

A first in the history of Turkish motorsports in Hatay

TransAnatolia kicked off from Hatay on August 20

One of the world's biggest and most challenging rally raid races, TransAnatolia kicked off from Hatay on August 20. The ceremonial launch of the race was held at the Hatay Expo field, hosting a race for the first time in the history of Turkish motorsports.

The ceremonial launch of **TransAnatolia**, organized with the support of the Turkish Automobile Sports Federation TOSFED and the Turkish Tourism Promotion and Development Agency TGA, was announced by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lütfü Savaş, Mayor of Hatay Municipality, Burak Büyükpınar, General Coordinator of TransAnatolia and Orhan Çelen, TransAnatolia Sportive Director, at 18.00 on Saturday, August 20 at Hatay Expo. At 18.30, the Expo'21 Hatay qualifying stage took place.

A total of 84 race vehicles and 115 racers, consisting of 56 rally and 28 raid in the Motorcycle, Quad, SSV, Car, and Truck categories, are participating in TransAnatolia, which ended in Eskişehir on August 27.

Also this year, a special **Castrol Power1 Rookie of the Year Award** will be presented to the racer with the best time of the day among the motorcyclists participating in TransAnatolia for the first time.

Addressing during the ceremonial launch, Assoc. Prof. **Dr. Lütfü Savaş**, Mayor of Hatay Metropolitan Municipality, said: "This year, the TransAnatolia Rally Raid kicked off in Hatay, historically the second largest city in the world in terms of firsts and mosts. Hatay is a city where history, culture and civilization gushed out, where agriculture was first practiced, where the first wheat was domesticated, where the first olive was brought to the table. We are very happy to host the 12th such an international organization in such a special place in the fertile lands of Hatay. I wish our racers an accident-free race in advance." Burak Büyükpınar, General Coordinator of TransAnatolia, said; " We gathered for our 12th year with the TransAnatolia Rally Raid organization to offer an unforgettable experience on the magnificent route planned with our local and foreign participants. We embarked on an adventurous journey with 84 vehicles and will travel back in time through the dusty pages of history."

Orhan Çelen, TransAnatolia Sportive Director, commented: "We would like to extend our thanks to the Turkish Automobile Sports Federation TOSFED and the Turkish Tourism Promotion and Development Agency TGA, and we are grateful to all our sponsors for their support. 16 provincial borders will be crossed on the race route, and this year, very challenging peaks await the competitors. Together we will experience the unique artifacts of human history and the unknown beauties of Anatolia and live days full of adventure. Our race will be ending in Eskişehir on August 27th. We wish success to all our racers."

Frenchman Xavier De Soultrait from the Yamaha team, who has achieved success in the Dakar Rally many times before and is participating in TransAnatolia for the

second time this year, will be riding a KTM 690R motorcycle. The SSV1 category will feature the Italian duo Federico Butto and Martino Albertini. The Italian team Marino Mutti and Andrea Mazzoleni, joining TransAnatolia in the truck category for the sixth time this year, will add spice to the race with their Mercedes Unimog. The road book was prepared by Jordi Arcarons, the first name that comes to mind when it comes to rally raid road books.

371 km left behind in the second leg of TRANSANATOLIA

TransAnatolia Rally Raid, held for the 12th time thanks to the support of Turkish Automobile Sports Federation TOSFED and Turkish Tourism Promotion and Development Agency TGA, has taken off from Hatay. Following the ceremonial kick-off and qualifying session on Saturday, August 20, the racers departed from Hatay Expo at 8 a.m. on Sunday morning, August 21, and traveled a total of 371 km to reach Karatepe Aslantaş National Park.

The second leg of the race began from Hatay Expo area on Sunday, August 21. The racers, who covered 227 km in Hatay and Osmaniye special stages and 371 km in total, completed the day in Karatepe Aslantaş National Park.

