

## The Loudon-clear guide to... **ADAC Rallye Deutschland**

The recipe of country roads, vineyards and military test tracks for Rally Germany – ADAC Rallye Deutschland locally – hasn't changed since it first arrived in the World Rally Championship 16 years ago. For the first eight of those, a key ingredient was Sébastien Loeb. The unbeatable one.

It looked, for a while at least, like we might be in for the mouthwatering prospect of a Loeb return as the nine-time champion chased a tenth win in these parts. But it's not happening. He's hit the beach instead.

No matter. Germany's still going to be a belter. Sébastien Ogier and Julien Ingrassia narrowed championship leaders Thierry Neuville and Nicolas Gilsoul's advantage by six points last time out at Rally Finland; 21 separates the top two crews coming into the season's second all-asphalt counter. The title race is on a knife-edge with both knowing a simple slip could cost them end-of-season glory.

This year's turning into an absolute thriller, here's what you need to know about next week...

### **ADAC Rallye Deutschland in detail**

FIA World Rally Championship round 9/13

WRC – WRC2 – WRC3

Date: Thursday August 16 – Sunday August 19

Based: Bostalsee

Service: Bostalsee

Stages: 18

Competitive distance: 325.76km (202.42 miles)

Liaison distance: 896.13km (556.85 miles)

Total distance: 1221.89km (759.28miles)

Shortest stage: SS1 St. Wendel 2.04km (1.26 miles)

Longest stage: SS9/13 Panzerplatte 38.57km (23.96 miles)

Currency: Euro

Time difference: GMT +2

Sunrise: 0618

Sunset: 2040

### **Shakedown:**

The 5.52km (3.43 miles) shakedown stage is located in St. Wendel, 14.96km (9.29 miles) from the service park in Bostalsee. The stage runs from 0800-1330 on Thursday August 16.

### **ADAC Rallye Deutschland itinerary**

Thursday August 16

SS1 St. Wendel 2.04km (1.26 miles) 1908

## Friday August 17

SS2 Stein und Wein 1 19.44km (12.08 miles) 1011  
SS3 Mittelmosel 1 22.0km (13.67 miles) 1105  
SS4 Wadern-Weiskirchen 1 9.27km (5.76 miles) 1253  
Service Bostalsee 1343  
SS5 Stein und Wein 2 19.44km (12.08 miles) 1539  
SS6 Mittelmosel 2 22.0km (13.67 miles) 1633  
SS7 Wadern-Weiskirchen 2 9.27km (5.76 miles) 1821  
Service Bostalsee 1911

## Saturday August 18

SS8 Arena Panzerplatte 1 9.43km (5.85 miles) 0848  
SS9 Panzerplatte 1 38.57km (23.96 miles) 0915  
SS10 Freisen 1 14.78km (9.18 miles) 1103  
SS11 Römerstrasse 1 12.28km (7.63 miles) 1206  
Service Bostalsee 1310  
SS12 Arena Panzerplatte 2 9.43km (5.85 miles) 1508  
SS13 Panzerplatte 2 38.57km (23.96 miles) 1535  
SS14 Freisen 2 14.78km (9.18 miles) 1723  
SS15 Römerstrasse 2 12.28km (7.63 miles) 1826  
Service Bostalsee 1930

## Sunday August 19

SS16 Graftschaft 1 29.07km (18.06 miles) 0749  
SS17 Graftschaft 2 29.07km (18.06 miles) 0942  
Service Bostalsee 1112  
SS18 Bosenberg 14.04km (8.72 miles) 1218  
Finish St. Wendel 1238

## **2017 ADAC Rallye Deutschland result:**

**WRC:** 1 Ott Tänak/Martin Järveoja (Ford Fiesta WRC) 2h57m31.7s; 2 Andreas Mikkelsen/Anders Jæger (Citroën C3 WRC) +16.4s; 3 Sébastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia (Ford Fiesta WRC) +30.4s **WRC2:** Eric Camilli/Benjamin Veillas (Ford Fiesta R5). **JWRC/WRC3** Julius Tannert/Jürgen Heigl (Ford Fiesta R2T)

