

SILK WAY RALLY 2017

12-MINUTE DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

1. INTRO + CROSSING INTO CHINA + URUMQI
2. HIGHLIGHTS CARS
3. **FEATURE: BRYCE MENZIES**
4. **HIGHLIGHTS TRUCKS**
5. **SLOW-MOTION**
6. **TOMORROW (REST DAY) + OUTRO**

INTRO (1'10")

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|-----|----------------------------------|
| 10" | COUNTDOWN |
| 18" | INTRO CREDITS |
| 42" | SHOTS OF BORDER CONTROL + URUMQI |

The Silk Way Rally is officially in China...

After completing yesterday's special in Kazakhstan, and going through the formalities of crossing the border, the drivers and crews of the 2017 edition got their first taste of what one of the world's most fascinating countries has to offer.

This is Stage 8, between Karamay and Urumqi...

(Don't speak)

HIGHLIGHTS CARS (3'25")

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|----|----------------|
| 2" | GRAPHIC CARS |
| 8" | MAP OF STAGE 8 |

250 kilometres of special to come today, mostly on sandy tracks... before a well-earned rest day in Urumqi.

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| 15" | BEAUTY SHOTS + START OF STAGE (#108, #101) |
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Things starting as they mean to go on here in China – where the golden sands will no doubt have a big say in who is standing top of the podium in Xi'an next weekend.

Not a huge amount to be gained here, but plenty – potentially – to be lost.

Concentration the key...

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| 11" | ONBOARD ADRIAN DI LALLO #135 |
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Don't speak.

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| 15" | SHOTS OF DI LALLO |
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Adrian Di Lallo going into this one with a comfortable lead in the T2 category ... around 16 hours in front of Marco Piana ... The Australian is determined to make sure he gets to the finish line in one piece.

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| 15" | SHOTS OF CHRISTIAN LAVIEILLE #108 |
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Christian Lavieille is right up there in the battle for third place ... the Frenchman losing a little bit of time today, he was around 18 minutes behind the leader, and five minutes behind third-placed Bryce Menzies... but nothing is settled just yet.

23" SHOTS OF HAN WEI #107

Here's Han Wei, back on home turf.

The Chinese driver is just ahead of Lavieille in the standings – they're separated by just 21 seconds...

This stage was an excellent illustration of how evenly managed the pair are... only 29 seconds between them...

15" SHOTS OF YAZEED ALRAJHI #101 – 5TH (16m49s)

Mini had a good day on this eighth stage ... Yazeed Alrajhi, who has been out of the running since the early stages of the rally, just sneaking into the top five...

If he hadn't crashed into that ditch on Stage 2, the Saudi would also be targeting the podium.

14" SHOTS OF BRYCE MENZIES #105 – 3RD (13m57s)

Just like his teammate Bryce Menzies, who really seems to be getting the hang of this rally raid lark.

The American claimed his first major stage victory yesterday – the first non-Peugeot to win - and he was third again today.

20" ITW BRYCE MENZIES IN ENGLISH

"It made me a little nervous because we had to open the stage for Stage 8, and we had 250kms, so a lot of pressure on my navigator to make sure we went the right way, and also on myself."

10" SHOTS OF CYRIL DESPRES #100 – 2ND (5m06s)

Cyril Despres was second ... but once again, the defending champion was outdone by his teammate and the current overall leader, Sebastien Loeb...

15" ITW CYRIL DESPRES IN FRENCH

"Sebastien, whether he's in Russia, Kazakhstan or China, nothing changes, he always goes for it. He's a better driver now with more experience, and with a DKR Maxi that's working very well. We really had a go as well today – we gave it our all, I promise."

7" SHOTS OF SEBASTIEN LOEB #104

A fourth stage win in eight for Loeb, who continues to dominate this Silk Way Rally...

28" ITW SEBASTIEN LOEB IN FRENCH

"Overall, we haven't made any major errors. We've had to look for the route when we've opened the piste, which has been a pretty regular thing since the start of the rally! We're always learning new things. Compared to Jean-Paul Cottret who's been doing this for 60 years... I'm only joking. We've made the most of others' mistakes to increase our lead, but I think that generally we're quicker anyway, it's very encouraging."

15" CAR STANDINGS STAGE + OVERALL

So domination from Peugeot and Mini in this eighth stage, with Stephane Peterhansel tucked in there between Menzies and Alrajhi.

Loeb still with a comfortable lead heading into the rest day ... 11 minutes separate Menzies from Lavieille.

FEATURE: BRYCE MENZIES #105 (3:09)

1" GRAPHIC

4" ITW PODIUM SPEAKER IN ENGLISH

"Bryce Menzies and Peter Mortensen!"

4" SHOTS OF MENZIES RACING

Don't speak

15" ITW BRYCE MENZIES IN ENGLISH

"This has been my dream, to come and do rallies like this. Silk Way is one of those really long ones, they say it's tougher than Dakar, so it's really cool to be here, it's tough at night sometimes. You're like, 'why am I doing this? This is so hard!' But at the end of the day, I love what I do."

3" DON'T SPEAK

15" ITW BRYCE MENZIES IN ENGLISH

"To race for 16 days is going to be very challenging, so there are a lot of nerves. Usually we only race for one day straight – like the Baja 1000, it's 19 hours straight. This is 16 days long so it's going to be mentally challenging, the body is going to wear out. So looking forward to it, but also nervous."

4" DON'T SPEAK

24" SHOTS OF MENZIES DRIVING + POSING FOR PHOTOS

Don't speak.

