / 'best of photos', press conference, reconnaissance, Africa Rally Team / Press releases
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/p1q912g5azznag2/AACvkHl3N968BiQfPxd3Z6fea?dl=0

Videos: animated map of the route / best of 21 / teaser 22 new
https://e1.pcloud.link/publink/show?code=kZRwcRZfRVqvLnn2LGJW5seNRWpu1UtkBk

#rallyedumaroc #W2RC
Official website :
https://rallyemaroc.com

PRESS CONTACT
Matthieu Perez - media@rallyedumaroc.com

Our address:
Av. Meritxell 81 - AD500 Andorra la Vella
Principat d'Andorra · Tel.: +376 83 83 04
competitors@rallyedumaroc.com

E-mail sent to {{ contact.EMAIL }}
You can unsuscribe from this list

© 2022 Rallye du Maroc