

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

### The WRC hits fever pitch in Germany

Welcome to the rally of three parts. It's quite rare these days to find a World Rally Championship round with such diverse roads and stages – but that's always part of the appeal of ADAC Rallye Deutschland.

And, with the drivers' championship so finely balanced, six different winners in nine rallies and the 2017 World Rally Car capturing the imagination of the motorsport world, next week's Bostalsee-based counter couldn't be more keenly anticipated.

I've done Germany three times, retired twice and scored one WRC Academy podium with John MacCrone in 2012. To the uninitiated, this is a Tarmac round of the world championship. Actually, it's so much more than that: the three different styles of road really do bring their own unique challenge. For example, a car which works in the Baumholder military testing ground needs to be soft enough to give grip on an ever-changing surface – but when you get out into the country roads, you need the sort of high-speed precision that comes with a much stiffer set up.

And in the middle of those two, you have the vineyard stages up and down the Mosel Valley, where you feel like you're threading the eye of a needle at 100mph it's so narrow. And nothing slows you down like one of the many, many hairpins waiting at the end of every straight.

This event's a brilliant mix of some of the best asphalt stages around. I love the challenge and I really look forward to next week and a new base in Bostalsee. It'll be quite strange not being in Trier for the first time, but there's nothing new in the areas the rally visits.

As I detail below in the weather section, trying to predict what's coming on the meteo front is particularly complicated on this rally – and a source of significant frustration and stress! But, being an asphalt round, we have the safety crews back in the team. These crews go through the stages roughly 90 minutes ahead of the competing cars and report back on the conditions. It's fantastic to have the extra information, but managing that and translating it into what it might mean for the weather and the road surface is where the real art lies...

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

FIA World Rally Championship round 10/13

WRC – WRC2 – WRC3

Date: Thursday August 17 – Sunday August 20

Based: Bostalsee

Service: Bostalsee

Stages: 21

Competitive distance: 309.17km (192.11 miles)  
Liaison distance: 856.08km (531.96 miles)  
Total distance: 1165.25km (724.08 miles)  
Shortest stage: SS1 Super Special Stage Saarbrücken 2.05km (1.27 miles)  
Longest stage: SS10/15 Panzerplatte 41.97km (26.08 miles)  
Currency: Euro  
Time difference: GMT +2  
Language: German  
Germany population: 82.1 million  
Capital: Berlin  
Sunrise: 0626  
Sunset: 2044

### **Shakedown:**

The 4.09km (2.54 miles) shakedown stage is located at Eiweiler 5.12km (3.18 miles) from the Bostalsee Service Park. The stage runs from 0800-1330 on Thursday August 17.

### **ADAC Rallye Deutschland itinerary**

Thursday August 17

SS1 Super Special Stage Saarbrücken 2.05km (1.27 miles) 1910

Friday August 18

SS2 Super Special Stage Wadern-Weiskirchen 1 9.27km (5.76 miles) 0923

SS3 Mittelmosel 1 22.00km (13.67 miles) 1046

SS4 Grafschaft 1 18.35km (11.40 miles) 11.31

SS5 Super Special Stage Wadern-Weiskirchen 2 9.27km (5.76 miles) 1309

Service Bostalsee 1359

SS6 Mittelmosel 2 22.00km (13.67 miles) 1617

SS7 Grafschaft 2 18.35km (11.40 miles) 1702

SS8 Super Special Stage Wadern-Weiskirchen 3 9.27km (5.76 miles) 1840

Parc Fermé 1930

Saturday August 19

SS9 Super Special Stage Arena Panzerplatte 1 2.87km (1.78 miles) 0911

SS10 Panzerplatte 1 41.97km (26.08miles) 0931

SS11 Freisen 1 14.78km (9.18 miles) 1110

SS12 Römerstrasse 1 12.28km (7.63miles) 1208

Service Bostalsee 1347

SS13 Super Special Stage Arena Panzerplatte 2 2.87km (1.78 miles) 1516

SS14 Super Special Stage Arena Panzerplatte 3 2.87km (1.78 miles) 1529

SS15 Panzerplatte 2 41.97km (26.08miles) 1549

SS16 Freisen 2 14.78km (9.18 miles) 1728

SS17 Römerstrasse 2 12.28km (7.63miles) 1826

Parc Fermé 1917

Sunday August 20

SS18 Losheim am See 1 13.02km (8.09 miles) 0725

SS19 St Wendeler Land 1 12.95km (8.04 miles) 0846

SS20 Losheim am See 2 13.02km (8.09 miles) 1028

SS21 St Wendeler Land 2 12.95km (8.04 miles) 1218

Service 1228

Podium 1300

### **2016 ADAC Rallye Deutschland result:**

**WRC:** 1 Sébastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia (Volkswagen Polo R WRC) 3h00m26.7s; 2 Dani Sordo/Marc Marti (Hyundai i20 WRC) +20.3s; 3 Thierry Neuville/Nicolas Gilsoul (Hyundai i20 WRC) +20.4s

