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Le Raid 4L Trophy 2016

A charitable, human and sporting adventure



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18 to 28 February 2016

The 4L Trophy is an annual humanitarian car raid for students.

The format is an orienteering race that runs over the best part of two weeks. Students, in teams of two, drive across France and Spain in the legendary Renault 4L to reach Morocco.

For students looking for adventure, the raid is a unique experience combining sporting challenge, charitable action and a complete change of scenery, where competitors surpass themselves and help each other out along the way.



TEAM N° 722
SPONSORED BY ERI



Kcenia Lombard Antoine Gay-Couttet

Kalaga

A humanitarian effort first and foremost

The teams deliver school supplies as well as sports and paramedical equipment to the most impoverished children in Morocco.

In partnership with the Enfants du Désert foundation, every year dozens of tons of equipment and gifts are donated, making it possible for various ambitious projects to see the light of day: school funding, well-building, and solar energy equipment for a ksar, etc.

4L TROPHY
Desert Aventure!

Tuesday 16 – Wednesday 17 February

We set off for Biarritz this morning.
Up at 5 am for the final preparations and then we hit the road for the Trophy !
First stop Lyon for the pre-departure village at 11 am.

After a 3-hour road trip from Bordeaux, we safely arrived in Biarritz for the departure village.
All the mechanical checks and administrative formalities were successfully completed this afternoon.
We can't wait for the official start of the race tomorrow at midday









Thursday 18 February





The race officially got underway today, 18 February at 12:30 pm, in the rain and to the sound of beeping horns !
Huge traffic jams to get out of Biarritz. It took 2.5 hours to get the 1,200 4Ls on their way.
And then 500 km on the Spanish motorway to Salamanca for our last night with modern day comforts. After that, one week of bivouacking !
Our small convoy of 3 Swiss teams is making good progress. We can't wait to get to Algeciras to board the ferry and start the Moroccan stages of the race.

Tomorrow, 640 km to drive !





Friday 19 February







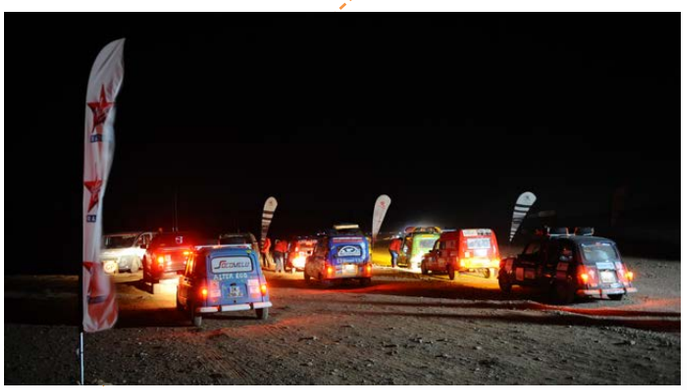
Arrival in Algeciras

We leave Salamanca this morning at 8:30 am for the 650-km motorway trip.
Amazing scenery and great weather too throughout the drive ! Quite a lot of 4Ls have broken down by the side of the road. Everything is ok for us at the moment. Fingers crossed it will continue like this !
We get to Algeciras at about 8 pm.
The road books are handed out and we set up at the first bivouac ahead of the ferry departure for Morocco !









We leave the bivouac at 2 pm. The first 800 4Ls board the 4 pm ferry.
Unexpectedly, a storm warning is announced for the Strait of Gibraltar.
As a safety precaution, the crossing is delayed. Some of the 4Ls are already on the ferry, whilst others, like ourselves are still in the port car park. We spend the night in our 4L.

After a short night, we finally board the ferry on Sunday morning. Customs and police formalities are completed during the crossing.
We are expecting some news from the organisers, as yesterday we were supposed to complete an initial stage of 270 km (Tangier to Rabat) and today a further 600 km to get to Boulajoul.
Given the delays, some reorganisation of the stages seems inevitable.
We'll be back in touch tomorrow with an update !

Saturday 20 & Sunday 21 February

Monday 22 Februar

A testing day !