The overall standings after the second leg of the race were as follows;

In the motorcycle class; taking part in the race from France with KTM 690 R, Xavier De Soultrait ranked first with 4 hours 48 minutes 55 seconds, Michele Cotti from Italy with KTM 500 EXC-F ranked second with 5 hours 2 minutes 32 seconds, and Ejder Erişti from Turkey with KTM EXC 350 ranked third with 5 hours 16 minutes 28 seconds.

In the quad class; first place went to Rasim Akyalı, taking part in the race with Can-Am Renegade, with 6 hours, 11 minutes, 53 seconds, Mustafa Dağlı, competing with Can-Am BRP, came second with 6 hours, 48 minutes, 47 seconds, and Kadir Dağlı, competing with Can-Am BRP, came third with 11 hours, 39 minutes, 51 seconds.

In the car class; Team Bekir Kuvvet Erim and Medeni Sosyal, racing with Toyota Hilux, came first with 5 hours, 34 minutes, and 59 seconds, Team Rıza Emre Ersoy and Mert Ersoy, racing with Mitsubishi Pajero, came second with 5 hours, 48 minutes and 13 seconds, and Team Hüseyin Kurt and Özaydın Dölek, racing with Mitsubishi, finished third with 5 hours, 53 minutes and 1 second.

In the SSV class; the Italian duo Federico Butto and Martino Albertini in the Can-Am Maverick X3 ranked first with 4 hours 55 minutes 44 seconds, Israfil Akyüz and Timur Sancak from Turkey in the Can-Am Maverick X3 ranked second with 4 hours 59 minutes 39 seconds, and the Can-Am X3 duo of Eylem Tekin and Sertaç Tatar finished third with 5 hours 42 minutes 37 seconds despite flipping on the stage.

In the truck class, Italian pair Marino Mutti and Andrea Mazzoleni, racing with Mercedes Unimog, completed the race in 21 hours, 54 minutes, 0 seconds.

Among the motorcyclists participating in TransAnatolia for the first time this year, a special **Castrol Power1 Best Rookie** special award is also presented to the rider with the best time of the day. The best rookie of the day in the second leg of the race was Italian driver **Andrea Pighetti** with 5 hours, 19 minutes, 58 seconds.

810 km left behind in the third leg of TransAnatolia

Starting from Karatepe Aslantaş National Park in the 3rd leg of the TransAnatolia Rally Raid , the racers reached Kayseri.

In the third leg of the race, the racers completed the day in Kayseri by traveling a total of 440 km, including 317 km of special stages in Feke, Bakırdağ and Melikgazi stages.

The overall standings after the third leg of the race were as follows;

In the motorcycle class; while Frenchman Xavier De Soultrait came first in the third leg with 10 hours 9 minutes 37 seconds, Italian Michele Cotti came second with 10 hours 49 minutes 46 seconds, and Ejder Erişti, who joined the race from Turkey, ended the day in third place with 11 hours 5 minutes 8 seconds.

In the quad class; Rasim Akyalı finished first in the 3rd leg with 13 hours, 14 minutes, 53 seconds, Kadir Dağlı came second with 18 hours, 35 minutes, 33 seconds and Hasan Yatkin came third with 19 hours, 10 minutes, 47 seconds.

In the car class; Team Bekir Kuvvet Erim and Medeni Sosyal came first with 12 hours, 28 seconds, Team Hüseyin Kurt and Özaydın Dölek finished second with 12 hours, 34 minutes and 39 seconds, and Team Ahmet Bağce and Uğut Tepe finished third with 12 hours, 36 minutes and 17 seconds.

In the SSV class; Israfil Akyüz and Timur Sancak took first place with 10 hours, 28 minutes and 44 seconds, Barbaros Yangın and Ali Osman Kutanoğlu finished second with 11 hours, 53 minutes, and Eylem Tekin and Sertaç Tatar finished third.

In the truck class; Italian pair Marino Mutti and Andrea Mazzoleni, competing with Mercedes Unimog, completed the race in 33 hours and 45 minutes.

The best rookie of the day in the third leg of the race was Italian driver **Andrea Pighetti** with 5 hours, 49 minutes, 18 seconds.

