



# The Silk Way Rally will be first held on the territories of the Chechen Republic and the Republic of Dagestan

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The details of the new rally route were revealed on May 17, 2022. The Silk Way Rally has always had its special flavor, and this year is no exception. In July the rally route will pass through the territory of Russia, starting in Astrakhan and finishing in the very center of Moscow, joining several regions of the country. The Republic of Dagestan and the Chechen Republic will host the cross-country rally for the first time in the modern history of motor sports.

The total distance of the rally will be 4,380 kilometers, the total distance of the special stages – 2,800 kilometers. On July 16, 2022 there will be a Ceremonial finish in Moscow on Red Square; we invite all motorsport fans there.

Pre-start events of the rally – administrative checks and scrutineering are scheduled for July 6, 2022. For the first time drivers will take to the starting podium on July 7 in Astrakhan, after they pass a short qualifying special stage that is mapped in the city, on the banks of the Volga River. Spectators will be able to see these first five competitive kilometers with their own eyes, which is very rare, because the rally is usually held in places that are not so accessible to the public.

**Vladimir Chagin, Head of the International Project Silk Way Rally,** *“The 2022 edition is held across the territory of the Russian Federation; the competition starts in Astrakhan, the capital of cross-country rallies, and finishes in the very heart of our country – at the walls of the Moscow Kremlin. Extensive geography, a variety of climatic zones, stunning beauty of nature, and various landscapes will become an arena of sports challenges for seasoned racers and the first steps for newcomers to motor sports. This year competitors from Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan will start. We are in touch with drivers from other countries, they assure us of sincere friendship, but this year they will not be able to take part. However, the most important thing is that the rally will take place.”*





Vladimir Chagin also noted that during the race competitors and fans will discover the beauties of Russian cities and the variety of natural landscapes encountered on the caravan route, as well as touch the centuries-old history of Russia. The fact that the Silk Way Rally 2022 pays special attention to the celebration of the 350th anniversary of the birth of Emperor Peter I plays an important educational role.

**Viktor Sokolov, Deputy Head of the International Project Silk Way Rally,** *"In addition to the usual sports categories, at the end of March we announced two new standings that also caused a lot of excitement among fans of travel and motorsport – Following Peter the Great Grand Tour, the category for beginner drivers, and the Legend historical category.*

*The Grand Tour is a tourist category dedicated to the celebration of the 350th anniversary of the birth of the Emperor Peter the Great in Russia. This category is for those who are just planning to get acquainted with the amazing world of cross-country rallies and do not yet have professional sports equipment.*

*The Legend category, in turn, is a real sporting event; its competitors will go to the start along with all crews, but overcome the special stages without setting the maximum speed of their cars, but maintaining a given average speed".*

**Oleg Matytsin, Minister of Sports of the Russian Federation,** also greeted the drivers and the event, *"On behalf of the Ministry of Sports of the Russian Federation, I am glad to welcome the competitors and guests of the press conference dedicated to the presentation of the route of the Silk Way Rally. The upcoming start of the 12th edition of the most difficult cross-country rally is another important step in the long history of the project that has already become a real icon of Russian sports. This competition can rightly be called one of the most significant projects in the world of motor sports. The route is of particular interest, it has become a kind of repetition of the Great Silk Way that had passed through these places many centuries ago".*

## **The drivers are preparing to the start**

To be better than yesterday, to overcome the challenge that the Silk Way Rally issues every year are important stages in the development of every rider and driver. Moving forward is impossible without competition, and the sportsman highly appreciate the work of the rally organizers. Entries are still applied. Many famous drivers are going to start in the rally.

**Dmitry Sotnikov, the reigning winner of the Silk Way Rally, KAMAZ-master team driver,** *"The race will start in the south of Russia and finish in Moscow. The route geography is full of different surfaces, from the Astrakhan sands to the mountainous special stages of the Caucasus. And such well-known teams as MAZ-SPORTauto and GAZ Raid Sport are planning to take part in the truck standings. The competition is more*





interesting with good opponents! Therefore, the fans will definitely not be bored and we will have an interesting fight in July!"

**Anastasia Nifontova, G-Drive Motorace team driver,** "The motorcycle is for my soul, but now there is a new chapter in my sports career, where I get great pleasure from driving a car (in this case, an SSV). I like that in the buggy I can compete on equal terms with male rivals. I saw the route map and immediately drew attention to the marathon leg – it is long, we will need to save the car, not fight for seconds, so, tactics are needed for the upcoming rally".

**Andrey Rudskoy, NG-Energo team driver,** "We probably have the fastest Russian car, because it is the Super Production category, designed by the Boris Gadasin team in St. Petersburg especially for this edition of the Silk Way Rally. We have prepared a new version of the car – taking into account all the difficulties of the route, for example, we have increased the capacity of the car's cooling system. Vladimir Chagin said that the air temperature would be above +40C. This is a technical sport, and victory is often got not only on the track, but also in the workshop of an engineer who creates a car. Silk Way Rally is always something new. And this time is no exception: the most beautiful new places, I am sure that it will be difficult and unpredictable, but interesting".

**Vyacheslav Subbotin, GAZ Raid Sport sports team captain,** "Our team started in the Silk Way Rally and once our Sobol 4x4 took the 46th place in this rally, then it was the 36th position, and then we entered the top ten. It's very cool to be among the leaders of world motorsport in the cars built on production units and assemblies. This year we will have five cars in the race. There are three trucks Sadko NEXT, and two Gazelles NN in the Cars standings. The Silk Way Rally is a serious challenge for us and we would like to win, our task is to drive to the podium. It's hard to beat the prototypes in short races, they are faster, and our Gazelles and trucks are not so fast during acceleration. After all, these are practically mass-produced cars. We're not accelerating like Rudskoy in the prototype, try to catch up with him. However, at the long races like the Silk Way Rally, we can keep a high average speed for a long time. Our cars are moving fast across the sands and steppes. They are very reliable. And this is our advantage".

This project could not have been realized without the support of our partners. The Head of the Project expressed the contribution of each of them.

**Vladimir Chagin, Head of the Project,** "GAZPROM PJSC, a global energy company, has been with us for many years.

We have been choosing the **Gazpromneft filling station network** as the rally fuel partner for several years in a row for its high-quality indicators. Today this cooperation has grown in practice 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 Gazpromneft filling station network helps organizers and competitors to solve key technical, sports and domestic issues. The **G-Energy** high-tech brand of lubricants from Gazprom Neft joined this support. These products have already been used by sports teams during the competitions. But this year a mobile laboratory will operate at all bivouacs of the Silk Way Rally for the first time. The technical experts will help team mechanics monitor the condition of all vehicles during the rally.

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.

Special thanks to our media partners. This year federal TV channels **MATCH TV, Rossiya 24, NTV, 360** continue their cooperation with us; the information support is also provided by the **Izvestia** multimedia information center. We are pleased to express that our long-term cooperation with the **Rossiya Segodnya** media group continues. **RUTUBE** and **Tricolor**, the multiplatform operator of the digital environment, has become our information partners for the first time.

The support of automotive partners is especially important for us, these are the automobile plants **Kamaz, AvtoVAZ, GAZ Group, URAL** and **Chery**. We also thank our technical partners – **Greenworks, Yamaguchi, Soglasie Insurance**. 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.

See you at the start of the Silk Way Rally in Astrakhan!"

