

БОЛЬШЕ ЧЕМ ГОНКА, ЯРЧЕ ЧЕМ ПРИКЛЮЧЕНИЕ!



# SILK WAY 2022 RALLY

## 丝绸之路拉力赛



## To new victories by new roads. 80 crews from 20 countries will start at the 2022 Silk Way Rally

There are only a few days left before the start of the International Silk Way Rally. The rally starts on July 7, 2022 from Astrakhan. For the first time in the modern history of motorsports the Republic of Dagestan and the Chechen Republic will host a competition of this level. Having passed through Kalmykia, Volgograd, Tula and Lipetsk regions, the drivers will finish in Moscow on the embankment of the Luzhniki Olympic Complex.

The total distance of the rally is 4,474 kilometers, the total competitive distance is 2,800 kilometers; the special stages are an excellent combination of technically challenging and diverse tracks.

Pre-start rally events – administrative checks and scrutineering – are scheduled for Wednesday, July 6, 2022. The next day drivers will reach the starting podium in Astrakhan after passing a short qualifying special stage that is laid on the banks of the Volga River. Spectators will be able to see these first five competitive kilometers, which is very rare, because the rally is not usually held in places so accessible to the public. Then they will go to the very beautiful square of the Astrakhan Opera and Ballet Theatre. It will be a real holiday for the fans. The rally partners prepared entertainment areas, the Starting podium was equipped with screens so that the spectators could see



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their champions. 80 crews will pass along the podium and get the fans' juices flowing.

For the next three days competitors of the Russian Cross-Country Championship will join the multi-day event within the framework of the Silk Way Rally. Gold of Kagan Baja will pass along the part of the Silk Way Rally route. It is expected that 38 car, truck and SSV crews from Russia, Belarus and Turkmenistan will take part in the national championship. On Saturday, July 9, the winners of the Russian Championship will get their awards and will go further along the Silk Way Rally route inspired by the first victory.

The well-known sands of Astrakhan will be replaced by fesh-fesh of Dagestan, and through the dusty clouds the caravan of the rally will get into the Chechen steppes and foothills with tangled small paths. Then the competitors will meet the great outdoors and salt marshes of Kalmykia. At the final sections the crews will have to overcome the dunes again, as they will tackle the Archeda sands. And after the ten legs across Russia all finishers will mount the Ceremonial podium at the Luzhniki Olympic Complex.

The new amateur category "Following Peter the Great" Grand Tour aroused great interest. Amateurs in their own jeeps decided to pass a unique route together with the experienced cross-country rally competitors. There are twenty applicants. Crews from China and Mongolia have rented two sports KAMAZ trucks. This option was offered by the sports team for the first time. Beginners will drive by the parallel route and finish at the bivouac together with the sports crews every evening. Special tasks dedicated to the history of the regions and the activities of Peter the Great have been developed for the Grand Tour category competitors.

## Who will get the darling "tigers" on the finish podium of the International Silk Way Rally?

Last year Vladimir Vasilyev, the reigning champion of Russia and the FIA World Cup two-time winner, retired at the last leg of the 2021 Silk Way Rally. After the marathon leg there were few spare wheels left, and the rocky Altai paths played a cruel joke. In 2018, Vasilyev's car rolled over and was also unable to continue the race. Will the champion of Russia ride the tide this year?

Anastasia Nifontova, the current championship leader, feels great behind the wheel of her Maverick, and it seems that she no longer remembers the motorcycle. She will compete with two all-female crews: the familiar rival Maria Oparina and the crew of Ekaterina Kovaleva – the newcomers in UAZ, but not novices in the motorsports.

Denis Krotov, the runner-up of the 2021 Silk Way Rally, also believes in his team and will do everything to get an excellent result.

Andrey Rudskoy, the ex-champion of Russia and the owner of the FIA World Cup in T2



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category, will perform in a car designed specifically for this edition of the Silk Way Rally. He is sure that the victory is largely forged by engineers.

GAZ Raid Sport is also intensively preparing for the Silk Way Rally. Crews are testing a new gearbox. There are six crews in the entry list, three of them will take part in the Truck category – this is the largest team of the 2022 edition.

And of course, the event cannot do without Sergey Shalygin, a native of Tynda, who has not missed a single edition of the race and actually became the Silk Way Rally talisman – in 2022 his Toyota will start again.

Thirty-nine crews will take part in the Car standings of the Silk Way Rally, including fourteen SSVs.

## Battle of giants

There should be an interesting fight in the Truck standings. Dmitry Sotnikov, the KAMAZ-master team driver and the three-time Silk Way Rally winner, will try to secure his rare achievement. However, Sergey Vyazovich – his main rival from Belarus and the MAZ-SPORTauto team driver is determined to come first this year.

MAZ-SPORTauto will start with two bonneted trucks that have proved themselves worthy in many tests, and now they will conquer the new routes of the Silk Way Rally, laid through the Caucasus.