12" ITW BRYCE MENZIES IN ENGLISH

"So we decided to do it in New Mexico. We found an old ghost town, a movie set, and it was a perfect location. The distance was just right for us, and it looked really cool, for the truck flying over the whole town."

6" DON'T SPEAK

23" ITW BRYCE MENZIES IN ENGLISH

"I mean, the goal, obviously, is to break the record and we just did, so it feels amazing, but it still just feels surreal, you know. It hasn't sunk in yet. I'm extremely happy with the outcome. We broke a world record, which is incredible. We went 379 feet, flying in a truck. It was one of the greatest moments in my life."

22" SHOTS OF WORLD RECORD JUMP

Don't speak

24" **ITW BRYCE MENZIES IN ENGLISH**

"Usually, when we hear 'jump' we just hold it wide open, with the truck I race back home in America. But with this one you've got to be pretty cautious. You don't have that much wheel travel, and you can get yourself in danger pretty quick. So, just really paying attention to what Pete Mortensen, my co-driver, is telling me. I have to listen to all the dangers and make sure we slow down, be cautious, or else we're going to end up on our lid or something bad's going to happen, and we don't want that!"

8" **ONBOARD SHOTS OF MENZIES**

Don't speak

24" **ITW BRYCE MENZIES IN ENGLISH**

"After check two there was a 90° left with a lot of mud, and I hit the brakes and the car just locked up. I lost steering and it pushed into a huge ravine, we got stuck in a ditch. And then we had to wait for a big truck to come by – and luckily the Kamaz guys stopped and yanked us out. It took about 25 minutes, and then we pushed from there to the finish. But there was a ton of rain, very slippery. A tough day for sure."

HIGHLIGHTS TRUCKS (3'18")

2" **GRAPHIC TRUCKS**

17" **SHOTS OF DMITRY SOTNIKOV #303**

Dmitry Sotnikov.

The Kamaz driver is currently dominating the trucks category at the Silk Way Rally, and today he made it three stage wins in four.

The 2013 champion getting the job done once again ... he leads by almost 10 minutes.

20" **ITW DMITRY SOTNIKOV IN RUSSIAN**

"It wasn't a very long special today, but still quite technical and challenging. For long periods of the day we didn't see any other vehicles, so it was hard to tell if we were going fast or slow! We just tried to do our best, and honestly we were surprised at the end to see we had the best result."

26" **SHOTS OF MAZ – ALIAKSEI VISHNEUSKI #316 + ALEKSANDR VASILEVSKI #309**

This first stage on Chinese soil was somewhat transitional ... the first appearance of sand but still plenty of vegetation... we're not into the incredible desert dunes just yet.

Maz enjoyed another day of mixed fortunes...

While Siarhei Viazovich and Aliaksei Vishneuski finished in the top 8 - both within 23 minutes of the winner – Aleksandr Vasilevski was held up by a mechanical issue...

7" **SHOTS OF VASILEVSKI STOPPED**

He lost almost an hour and half on then stage, and he's over eight hours back overall.

17" **SHOTS OF ARTUR ARDAVICIUS #310**

Artur Ardavicius is flying the flag for Iveco, after his team leader Gerard De Rooy was forced to abandon the special early on... more problems with the new Powerstar.

The Kazakh was 7th today, but remains fifth overall.

14" SHOTS OF EDUARD NIKOLAEV #307 AND ANTON SHIBALOV #312

The Kamaz boys continuing their dominance... Anton Shibalov and Eduard Nikolaev came fourth and fifth respectively on stage 8.

Shibalov is within 10 minutes of teammate Sotnikov at the top.

20" SHOTS OF MARTIN KOLOMY #311

The only man providing some resistance against the blue armada is Tatra's Martin Kolomy...

He grabbed another podium finish today, and remains in third place overall, 20 minutes back.

Tactical thinking is the name of the game...

16" ITW MARTIN KOLOMY IN CZECH

"I could see that this stage was perfect for the Kamaz trucks, given the experience they have on this kind of terrain. So halfway through I decided just to keep a steady pace, and not go too fast, and it worked out well."

19" SHOTS OF AIRAT MARDEEV #300

And what of the defending champion, Airat Mardeev?

He is currently fourth overall, 27 minutes down on Sotnikov...

Having come in second just behind his teammate today, he is relishing the prospect of a battle on the dunes, where he says there are no favourites...

18" ITW AIRAT MARDEEV IN RUSSIAN

Dmitry is very strong in the dunes too, so I don't think it's going to be easy fighting with him! The most important thing for us is to avoid any mechanical issues, that's the last thing we want. We're not just thinking about ourselves, we want a good result for the whole team."

15" STANDINGS TRUCKS STAGE + OVERALL

So the four Kamaz and Kolomy all in the top five for the second day running... but once again, the margins all fairly slim.

All to play for overall, with 27 minutes separating the top four.

SLOW MOTION (0'54")

54" SLO-MO SHOTS FROM STAGE 8

So we've had a first taste of sand at the Silk Way Rally, but there is plenty still to come.

For now though, sit back and enjoy the best slow-action from Stage 8.

(Don't speak)

TOMORROW – REST DAY (0'35")

12" MAP – REST DAY + SHOTS OF BIVOUAC/BAR

Tomorrow is the rest day in Urumqi – giving the competitors a chance to recharge their batteries for what promises to be a thrilling second week of the Silk Way Rally.

10" **ITW CHINESE GIRL IN ENGLISH & CHINESE**

“See you again on the Silk Way Rally for the rest day in Urumqi!”

13" END CREDITS

END OF PROGRAMME