1,322 km completed in the fourth leg of TransAnatolia

Starting the 4th leg of the TransAnatolia Rally Raid from Kayseri, the racers traveled 506 km after Felahiye and Sivrialan and reached Kayseri again.

Leaving behind a challenging day in the fourth leg of the race, the racers traveled 506 km in total, including 315 km of special stages in Felahiye, Sivrialan and Kayseri stages, and ended the day in Kayseri again. While the Mayor of Melikgazi Municipality Dr. Mustafa Palancıoğlu paid a visit to the camp site in Kayseri, the racers ended the day enjoying a delightful concert by Kurtalan Ekspres.

The overall standings after the fourth leg of the race were as follows;

In the motorcycle class; the standing was also unchanged on the fourth day. Frenchman Xavier De Soultrait maintained his lead with 14 hours 57 minutes 56 seconds, Italian Michele Cotti came second with 16 hours 19 minutes 21 seconds, and Ejder Erişti came third with 16 hours 33 minutes 46 seconds.

In the quad class; while Hasan Yatkin finished first with 25 hours 50 minutes 46 seconds, Rasim Akyalı came second with 37 hours 56 minutes 43 seconds and Kadir Dağlı took third place with 43 hours 19 minutes 7 seconds.

In the car class; in the fourth leg, team Hüseyin Kurt and Özaydın Dölek took the first place with 19 hours, 3 minutes, 1 second, while team Ahmet Bağce and Uğut Tepe finished second with 19 hours, 6 minutes, 39 seconds, and team Mithat Diker and Erdal Oral finished third with 25 hours, 19 minutes, 16 seconds.

In the SSV class; the standing also did not change on the fourth day. While İsrail Akyüz and Timur Sancak maintained first place with 16 hours, 52 minutes and 5 seconds, Barbaros Yangın and Ali Osman Kutanoğlu finished second with 18 hours, 23 minutes and 58 seconds, and Eylem Tekin and Sertaç Tatar ended the day in third place with 18 hours, 55 minutes and 43 seconds. The only female racer competing in the automobile class in the race, Eylem Tekin shows a remarkable performance.

In the truck class; Italian duo Marino Mutti and Andrea Mazzoleni, competing with Mercedes Unimog, completed the race in 42 hours, 7 minutes, 7 seconds.

In the fourth leg of the race, Massimo Ferrari scored the best rookie time of the day with a time of 5 hours, 51 minutes, 17 seconds.

1,658 km completed in the fifth leg of TransAnatolia

The racers, starting from Kayseri in the 5th leg of the TransAnatolia Rally Raid , traveled 336 kilometers after Develi, Aladağ and Çelikhhan and reached Pozanti.

On Wednesday, August 24th, the 5th leg of the race has been run. In the race consisting of three stages, the racers who started from Kayseri covering 336 km, 262 km of which were special stages, in Develi, Aladağ and Çelikhan stages and have ended the day in Pozantı.

The overall standings after the fifth leg of the race were as follows;

In the motorcycle class; the standing was also unchanged on the fifth day. Frenchman Xavier De Soultrait maintained his lead with 19 hours 51 minutes 20 seconds, Italian Michele Cotti came second with 21 hours 31 minutes 37 seconds and Ejder Erişti ended the day in third place with 21 hours 47 minutes 29 seconds.

In the quad class; Hasan Yatkin ranked first with 32 hours 9 minutes 38 seconds, Kadir Dağlı ranked second with 44 hours 30 minutes 59 seconds and Rasim Akyalı ranked third with 49 hours 54 minutes 49 seconds.

In the car class; team Ahmet Bağce and Uğur Tepe finished first with 25 hours 27 minutes 13 seconds, team Hüseyin Kurt and Özaydın Dölek finished second with 25 hours 38 minutes 27 seconds, and team Mithat Diker and Erdal Oral finished third with 31 hours 47 minutes 10 seconds.

In the SSV class;while İsrafil Akyüz and Timur Sancak maintained the first place with 21 hours 58 minutes 52 seconds, Barbaros Yangın and Ali Osman Kutanoğlu finished second with 24 hours 8 minutes 13 seconds and the Italian duo Federico Butto and Martino Albertini finished third with 34 hours 14 minutes 38 seconds.

