



- 6500 km, 5 countries, 14 days
- A minimal assistance motor rally - you create your own adventure!
- Vehicles: anything goes!
- Launch: Astrakhan, Russia – 31 May 2020
- End: Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan - 13 June 2020
- Sign-up deadline: 15 April 2020

# About

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The Travel Scientists have carefully blended together unique travel scenarios with the challenge of a road rally, mixed in an array of adventure, wrapped it all in a journey into the unknown and then sprinkled it with some of the best parties you'll ever attend. During the Central Asia Rally you'll cross deserts and steppes, visit ancient monuments and drive along the second highest altitude highway in the world in a wacky vehicle of your choice together with a bunch of lunatics just like yourself.

But we don't just give you a t-shirt and some stickers for your car before roughly pointing you in the direction of the finish line. Quite the opposite, we take rallying to a whole new level with:

- A route, carefully tested and developed by our experts, to make sure you get the maximum amount of adventure, sights and landscapes, off the beaten path travelling and cultural experiences.
- An extensive roadbook to guide your way.
- A community of like-minded nutters to share your adventure with. Even though we might not be mother-henning you all day, sure we and your fellow teams will be found at the designated base hotel in the evenings, sharing stories and a beer or two.
- Our experts with dozens of rallies under their belt will accompany you during the whole trip and are essentially the go-to person for any needs. Not exactly a guide, but a friendly face there to help out when needed. While we encourage you to figure out your own adventure, the trip manager is there in case you need a local helping hand.

## **Where?**

During this crazy 2 week minimal assistance rally you cruise from the eastern edge of Europe starting in Astrakhan, Russia to the borderlands of China, ending in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Journey over 6500 km through some of the least traveled and unspoilt countries in the world including Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

## **What?**

The Central Asia Rally is a 'minimal assistance' event with limited entry. This means rather than handing it all to you on a plate we provide the tools you'll need to find your own adventure. Drive anything you like, from an old fire truck to a hearse, just be sure you can make it to the finish so you can share your tales of adventure with your fellow teams over some well-earned refreshment. This is a real challenge and only experienced drivers will make it to the finish line. To make sure you are one of them, you'll go through a short but important application process.

## **Why?**

If you want to bring back the excitement of adventure and discovery to your life, but not without sharing your experiences with a community and having the security of an organizer team in your back, the Central Asia Rally is just made for you!



## *Route*

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**Day 1, 31 May 2020. Astrakhan, Russia to Beyneu, Kazakhstan.** From the banks of the Volga River in Astrakhan we journey to the vast steppe of Western Kazakhstan, where camels and tumbleweed are the most common sights.

**Day 2, 1 June 2020. Beyneu, Kazakhstan to Muynak, Uzbekistan.** We rush onward south through the desert into Uzbekistan where we are camping near Muynak, a blooming fishing town at the Aral Sea, which is now taken back by the desert.

**Day 3, 2 June 2020, Muynak, Uzbekistan to Khiva, Uzbekistan.**

Traveling to the edges of the Qaraqum Desert we are visiting the Silk Road city Khiva - home of the Tash Khauli Palace, the Kunya-ark Citadel as well as some of the finest mosques in the world.

***Day 4, 3 June 2020, Khiva, Uzbekistan to Bukhara, Uzbekistan.***

We go forth southeast through the red hot Kyzyl Kum desert till we reach the bustling streets of another great Silk Road city, Bukhara, a real oasis for the tired adventurer.

***Day 5, 4 June 2020. Rest day in Bukhara, Uzbekistan.***

This is the perfect place for a break, just strolling through the ancient streets and getting lost in time.

***Day 6, 5 June 2020. Bukhara, Uzbekistan to Samarkand, Uzbekistan.***

Drive eastwards to Samarkand, once the seat of the great emperor Tamerlane! Its world famous Registan is perhaps the most evocative of places in this delightful city.

***Day 7, 6 June 2020. Samarkand, Uzbekistan to Dushanbe, Tajikistan.***

After days of desert and heat we are finally driving up to the mountains! Crossing into Tajikistan we are heading for the capital with its unique history and culture.

***Day 8, 7 June 2020. Dushanbe, Tajikistan to Tavildara, Tajikistan.***

Cruise your way through the mountains of Tajikistan, challenge your vehicle threading a path northeast to Tavildara, where rivers meet and the peaks dominate the spectacular vistas.

***Day 9, 8 June 2020. Tavildara, Tajikistan to Khorog, Tajikistan.***

After crossing the border to the autonomous region of Badakhshan and driving through amazing valleys right next to the border with Afghanistan we are reaching Khorog, the capital of Badakhshan.

***Day 10, 9 June 2020, Khorog, Tajikistan to Murghab, Tajikistan.***

Driving northeast through the majestic Pamir Mountains on the famous M41 we have two options today: Keep it easy winding through the Koi Tezek pass or keep on driving near the Afghan border and see ancient forts or sacred Buddhist places

***Day 11, 10 June 2020. Murghab, Tajikistan to Sary Mogol, Kyrgyzstan.***

The second étape of the Pamir Highway through the amazing high altitude desert where wind and nature rule tests your body and machine crossing the highest point of our trip, the Ak Baital pass above 4600 meters.

