

Louisiana PASS



Dakar Rally photo courtesy of Theodore Jensen

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Dakar Rally Races

This has got to be the most exciting race in the world! Think of a typical race. There are generally cars, motorcycles, or horses racing against each other on a track. Well, this is completely different from any other race you have ever seen!

The Dakar Rally originated in 1978. A racer named Thierry Sabine got lost in the Sahara Desert and decided that this would be a great location for a rally race. The first race was held in 1979.

This is a 17 day race over 7,000 miles (these are tough competitors!), though the actual route varies from year to year due to politics. Drivers don't race on a track. Instead, they race across continents. The race generally starts in Paris, France, and ends in Dakar, Senegal. Because Senegal is an island, competitors take a ferry boat to the island where they finish the race. The fastest time wins.

Vehicles range from SUV's to trucks to motorcycles to pure-bred rally machines. This competition is so exciting that it actually inspired a PlayStation 2 game. Obviously the video game is a shortened version of the actual race since no one would want to play the same video game for 17 straight days...or would they?

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