The Italian pair Marino Mutti and Andrea Mazzoleni, competing in the truck class, completed the race in 55 hours 3 minutes 49 seconds.

The best rookie of the day in the fifth leg of the race was Italian driver Andrea Pighetti with 5 hours, 19 minutes, 58 seconds.

1,960 km completed in the sixth leg of TransAnatolia

The racers starting from Pozantı in the 6th leg of the TransAnatolia Rally Raid traveled 301 km on the Bolkar and Taşkale stages and reached Karaman.

In the sixth leg of the race, the racers traveled 301 km in total, including 211 km of special stages on the Bolkar and Taşkale stages, and ended the day in Karaman.

The overall standings after the sixth leg of the race were as follows;

In the motorcycle class; the standing was also unchanged on the sixth day. Frenchman Xavier De Soultrait maintained his lead with 23 hours 2 minutes 9 seconds, Italian Michele Cotti finished second with 25 hours 8 minutes 21 seconds and Ejder Erişti ended the day in third place with 25 hours 22 minutes 7 seconds.

In the quad class; Hasan Yatkın finished first with 36 hours 25 minutes 46 seconds, Rasim Akyalı came second with 49 hours 10 minutes 13 seconds and Kadir Dağlı came third with 54 hours 30 minutes 7 seconds.

In the car class; team Ahmet Bağce and Uğur Tepe finished first with 29 hours 46 minutes 39 seconds, team Hüseyin Kurt and Özaydın Dölek finished second with 30 hours 15 minutes 22 seconds, and team Mithat Diker and Erdal Oral finished third with 36 hours 1 minute 24 seconds.

In the SSV class; while İsrafil Akyüz and Timur Sancak maintained the first place with 26 hours 15 minutes 32 seconds, Barbaros Yangın and Ali Osman Kutanoğlu finished second with 28 hours 12 minutes 36 seconds, and the Italian duo Federico Butto and Martino Albertini finished third with 37 hours 54 minutes 34 seconds.

The Italian duo Marino Mutti and Andrea Mazzoleni, competing in the **truck class**, completed the race in 59 hours 53 minutes and 12 seconds.

The name with the best rookie of the day remained unchanged in the sixth leg of the race. It was Italian pilot Andrea Pighetti with 3 hours 36 minutes 30 seconds.

2,427 km left behind in the Seventh Leg of TransAnatolia, Finish on Saturday in Eskisehir

Starting from Karaman in the seventh leg of the TransAnatolia Rally Raid , the racers traveled 467 km on the Obruk and Tuz Lake stages and reached Haymana.

At the seventh leg of the race, the racers traveled 467 km in total, including 236 km of special stages in Obruk and Tuz Lake stages, and ended the day in Haymana.

After the seventh leg of the race, the standings in the general classification were as follows;

In the motorcycle class; the standing was also unchanged on the sixth day. While Frenchman Xavier De Soultrait maintained his lead with 26 hours 3 minutes, Italian Michele Cotti finished second with 28 hours 52 minutes 13 seconds, and Ejder Erişti finished the day in third place with 29 hours 7 minutes 56 seconds.

In the quad class; Hasan Yatkın finished first with 41 hours 54 minutes 17 seconds, Rasim Akyalı came second with 66 hours 25 minutes 44 seconds, and Kadir Dağlı came third with 71 hours 46 minutes 41 seconds.

In the car class; team Ahmet Baęce and Uęur Tepe finished first with 34 hours 10 minutes 3 seconds, team Hüseyin Kurt and Özaydın Dölek finished second with 34 hours 33 minutes 38 seconds, and team Mithat Diker and Erdal Oral finished third with 53 hours 54 minutes 21 seconds.

In the SSV class; while İsrafil Akyüz and Timur Sancak maintained the first place with 30 hours 24 minutes 10 seconds, Barbaros Yangın and Ali Osman Kutanoęlu finished second with 33 hours 28 minutes 21 seconds, and the Italian duo of Federico Butto and Martino Albertini came third with 42 hours 22 minutes 32 seconds.