Over 12 hours delay for our ferry crossing, then a different road book than the one originally planned and then our starter motor packed in.
We managed to get the car going by pushing. We just hoped we could make the bivouac without stalling !
The road was long and winding and the driving experience very different from what were used to.
We finally got to the bivouac at 1 am and repaired the starter motor.
In bed at 4 am and back on the road at 7.
Today, under the Moroccan sun and to an amazing backdrop, we head to Merzouga to distribute the gifts at schools.
The perfect antidote to a difficult day.
We'll be in touch soon.

Kcenia & Antoine









Tuesday 23 February

Yesterday, we arrived in Merzouga where we distributed gifts to the children. We then set up camp amidst the sand dunes.

Today is the first stage on the tracks of the Moroccan desert. An opportunity to get acquainted with the magnificent scenery and the masses of sand ! We experienced some sinking from time to time, but generally we got through ok. No breakdowns, just a tyre puncture. The suspension on the 4Ls has been taking quite a beating.

The next stage tomorrow will take us into the Merzouga dunes.
Lots to look forward too !

Wednesday 24 February

Another leg today across the dunes of Merzouga.

It's easier than yesterday. A bit more compass work is needed. 112 km of tracks covered, with a few nice patches where the car sinks into the sand !

We get the 4L ready for the marathon leg starting tomorrow: 200 km of tracks the first day followed by 400 km of road to get to Marrakech !









4L Trophy 2016

Draws to a Close !

We finally crossed the finish line after a long and hard 48-hour leg through the desert and the Moroccan mountains.
On Thursday 25, we covered 200 km of tracks. The very steep terrain posed numerous problems.
We then bivouacked in the open in the middle of the desert. We set off at 6:30 am on Friday morning along the final stretch of track, followed by 400 km of mountainous road to Marrakech.
We were very moved to discover a crowd waiting at the finish line.
With the car experiencing no problems over the last 48 hours, we crossed the line well before night-time.
Emotional scenes followed: our families had made the trip to Marrakech for this unforgettable moment.
We're still coming to terms with the fact that we succeeded in completing this adventure.
Kcenia and Antoine















The traditional prize-giving ceremony in Marrakech on Saturday 27 February brought down the curtain on the 4L Trophy 2016. 1,323 teams took part in this the 19th edition of the race.
After covering 6,000 kilometres, the results for our team, no. 722, comprising Kcenia Lombard and Antoine Gay-Couttet, were as follows:

696th in the overall standings
593rd in the marathon leg

Humanitarian adventure:
The 19th edition of the Raid this year once again supported the mission of the *Enfants du Désert* association, which aims to improve schooling for children in south-east Morocco.
The teams showed great dedication in organising tombolas and sports' tournaments ahead of their departure for Morocco, which helped raise over **€25,000** to improve schooling for children. This is an incredible sum which reflects the efforts of the students and will go towards the construction of **3 additional classrooms in the desert**.
In addition to the education- and sports-themed gifts, the teams also brought lots of specialist equipment which will prove extremely useful on the ground.

Health:
26 wheelchairs, 1 pushchair for a handicapped child, 54 pairs of crutches, a significant amount of healthcare equipment, blood glucose monitors and 1 multi-function monitor for the hospital in Errachidia.

Information Technology:
5 desktop computers, 5 printers (+ multiple ink cartridges) and 2 overhead projectors to improve the working conditions for our local associations and school principals, as well as 9 laptop computers and 1 tablet to improve study conditions for young students.

In addition to all this equipment, a water pump was given to the Waha association (which is going to be installed close to a school in the town of Boudnib) as well as solar panels which are soon set to be installed on buildings where required.

The objectives of the raid were once again exceeded beyond all expectation! Thank you to everyone who contributed: the organisers, teams, sponsors and associations, etc.

The teams are heading back by boat on Sunday 28 February, their minds and souls enriched with emotions, unforgettable memories and by new experiences.

Les équipages reprennent le bateau dimanche 28 février, le cœur et la tête chargés d'émotions, de découvertes et d'images inoubliables !

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