## **Running order:**

5 Thierry Neuville/Nicolas Gilsoul (Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC)  
1 Sébastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia (Ford Fiesta WRC)  
8 Ott Tänak/Martin Jarveoja (Toyota Yaris WRC)  
9 Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (Toyota Yaris WRC)  
6 Dani Sordo/Carlos del Barrio (Hyundai i20 Coupe)  
4 Andreas Mikkelsen/Anders Jæger (Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC)  
7 Jari-Matti Latvala/Miikka Anttila (Toyota Yaris WRC)  
2 Elfyn Evans/Dan Barritt (Ford Fiesta WRC)

10 Mads Østberg/Torstein Eriksen (Citroën C3 WRC)

11 Craig Breen/Scott Martin (Citroën C3 WRC)

### **Leading WRC championship positions:**

1 Neuville 153pts; 2 Ogier 132; 3 Tänak 107; 4 Lappi 70; 5 Dani Sordo 60; 6 Mikkelsen 57; 7 Latvala 55; 8 Evans 52; 9 Ostberg 48; 10 Kris Meeke 43, etc

### **WRC manufacturer championship positions:**

1 Hyundai Shell Mobis WRT 228pts; 2 M-Sport Ford WRT 202; 3 Toyota Gazoo Racing 201; 4 Citroën Total Abu Dhabi WRT 153

### **Leading WRC2 runners:**

31 Jan Kopecky/Pavel Dresler (Škoda Fabia R5)

32 Gus Greensmith/Craig Parry (Ford Fiesta R5)

33 Lukasz Pieniazek/Przemyslaw Mazur (Škoda Fabia R5)

34 Fabio Andolfi/Simone Scattolin (Škoda Fabia R5)

35 Nil Baldo/Miquel Sotos (Ford Fiesta R5)

36 Pierre-Louis Loubet/Vincent Landais (Hyundai NGi20 R5)

37 Stéphane Lefebvre/Gabin Moreau (Citroën C3 R5)

38 Eddie Sciorsere/Pietro Ometto (Hyundai NGi20 R5)

39 Yoann Bonato/Benjamin Bouilloud (Citroën C3 R5)

40 Jari Huttunen/Antti Linnaketo (Hyundai i20 R5)

### **Leading WRC2 championship positions:**

1 Tidemand 93pts; 2 Kopecky 75; 3 Greensmith 55; 4 Veiby 45; 5 Pieniazek 40; 6 Huttunen 34, etc

### **JWRC/WRC3 entry:**

61 Jean-Baptiste Franceschi/Romain Courbon (Ford Fiesta R2)

62 Taiko Lario/Tatu Hamalainen (Peugeot 208 R2)

63 Enrico Brazzoli/Luca Beltrame (Peugeot 208 R2)

64 Terry Folb/Kevin Bronner (Ford Fiesta R2)

65 Louise Cook/Stefan Davis (Ford Fiesta R2)

### **Leading WRC3 championship positions:**

1 Franceschi 79pts; 2 Rådström 62; 3 Bergkvist 61; 4 Lario 43; 5 Brazzoli 37 6 Torn 33, etc

### **Leading JWRC championship positions:**

1 Bergkvist 88pts; 2 Rådström 74pts; 3 Franceschi 62; 4 Torn 49; 5 Tannert 31; 6 Folb 30, etc

### **Stuart Loudon's key stage:** SS9 Panzerplatte 1 38.57km (23.96 miles)

This might seem the obvious one, but this Panzerplatte stage really is something special. And something really tough. It's famous for a seemingly endless series of

junctions and surface changes, but we shouldn't forget there are some nice, fast, sweeping sections.

The challenge here is to maintain rhythm and commitment through the longest stage of the event. If it's hot and dry, the drivers will have to manage the tyres on some very abrasive sections. And if it's raining, the ability to read the grip and then trust what you have beneath you is key to a good time. What's also key is keeping the car neat, tidy and firmly in line as you thread your way across these military roads used to test tanks.

Running wide in a corner is never a good idea, but on this stage it could prove to be a rally-ending mistake, with hinkelsteins sitting at the side of the road waiting to claim the unwary.

This stage has claimed some real legends of the sport down the years – it was in the Arena section of Panzerplatte that Thierry Neuville lost the lead of the world championship. He'll be keen to avoid doing that this time around, which is why...

