

Rahal Desert Challenge FOURTH EDITION



The Rahal Desert Challenge is going into its FOURTH year, and we are very excited.

But why Rahal? A free translation of the Arabic rooted word means “Traveler” and that is what the participating teams will do. Traveling through the desert on a challenging track with many different types of terrain.

The motto will remain “Chasing the Sun”. For two days the sun will be an important guide, and when the sun sets, the teams too will stop to rest.

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Objectives

- The ultimate goal of the challenge is to get your entire team safely over a variety of obstacles while clocking as few kilometers as you can.
- It is NOT A RACE! There is no prize nor honor for the team which completes the challenge in the fastest time.
- The distance for day 1 (to the Saturday campsite) is around 100 km.
- The distance for day 2 (to the exit on Sunday) is around 50 km.

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Setting up a team

- Team Composition of 4 cars (not more, not less):

MUST:

- 1 driver capable and fit to run trips as TEAM CAPTAIN (e.g. Assistant Marshal or Marshal)

Recommended:

- 1 driver at advanced level – more than 20 trips
 - 1 driver at intermediate level – more than 6 trips
 - 1 driver at any above level
- No more than two cars per team being driven by authorized trip leaders.

Once you ticked all requirements, it's time to find a unique team name.

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Registration

- Register your team at www.premieronline.com.
- All payments will be managed by Premier Online.
- After the registration we will contact you for your team setup.

Event Charges

- The registration fee for each team is 1,200 AED (up to 8 people – 4 drivers and up to 4 passengers).
- Your team will only save the slot once the payment is submitted.

What will you get for the fees?

We strive to keep this event nonprofit and invest the fees into the challenge.

The fees will cover the operating costs for the organizers and our sweep teams. The sweep teams will ensure the challenge is safe and fun for all participants.

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Refund Policy

We understand plans can change, and teams may have to cancel. The refund policy for cancellations is as follows:

- Prior to 29 December – 100% refund
- From 29 December to 13 January - 50% refund
- From 13 January: 0% refund

Disclaimer: Any claims or refund requests must be sent to rdc@desertdudes.ae . The refund will be processed after the event ends.

Desert Dudes UAE accepts no liability for damages or claims arising from participation in the event.

What if a team member can't participate?

We understand that things may turn to the worse, a sudden breakdown of a car or other duties to follow.

- If a team loses one car/participant before the event, it is all right to substitute another – providing the team still complies with the team make-up criteria.
- Any changes in the team setup have to be emailed to rdc@desertdudes.ae.

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Vehicle Rules

- All vehicles must be in good condition with front and rear recovery points and a spare tire also in good condition.
- All convoys must have four cars at the start. Teams must finish the challenge with a minimum of three cars.
- Keep your center of gravity low by minimizing any weight on your roof! Jerry cans are not advised to be carried on your roof and absolutely no roof-tents.
- If your car breaks down in the desert, our team will do everything possible to assist in repairing or helping your team to remove it from the desert.
- Ultimately it is the responsibility of the driver to pay for a specialist company to recover his/her vehicle if it is not possible to drive it out.
- No more than two persons per car. This trip is not suitable for children under the age of 12.

You should consider a minimum of 6 persons per convoy (this means at least two cars should carry a passenger who is willing and able to dig if necessary!) – Thus, ensuring there is adequate assistance within each convoy if/when stuck.

- There will be a 5km penalty for any vehicle sustaining damage which requires a police report – team leaders should consider the capabilities of the drivers and their cars in their convoy and choose a suitable route for them all.
- Teams that do not make it to the campsite on Day 1 before sunset must camp in the desert overnight – no driving after sunset. Depending on the distance to the campsite it may even be considered to end the challenge upon evaluation by the organizers.

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- Driving after sunset will incur a penalty of 20kms, unless being escorted by a sweep team.
- Car insurance – your regular car insurance may not cover damage sustained off-road, and it is up to the car owner/driver to clarify this with their insurance certificate or company.
- There will be a 1-5km penalty for every time a team strays beyond 2.5kms off the straight line - this is to keep all teams in a five kilometers wide “corridor”, should we need to search for someone.

The penalty depends on the severity of the violation and will be decided by the organizers.

Convoy Rules

- Please do not drive through the middle of another convoy.
- If you wish to overtake a convoy, please contact their leader via radio and advise them of your intention to overtake.

Petrol

- Unless you have an auxiliary or XL fuel tank you will likely need to carry extra petrol with you. We suggest 40 liters per car, but it's up to each team to decide what is a sufficient petrol supply for their vehicles.
- Petrol must be carried in containers designed for that purpose.
- Jerry cans must be fastened down on/in your vehicle with a ratchet strap. Bungee cords will not hold them down securely while you are dune bashing.

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- We do not advise carrying Jerry cans on your roof, as they can affect your center of gravity. The orderly storage of the Jerry cans will be checked during the vehicle check by our team.
- Prior to the event, teams will be provided the locations for Petrol stations that are close to the start and finish lines.