The Italian duo Marino Mutti and Andrea Mazzoleni, competing in the **truck class**, completed the race in 66 hours 11 minutes 23 seconds.

The name with the best rookie of the day remained unchanged in the seventh leg of the race. It was Italian pilot Andrea Pighetti with 4 hours 7 minutes and 16 seconds.

2800 km TransAnatolia Rally Raid Adventure ended in Eskişehir

Starting on August 20 from Hatay, the TransAnatolia Rally Raid covered 2,800 km and reached the finish line in Eskişehir.

On Saturday, August 27th, the 8th and final leg of the race has been run. In the two-stage race, the racers starting from Haymana covered 313 km, 218 km of which were special stages, Mihalięçık and Eskişehir stages, and finished in Eskişehir. The 12th TransAnatolia adventure has been brought to an end with the finishing ceremony at 18:00 on Saturday at Eskişehir City Forest Ecotourism Area. .

At TransAnatolia, which had eight legs in total, racers traveled a total of 2,800 km in Hatay, Osmaniye, Feke, Bakırdaę, Melikgazi, Felahiye, Sivrialan, Kayseri, Develi, Aladaę, Çelikhan, Bolkar, Taşkale, Obruk, Tuz Gölü, Mihalięçık and Eskişehir stages.

The general classification results of the race were as follows:

In the motorcycle class; the standings have not changed since the first day. Frenchman Xavier De Soultrait ranked first with 29 hours 28 minutes 20 seconds, Italian Michele Cotti ranked second with 32 hours 58 minutes 58 seconds and Ejder Erişti ranked third with 33 hours 3 minutes 46 seconds.

In the quad class; Hasan Yatkın came first with 46 hours 42 minutes 4 seconds, Rasim Akyalı came second with 71 hours 44 minutes 52 seconds and Kadir Daęlı came third with 77 hours 4 minutes.

In the class class; the duo of Ahmet Baęce and Uęur Tepe finished first with 38 hours 41 minutes 56 seconds, the duo of Hüseyin Kurt and Özaydın Dölek finished second with 38 hours 59 minutes 27 seconds, and the duo of Mithat Diker and Erdal Oral finished third with 58 hours 25 minutes 18 seconds.

In the SSV class; İsrafil Akyüz and Timur Sancak placed first with 34 hours 24 minutes 2 seconds, Barbaros Yangın and Ali Osman Kutanoęlu placed second with 37 hours 41 minutes 7 seconds, and the Italian duo Federico Butto and Martino Albertini finished third with 46 hours 15 minutes 36 seconds.

The Italian duo Marino Mutti and Andrea Mazzoleni, competing **in the truck class**, completed the race with a total time of 71 hours 54 minutes 58 seconds.

This year' winning duo in the Raid category was Turgay Düzcü & Anıl Gençtürk. The duo of Jale Özel and Ayşegül Telli came second, while Ahmet Terece and Ulaş Germen finished third.

The best ranking of the day among the motorcyclists participating in TransAnatolia for the first time was achieved by Italian riders Andrea Pighetti, Massimo Ferrari and Luca Zussino, who won the Castrol Power1 Best Rookie special award.

Ducati/Korlas, which continues to grow with the direction it has given and the brands it represents as well as its contribution to the motorcycle culture in Turkey throughout its nearly 30-year history, and Expo'21 Hatay, which brings an Olympics in the fields of culture, history, education, art, entertainment and trade to Hatay and hosts dozens of civilizations, are among the main sponsors of TransAnatolia. Spor Toto, General Tire, İzeltaş, Castrol, Zorlu Enerji, Fiat, Mitas, Fikirmedya, Jules Verne and 4x4Europarts are among the other organizations supporting the race. This year **Castrol** also assumed the title sponsorship of the motorcycle category of the race. This year's media sponsors of TransAnatolia are **Power Group**, **Motorsport.com.tr** and **Soloenduro.it**.