



4 Legends, 5,000 Miles of Hell, and Raptor T1+ Set to Conquer 2025 Dakar Rally

- Ford's Raptor T1+ is designed to tackle Dakar's treacherous terrain, showcasing cutting-edge engineering and unparalleled Built Ford toughness
- Dakar Rally represents the ultimate challenge for the toughest Raptor ever
- Carlos Sainz Sr., Mattias Ekström, Mitch Guthrie Jr., and Nani Roma combine their skills to tackle the world's most demanding motorsport challenge

DEARBORN, Mich., Dec. 20, 2024 — Set against the challenging terrain of Saudi Arabia, the Dakar Rally emerges each year as off-road motorsport's ultimate crucible. In 2025, Ford Performance and M-Sport will compete in the rally's T1+ category with the purpose-built Raptor T1+ and a team of skilled drivers.

For over four decades, the Dakar Rally has stood as a testament to human and mechanical endurance. From January 3-17, competitors will tackle nearly 5,000 miles. Split into 12 stages from Bisha to Shubaytah, every stage tests the boundaries of possibility, where drivers and co-drivers are only given their route moments before competition and terrain and weather vary at the extremes.

Mark Rushbrook, Global Director, Ford Performance:

"The Dakar Rally is the pinnacle of off-road racing, and it's where legends are made. With the Raptor T1+ and our exceptional team of drivers, we're not just here to compete—we're here to showcase the strength, durability, and technical innovation that Ford stands for. This is a milestone moment for Ford Performance and our partners at M-Sport, and we're ready to take on the challenge."

T1+: Innovation Meets Rugged Capability

The T1+ category is the top caliber of competition classification in FIA rally raid, featuring purpose-built vehicles powered by production-derived engines, and the Raptor T1+ is crafted to meet those standards. Boasting a high-performance Ford Coyote-based V8 engine, advanced FOX suspension, and a lightweight yet robust chassis, this machine is ready to endure the extreme heat, punishing terrain, and relentless demands of Dakar. Rigorous testing, both in competition and out, has honed the Raptor T1+ into a race-ready beast.

The Dream Team: Four Drivers, One Goal

Ford's 2025 Dakar effort is powered by motorsport champions with unique expertise:

- Carlos Sainz Sr.: The four-time, reigning Dakar champion and motorsport icon who combines decades of experience with an unrelenting drive for precision
- Mattias Ekström: Renowned for his versatility across rallycross, DTM, and Dakar, Ekström's adaptability and technical acumen are unmatched

- Mitch Guthrie Jr.: A rising American force with victories in events like King of the Hammers, Guthrie Jr. represents the next generation of off-road excellence
- Nani Roma: A two-time Dakar champion in both motorcycle and car categories, Roma's experience and strategic expertise bring invaluable depth to the team in his return from the 2024 effort in the Ford Ranger T1

Engineering Excellence with M-Sport

At the center of Ford's Dakar campaign is its engineering collaboration with rally racing experts M-Sport. This partnership marries decades of experience with a relentless pursuit of perfection, culminating in a vehicle capable of meeting Dakar's brutal demands. Together, Ford and M-Sport have co-developed a machine that exemplifies rally-raid.

"There has been a huge amount of effort gone into the project and we can't wait to finally start the event," said Matthew Wilson, M-Sport program director. "We have a fantastic driver lineup and our learnings from the testing and Rallye Du Maroc in October should mean we are as prepared as we can be for the huge challenge coming our way. There are some very exciting elements to Dakar 2025 with the 48 Hour Chrono and finishing in the empty quarter so it will certainly be a true test of endurance."

A Legacy of Performance Meets the Ultimate Test

Ford's foray into Dakar draws from a heritage steeped in off-road excellence that spans over five decades, when Rod Hall piloted his Ford Bronco as the first and only production 4x4 vehicle to win the Baja 1000. From the Baja-conquering Bronco to the enduring toughness of Raptor, Ford vehicles have long embodied technical capability and resilience. Merging desert-tested design with race-proven engineering, the Raptor T1+ represents the apex of this legacy.

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About Ford Motor Company

Ford Motor Company (NYSE: F) is a global company based in Dearborn, Michigan, committed to helping build a better world, where every person is free to move and pursue their dreams. The company's Ford+ plan for growth and value creation combines existing strengths, new capabilities and always-on relationships with customers to enrich experiences for customers and deepen their loyalty. Ford develops and delivers innovative, must-have Ford trucks, sport utility vehicles, commercial vans and cars and Lincoln luxury vehicles, along with connected services. The company does that through three customer-centered business segments: Ford Blue, engineering iconic gas-powered and hybrid vehicles; Ford Model e, inventing breakthrough EVs along with embedded software that defines exceptional digital experiences for all customers; and Ford Pro, helping commercial customers transform and expand their businesses with vehicles and services tailored to their needs. Additionally, Ford is pursuing mobility solutions through Ford Next, and provides financial services through Ford Motor Credit Company. Ford employs about 177,000 people worldwide. More information about the company and its products and services is available at corporate.ford.com.

About Ford Performance

Ford Performance is based in Dearborn, Mich. It is responsible for Ford's performance vehicle development and major racing operations globally, including NASCAR, IMSA, SRO British GT, FIA World Rally Championship, Supercars Championship, World of Outlaws, Ultra4, SCORE-International, FIA Rally-Raid, Formula Drift, NHRA, Rebelle Rally, Thailand Super Series and our latest commitment in Formula 1 with Red Bull Ford Powertrains. Ford Performance also maintains a constantly evolving fleet of electric performance demonstrators to showcase the limits of electrification technology. In addition, the organization also oversees the development of Ford's racing engines, as well as the outreach programs with all Ford Clubs and Ford enthusiasts. For more information regarding Ford racing's activities, please visit Performance.Ford.com or follow @FordPerformance on Facebook, Instagram, Threads, X, TikTok and YouTube.

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