KAMAZ crews will not let the competitors of the Truck category relax. Eduard Nikolaev and Andrey Karginov have climbed the Silk Way Rally podium, so they are determined to lead as well as other experienced drivers. Sergey Kupriyanov driving a gas-diesel KAMAZ intends to prove the effectiveness of environmentally friendly technologies in the automotive industry once again.

Three GAZ Sadko NEXT trucks also spoil for the fight. Drivers Alexey Khlebov, Mikhail Shklyayev and Alexander Laguta believe that you should only compete with the strongest rivals. One of the most important tasks for them will be to test factory components and assemblies in extreme conditions of the rally, working closely with engineers and designers.

The new category “Following Peter the Great” Grand Tour and the unexampled offer of the KAMAZ-master team to rent a real sports KAMAZ will give motorsport fans new emotions. Two sports trucks with crews from China and Mongolia will start in the amateur category and go along the parallel route with their own Road Book and their own tasks. The driver and co-driver of one of the KAMAZ trucks will be Hou Hongning and Shen Xin – the famous Chinese crew “One Belt One Road”, competitors of the transcontinental 2016 Silk Way Rally. They will be assisted by the famous Russian co-



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driver Robert Amatych. Competitors will be able to share emotions from such an unusual adventure at the bivouac, where they will live with the sports crews.

## Brave loners

12 motorcycle riders and three quad bikers will start at the International Silk Way Rally. Last year the G-Moto Challenge was held for the first time within the framework of the race for motorcyclists without the support of technicians. This year three competitors applied for it, including newcomer Dmitry Kalinin on a quad bike.

There are a lot of new names in this category, the Silk Way Rally is glad to welcome debutants and is waiting for the new records.

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**GAZPROM PJSC**, a global energy company, has been with Project for many years.

Silk Way Rally have been choosing the **Gazprom Neft filling station** network as the rally's fuel partner for several years in a row for its high quality indicators. Today this cooperation has grown into a whole program that operates throughout the year, and not just during the days of the rally. These are large online, tourism and social projects that start along with the rally and continue to operate after the finish of the race. Each edition is a new stage and a new project that complements all previous ones.

Traditionally, from year to year, the Gazprom Neft filling station network helps organizers and competitors to solve key technical, sports and domestic issues. Technical support for the teams is provided by G-Energy – Gazprom Neft's high-tech brand of lubricants. All bivouacs of the Silk Way Rally will have a **G-Energy** mobile laboratory, whose technical experts will help team mechanics monitor the condition of all vehicles during the rally. The data obtained in the races allows specialists to improve products and form the basis of new recipes.

We also highly appreciate the contribution of **Gazprombank**, our financial partner and one of the largest universal banks in Russia, to the development of rallying and motorsport in general.

Particular thanks to our media partners. This year **MATCH TV, Russia 24, NTV, 360** federal TV channels continue their cooperation with rally; an information support is also provided by the **Izvestia** multimedia information center and IZ.RU TV channels 5TV and Ren TV. We are pleased to note that our long-term cooperation with the **Rossiya Segodnya** media group continues. For the first time **Tricolor**, the multiplatform operator of the digital environment, and **RUTUBE** became the information partners.

The support of automotive partners is especially important for Silk Way Rally, these are



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the automobile plants **Kamaz**, **AvtoVAZ**, **GAZ**, **URAL** and **Chery**. We would like to thank our technical partners – **Greenworks**, **Yamaguchi**, **Soglasie Strakhovanie** Insurance Company, as well as **Aquanika**, the official partner for water and innovative drinks, and **Tassay**, a brand of premium quality natural drinking water from a deep source in an ecologically clean region of the foothills of the Western Tien Shan in Kazakhstan.

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## KEY FACTS

### The 2022 Silk Way Rally

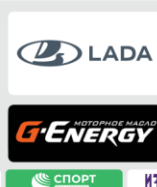
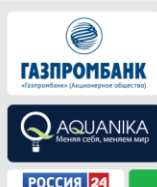
It is held with the support of the President of the Russian Federation, the Government of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Sports of the Russian Federation.

#### Status:

The Silk Way Rally has the status of an international competition that is included in the unified calendar plan of the Ministry of Sports of the Russian Federation.

- An international MFR Cross-Country Rally event,
- round of the Russian Cross-Country Championship,
- and "Following Peter the Great" Grand Tour will be held along with the international competition.

- Ceremonial start: July 7 2022, Astrakhan
- Ceremonial finish: July 16 2022, Moscow
- Number of legs – 10, including 4 circle and 1 marathon stages
- Total rally distance: more than 4,474 kilometers, competitive distance – more than 2,800 kilometers
- 11 regions of Russia
- 20 countries
- Number of crews: 80, including
  - 12 BIKES and QUADS, including 3 G-MOTO CHALLENGE
  - 14 SSVs
  - 25 CARS
  - 9 TRUCKS
  - 20 GRAND TOUR vehicles



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