***Day 12, 11 June 2020. Sary Mogol, Kyrgyzstan to Toktogul, Kyrgyzstan.***

Keep on driving through Southern Kyrgyzstan's amazing landscape, meet the nomad shepherds, taste the (umm...) famous kumis while you enjoy the impossibly green lands of the men on horse.

***Day 13, 12 June 2020. Toktogul, Kyrgyzstan to Song Kul, Kyrgyzstan.***

We enter the fantastic red canyon of the Kekemer river before we start ascending again



towards Song Kul finding our traditional yurt as our accommodation for the night on the shore of the lake.

**Day 14, 13 June 2020. Song Kul, Kyrgyzstan to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.**

Celebrate the long trek we just completed in the capital of Kyrgyzstan with great local food and drinks during our traditional closing ceremonies and world famous after-event drinks party!



## *Fees & Dates*

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**Dates: 31 May - 13 June 2020**

Included	Basic Package €700 (per person)	Standard Package €1650 (per person)
Rally Gear	✓	✓
Event shirt and cap	✓	✓
Essential and hard to find maps	✓	✓
Kick-off and finish parties	✓	✓
Basic visa Assistance	✓	✓
Road maps (hard copies)	✗	✓
Hotel package	✗	✓



## *Vehicles*

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### ***What are the vehicle rules?***

Good news first: there are none!

Eccentric vehicle choices are positively encouraged and indeed the Central Asia Rally is not about choosing the easy option. So whether it's a truck or a taxi, a Lada or Land Rover, a bus or a fire truck, if you bring it along we'll be only too happy to see it participate in the event.

After all, choosing a 20 year old rust bucket might be the safer choice, because the probability of finding a mechanic on the open road somewhere deep in the Kyzyl Kum desert, who can fix any of those modern electronic fancies is close to zero.

### ***Vehicle Purchasing***

Purchasing a vehicle especially for the rally and selling it afterwards is a good option for everybody who wants to leave their luxury limousines in their safe garage. It can require substantial time and effort though, both prior to and after the event. The Travel Scientists can help facilitate your purchase of the desired vehicle. We can recommend models, equipment, dealers, and provide any additional advice you might need before purchasing your vehicle.

# Travel Scientists

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The [Travel Scientists](#) are the world's most gonzo adventure travel operator, whose mission is to create amazing thrills, unique experiences and a little drunken fun on the side. Not your usual travel operator, the maniacal travel research specialists have conjured up the most daring, inspiring and most memorable excursions still around in the modern world.

## **Why travel with us?**

We might ham up the drinking and craziness, but we've been in the business for 12 years and we've certainly got plenty of road trips under our belt and over a 1000 happy travelers who have shared adventures with us, most of them multiple times. We've been around since 2006 when we launched the first Rickshaw Challenge, which has earned a place in the Lonely Planet's 'World's Top 10 Greatest Adventures' in 2012.

One reason for our success is that we like to operate in manageable groups rather than get lost in hordes of participants. For us, travel is about community, so we want to foster that on our trips, where everyone knows each other's name and even after doing their own thing on the road we can all sit down and share adventures together over a beer.

We carefully scout out the routes so we can still find places where adventure still exists, bringing leisure and the freedom of independent traveling together, as well as a healthy dash of partying into the mix.

## **Our Rallies**

- [The Rickshaw Challenge](#) – *The race for the clinically insane, explore Southern India entirely from a rickshaw.*
- [The Balkan Ride](#) - *Discover Europe's wild side.*
- [The Caucasian Challenge](#) – *Discover the Caucasus Mountains and their surroundings on our ever-popular rally.*
- [The Central Asia Rally](#) – *A thrilling road trip across the steppes of Central Asia, tracing the old Silk Road from Samarkand to the Pamir Mountains.*
- [The Baltic Run](#) – *An icy adventure into the Baltic States.*
- [The Moroccan Escapade](#) - *A desert adventure exploring the gateway to Africa.*
- [The Wild West Challenge](#) – *Giddy up and get your cowboy boots on for this race into the deserts of the US.*
- [The India's Cup](#) – *Explore the best India has to offer*





## *Custom Adventures*

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Do you want to join in with the fun of the Central Asia Rally, but can't make the dates or you fancy tailoring the route or want to take in the sites at your own pace? No worries, the Travel Scientists can conjure up something from the depth of our labs just for you.

We can also set up a personalized rally for your company, which make excellent team building activities. You tell us where you want to go and what you want to do, and we can organize the rest for you.

Let us know the what, when, why, how, how much, we can take care of the rest. We're super flexible, so all you need to do is share your ideas and expectations and leave it up to us.

## *Contact Us*

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Interested in chatting more or have a query? Then drop us a line! We love to hear from people. If you have any questions, comments or proposals then let us know!

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