



Team Dessoude



PRESS INFO - DAKAR 2015

Leg 8 : Uyuni (Bolivia) - Iquique (Chile) - 01/11/2015

Liaison: 24 km - SS: 784 km

End of the marathon and back in Chile!



After a night spent in Bolivia at the Uyuni bivouac, without any assistance, the Team DESSOUDE crews headed back to Chile this morning with the second part of the marathon stage. No fewer than 808 km to cover in order to return to the Iquique bivouac, including 784 km of special stage, of which 274 were neutralised. With finish line right in the bivouac, the final ten kilometres included gigantic dunes with their famous, vertiginous descents.

A busy day after yesterday's adventures, but there was to be relief

at the end of this eighth stage, with tomorrow, Monday January 12th, seeing the rest day in Iquique.

This morning, the cars started in a rather unusual way on the Uyuni Salar, with groups of five cars at a time setting off in a straight line on this incredible salt lake. With over 150 km of the famous Salar of Uyuni to cross, the competitors showed their delight and their speed alike, with the fastest reaching speeds of up to 200 km/h...



Setting the 24th fastest time on today's stage, the Chinese crew of LIU Kun and LIAO Min, on the DESSOUDE Proto N05, put in a brilliant performance on the marathon stage that they had been dreading.

breeding.

"It was our first experience of a marathon stage and we were a bit worried about suffering some technical problems and getting stuck in Bolivia. We took great care on yesterday's stage, really looking after the car. In particular, we were very cautious during the awful storm that broke over us. We had an amazing welcome to Bolivia, where we were greeted very warmly. It was really a wonderful moment. Today's special stage was quite interesting, and the terrain was very varied - everything came together perfectly. We were impressed by the Salar of Uyuni and the top speeds you can reach there - it was a very special experience. We were dreading a technical problem, and in the end it all went well. We are very happy!"



As far as the Juke Buggy is concerned, luckily it was a case of different days and different ways for Thierry MAGNALDI and Guy LENEVEU. After a very intense evening and night, today was much calmer, although there was no time to rest either. Finishing 27th in the timed stage, the driver from the Var region of France was in a hurry to get back to Chile...

"Compared to yesterday, the stage went perfectly well today! Yesterday we had our problem at the worst possible time, during the storm and with no visibility. It was not easy to make a temporary repair, but we were able to get going again. We were then quite worried that we would not be able to reach the bivouac, and had to drive at a speed of 40 km/h for more than a hundred kilometres. We drove as if we were on eggshells until we reached Uyuni, but at least we got there. After that, we worked on the car and were able to give the Juke a bit of a boost. Today, there were no problems, except that we started a long way back on the Salar. There are no overtaking problems like on a track. So we really made the most of it and enjoyed ourselves as well. I'm not sad that there is a rest day tomorrow. It will do us a lot of good..."



Tomorrow, the Iquique bivouac will be a rest day for the crews, but a lot of work for the mechanics. A well-deserved break after the recent adventures. On Tuesday morning, the rally caravan will get back underway, heading towards Buenos Aires, where the finish will take place on Saturday. Before then, the first stop will be ...Calama!



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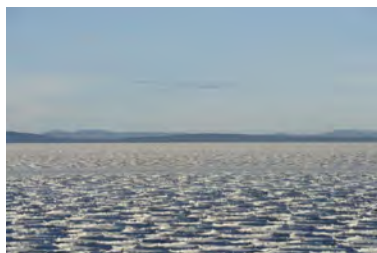
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