**WRC2:** Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (Škoda Fabia R5)

**WRC3:** Simone Tempestini/Giovanni Bernacchini (DS3 R3T Max)

### **Top 10 running order:**

5 Thierry Neuville/Nicolas Gilsoul (Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC)

1 Sébastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia (Ford Fiesta WRC)

2 Ott Tänak/Martin Jarveoja (Ford Fiesta WRC)

10 Jari-Matti Latvala/Miikka Anttila (Toyota Yaris WRC)

6 Dani Sordo/Marc Marti (Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC)

3 Elfyn Evans/Dan Barritt (Ford Fiesta WRC)

8 Craig Breen/Scott Martin (Citroën C3 WRC)

4 Hayden Paddon/Seb Marshall (Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC)

11 Juho Hänninen/Kaj Lindström (Toyota Yaris WRC)

12 Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (Toyota Yaris WRC)

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

1 Neuville/Ogier 160pts; 3 Tanak 119pts; 4 Latvala 114pts; 5 Sordo 84pts; 6 Evans 79pts.

### **Leading WRC2 runners:**

31 Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (Škoda Fabia R5)

32 Teemu Suninen/Mikko Markkula (Ford Fiesta R5)

33 Eric Camilli/Benjamin Veillas (Ford Fiesta R5)

34 Jan Kopecky/Pavel Dresler (Škoda Fabia R5)

39 Quentin Gilbert/Renaud Jamoul (Škoda Fabia R5)

36 Benito Guerro/Daniel Cué 36 (Škoda Fabia R5)

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

1 Tidemand 118pts; 2 Ole Christian Veiby 68pts; 3 Suninen 54pts.

### **Leading WRC3/JWRC runners:**

63 Nil Solans/Miquel Ibanezsotos (Ford Fiesta R2)

64 Nicolas Ciamin/Thibault De La Haye (Ford Fiesta R2)

65 Terry Folb/Christopher Guieu (Ford Fiesta R2)  
61 Raphaël Astier/Frédéric Vauclore (Peugeot 208 R2)  
67 Dillon Van Way/Dai Roberts (Ford Fiesta R2)  
62 Enrico Brazzoli/Maurizio Barone (Peugeot 208 R2)

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

1 Solans 104pts; 2 Ciamin 70pts; 3 Rådstrom 51pts.

### **Junior WRC**

1 Solans 119pts; 2 Ciamin 93pts; 3 Rådstrom 64pts.

### **Stuart Loudon's key stage:** SS10/15 Panzerplatte 2 41.97km (26.08miles)

Concrete, broken concrete, asphalt, hinkelsteins, corners, corners, corners, Gina and her jump. That, in a nutshell, is Panzerplatte. It's one of the most frustrating *and* rewarding stages in the championship. It's vital to get into a rhythm in the technical, twisty section with all the junctions; it's such a fine balance – once you start trying to steal a tenth of a second in these corners, you can easily overdrive, slide wide and drop time. If that happens, everything starts to work against you: you overheat the tyres, lose more grip and then get ragged trying even harder to make up the time you've just lost. The key to Panzerplatte is rhythm and patience in the twisty and bravery in the quicker bits – especially over Gina's jump.

### **Stuart will be watching...** #6 Dani Sordo/Marc Marti (Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC)

Dani struggled a little bit last time out in Finland, but he won't struggle in Germany. This rally is right up his street and he'll certainly start among the favourites. He's competed in Germany 12 times before, so he's seen these roads in just about every conceivable condition and that gives him an incredible depth of experience to draw on when it comes to setting the car up. And, let's not forget what happened here four years ago, when he took what has to be one of the most popular victories in the world championship.

### **Weather with you:**

Predicting the weather in this part of the world is a nightmare, with the hills, mountains and micro-climates which lie in wait. Suffice to say, at this point we don't have any indications of prolonged extreme weather; we're unlikely to have a prolonged heat wave with temperatures in the Thirties and we're unlikely to have monsoon conditions.