**Stuart will be watching...** 5 Thierry Neuville/Nicolas Gilsoul (Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC)

Thierry and Nicolas Gilsoul arrived in Germany as championship leaders last year (albeit level on points with Sebastien Ogier and Julien Ingrassia) and just when they needed to repeat the sort of form that carried them to their first ever WRC win in 2014, they really struggled.

Sliding off the road in Mittelmosel wasn't the Friday morning he wanted and it was hard to make up that time when the rain came in the afternoon. But the first Saturday stage was the one that hurt the most: damaging the left-rear as he cut a corner forced Neuville out for the rest of the day.

He can't afford anything like that this time around. He and Nicolas are 21 points in the lead of the championship and coming into the closest thing they've got to a home round of the series. It's imperative they take big points away from Bostalsee if they want to maintain that advantage over Seb and Julien.

### **Weather with you:**

We're looking at mid-to-high 20s around the service park. The forecast is for sunshine with cloud coming in later in the weekend, with the potential for the odd thunderstorm and isolated shower. In short, the potential for the usual changeable weather in this part of the world.

### **Most successful drivers on ADAC Rallye Deutschland:**

Sébastien Loeb (9 wins)

### **2018 World Rally Championship stats...**

Stages planned: 151

Stages run: 151

Longest stage of the season: Vero – Sarrola-Carcopino 55.17km (34.28 miles) Tour de Corse

Shortest stage of the season: Street Stage Leon 1.11km (0.68 miles) Rally Mexico

Longest competitive route of the season: Rallye Monte-Carlo 388.59km (241.46 miles)

Shortest competitive route of the season: Rally Italia Sardegna 313.46km (194.78 miles)

### **WRC fastest times in 2018:**

1 Tänak 43; 2 Neuville 29; 3 Ogier 20; 4 Lappi 12; 5 Latvala 9; 6 Kris Meeke 8; 7 Sordo/Loeb/Mikkelsen 6; 10 Breen 5, etc

WRC stages led in 2018:

1 Ogier 54; 2 Tänak 36; 3 Neuville 34; 4 Sordo 9; 5 Mikkelsen 6; 6 Østberg 4; 7 Meeke/Loeb 3; 9 Hayden Paddon 2

### **WRC2 fastest times in 2018:**

1 Pontus Tidemand 43; 2 Kalle Rovannerä; 3 Ole Christian Veiby 17; 4 Kopecky 15; 5 Takamoto Katsuta 10; 6 Lefebvre 8; 7 Suninen/Greensmith 6; 9 Eerik Pietarinen 5; 10 Hiroki Arai/Kevin Abbring 3, etc

WRC2 stages led in 2018:

1 Tidemand 42; 2 Kopecky 36; 3 Rovannerä 24; 4 Katsuta 17; 5 Lefebvre 14; 6 Greensmith/Pietarinen 5; 8 Camilli/Veiby 3; 10 Juuso Nordgren/Arai/Fabio Andolfi 1.

### **JWRC fastest times in 2018:**

1 Emil Bergkvist 31; 2 Ken Torn 20; 3 Denis Rådström 14; 4 Jean-Baptiste Franceschi 9; 5 Luca Bottarelli 4; 6 Terry Folb 3, etc

JWRC stages led in 2018:

1 Rådström 28; 2 Bergkvist 19; 3 Torn 16; 4 Franceschi 6; 5 Folb 5.

### **WRC3 fastest times in 2018:**

1 Franceschi 34; 2 Bergkvist 29; 3 Williams 23; 4 Torn 19; 5 Lario 12; 6 Rådström 11, etc

WRC3 stages led in 2018:

1 Franceschi 31; 2 Rådström 28; 3 Williams 21; 4 Bergkvist 19; 5 Torn 16; 6 Brazzoli 7, etc.

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**Stuart Loudon** is a semi-professional co-driver who has started 102 rallies, 20 of which are rounds of the World Rally Championship and one of which was with an Ashes-winning English cricketer. He makes biscuits in the family business when he's not working towards his dream of becoming a factory co-driver in the WRC.

Stuart Loudon and Words PR work their socks off to make sure every last dot and detail of the document is 100 per cent accurate – but we can't be responsible for any changes to the itinerary or stage distances.

*Stats courtesy of [ewrc-results.com](http://ewrc-results.com)*