### **Recent winners ADAC Rally Deutschland:**

2006: Sébastien Loeb/Daniel Elena (Citröen Xsara WRC)  
2007: Sébastien Loeb/Daniel Elena (Citröen C4 WRC)  
2008: Sébastien Loeb/Daniel Elena (Citröen C4 WRC)  
2010: Sébastien Loeb/Daniel Elena (Citröen C4 WRC)  
2011: Sébastien Loeb/Daniel Elena (Citröen DS3 WRC)  
2012: Sébastien Loeb/Daniel Elena (Citröen DS3 WRC)

2013: Dani Sordo/Marc Marti (Citröen DS3 WRC)

2014: Thierry Neuville/Nicolas Gilsoul (Hyundai i20 WRC)

2015: Sébastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia (Volkswagen Polo R WRC)

2016: Sébastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia (Volkswagen Polo R WRC)

### **Most successful driver on ADAC Rally Deutschland:**

Sébastien Loeb (9wins)

### **2017 World Rally Championship stats...**

Stages planned: 169

Stages run: 163

Total competitive distance travelled: 2922.96km (1816.32 miles)

Total distance travelled: 12094.31km (7515.40 miles)

Winners' total competitive time: 26h29m38.1s

Longest stage of the season: El Chocolate 1 54.90km (34.11 miles) Rally Mexico

Shortest stage of the season: Street Stage Guanajuato 1.09km (0.67 miles) Rally Mexico

**Most WRC fastest times in 2017:** 1 Neuville 41; 2 Latvala 21; 3 Tänak 19; 4 Evans 17; 5 Lappi 15; 6 Ogier 14; 7 Meeke 12; 8 Paddon 11; 9 Sordo 9; 10 Suninen 4; 11 Hänninen 3; 12 Østberg 2; 13 Breen/Lefebvre 1

Most WRC stages led in 2017: 1 Neuville 40; 2 Meeke 25; 3 Tänak/Latvala 22; 5 Evans 17; 6 Ogier 13; 7 Lappi 12; 8 Paddon 9; 9 Hänninen 3; 10 Østberg 1

**Most WRC2 fastest times in 2017:** 1 Tidemand 45; 2 Andreas Mikkelsen 29; 3 Kopecky 19; 4 Ole Christian Veiby 16; 5 Jari Huttunen 15; 6 Gus Greensmith/Camilli 9; 8 Suninen 8; 9 Benito Guerra/Juuso Nordgren 4; 11 Yohan Rossel/Saba Gustavo/Bryan Bouffier/Pierre-Louis Loubet/Umberto Scandola; 16 Eyvind Brynildsen/Katsuta Takamoto/Lukasz Pieniazek/Quentin Gilbert 1

Most WRC2 stages led in 2017: 1 Tidemand 46; 2 Mikkelsen 43; 3 Veiby 24; 4 Huttunen 23; 5 Jan Kopecky 18; 6 Camilli 6; 7 Greensmith/RosselScandola 1

**Most JWRC fastest times in 2017:** 1 Solans 28; 2 Ciamin 18; 3 Folb 17; 4 Denis Rådstrom 13; 5 Rob Duggan 5; 6 Emil Lindholm 3; 7 Julius Tannert 2; 8 Sebastian Careaga/Van Way 1

Most JWRC stages led in 2017: 1 Solans 45; 2 Ciamin 20; 3 Rådstrom 7; 4 Folb 2; 5 Tannert/Lindholm 1

**Most WRC3 fastest times in 2017:** 1 Solans 36; 2 Ciamin 20; 3 Astier 18; 4 Louise Cook 14; 5 Folb/Rådstrom 12; 7 Jakub Brzezinski 11; 8 Duggan 5; 9 Enrico Brazzoli/Charles Martin 3; 11 Lindholm/Francisco Name/Tannert 2; 14 Luca Panzani/Julius Tannert/Dillon Van Way/Sebastian Careaga 1

Most WRC3 stages led in 2017: 1 Solans 34; 2 Astier 26; 3 Ciamin 20; 4 Cook 14; 5 Brzezinski 12; 6 Rådstrom/Name 7; 8 Folb 2; 9 Tannert/Lindholm 1

**Most R-GT fastest times in 2017:** 1 Romain Dumas 17; Francois Delecour 6; Fabio Andolfi 2

Most R-GT stages led in 2017: 1 Dumas 18; 2 Delecour 4; 3 Andolfi 3

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**Stuart Loudon** is a semi-professional co-driver who has started 92 rallies, 19 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)*