Safety Information/Equipment

- Every vehicle **MUST** have a flag and flagpole.
- Every driver/passenger **MUST** wear a seatbelt when their car is moving.
- **MINIMUM** Equipment required per team of 4.
 - 2 tire pressure gauges
 - 2 compressors
 - 2 GPS capable of uploading and downloading tracks (recommended Garmin GPS eg. Montana or Overlander. Mobile apps tend to be unreliable, and settings cannot be adjusted properly, this may cause kilometer addition)
 - 2 car jacks incl. jack plate
 - 2 snatch straps/kinetic ropes – in good condition
 - 4 rated shackles (soft or bow)
 - 4 first aid kits (mandatory by Law)
 - 4 fire extinguishers, not older than 2 years (mandatory by Law)
 - 4 VHF radios
 - 4 shovels

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- Highly recommended but NOT mandatory
 - Sat Phone
 - One winch per convoy
- ALL items must be securely tied down! This will be checked during the vehicle check by the RDC staff.

Sweep Team

- For your safety, we have assembled three (3) experienced sweep teams to support the event. The members of the sweep teams are club and Rally Marshals/Officials.
- The job of the sweep team is to assist if participants get into trouble. They are not there to dig cars out. That is to be completed by the participating team members. They do have winches, and can pull cars out of a bad situation, if required.
- If your vehicle should break down in the desert, the sweep teams will assist you by towing (if it is possible) the broken vehicle to the nearest sand track or gatch track.

Food and Beverages

- There are no shops near the entry point, nor the camp spot on Saturday night – please carry plenty of food, water, snacks and drinks with you.
- There are no pharmacies so please remember to pack any meds you may need. [first aid box]

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- As the challenge is a fun focused event, we know that camping can mean late nights. For everyone's safety, please ensure you are absolutely capable of driving your car in the morning. If you have doubts, please take your time, and maybe have another nap.

Campground Etiquette

- Please keep the noise down after 10:30pm, many will want to sleep early!
- Please ensure that you pick up all litter from your campsite – we will check your camp locations and a penalty of 10 Kilometers will be applied to any team that does not leave their area clean.

Communications

- At least two vehicles per convoy must have a mobile phone with an ETISALAT SIM. DU and Virgin coverage in this part of the desert is extremely limited.
- Contact numbers of the sweep team and all the other officials will be emailed to you 48 hours before the event.
- Radio Frequencies will be assigned to the sweep team and the individual teams will need to use their own.

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The Route

- The route with all the information required will be emailed or sent via message to the team leaders 2 days prior.
- The route is a corridor of approximately 5 Km (2.5Km left and right of the line) with sectors dividing up different parts of the route.
- Once you pass one sector line, you will have to send a SMS (via Etisalat) to the designated number saying, “**team name – end sector XYZ**”. Any team that does not send a message will incur a penalty of 2 km for each missed SMS.
 - It may happen that no network coverage is available, kindly make sure that the team member who sends the message will re-send it asap.
- If you go beyond the corridor limits (to the left or right) a penalty of 1-5 Km for each time will be added to your final result, depending on the severity of the passing.
- At least one person in the team must record the route on his/her GPS.
- If teams have more than one GPS, teams must choose one route and save it as “TeamnameRDC”
- GPS devices must always remain in the vehicle. Teams found removing the GPS from a vehicle in order to carry, fly or move it by any other means over an obstacle will be disqualified.
- You will have to submit your route (via SD card or via email) to our designated desk in the camp on Saturday and at the finish line on Sunday. This is to prevent any manipulation or cheating.
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Prizes

Reminder: THIS IS NOT A RACE!

There is no prize for the quickest team! There will be prizes for the 3 teams with the least kilometers after all calculations are verified and validated by the RDC organizers.

There will be plenty of prizes, and nobody will finish the challenge empty handed!

Additional Challenges and Competitions (Optional/Subject to Changes)

- **Photography Competition**
 - 6 different categories around nature, off-road and UAE
 - 1 entry per team per category
 - All pictures will be uploaded on our social media and each photo with the most likes will win the category.

- **Camp Quiz**
 - Each team that shows up with all members will get a 5 Km deduction on the final result.
 - Off-road related questions to be answered on an answer sheet.

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- **Treasure Hunt (Optional/Subject to Changes)**
 - Each team will get a designated waypoint to find a buried treasure.
 - Confirmed treasure finds will receive a one Kilometer deduction.

Penalty Summary

- Straying outside the buffer zone north/south/east/west of the straight line – 1-5 km each time the buffer zone is crossed.
- Failing to send SMS when clear of each sector – 2 km per team per sector notification missed.
- Driving after dark (unless accompanied by a sweep team) – 20 km per team.
- Damage to a car requiring a police report – 5 kms per vehicle.
- Missing a “Must Hit” waypoint by more than 200 meters – 2 kms per waypoint.
- Removing a GPS device from a vehicle in order to carry, fly or move it over an obstacle in any other means than driving – team is disqualified.

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What if a car breaks down during the event?

1. The vehicle can still drive but is at risk of failing completely or can only drive slowly, for example, clutch or overheating problems.
2. The vehicle is unable to drive but can be towed by the other members of the team.
3. The vehicle is completely immobile and cannot be towed.

Under all circumstances follow the recommended actions below:

- Note the initial coordinates of where the car broke down and call or send SMS/WhatsApp message to the designated number with an initial brief description of the issue.
- Try to call the sweep team on the radio.
- Then consider your options; how much daylight do you have left; how much water do you have on board each vehicle; what communication you have with the Sweep team.
- If the team is able to assist the stricken vehicle to a nearby road so it can be recovered by a tow truck you should do so, this is assuming the occupants of the vehicle are abandoning the challenge.
 - Once the vehicle is back on the road the remaining members of the team in the three remaining vehicles can return to the point where the breakdown happened and continue the challenge.
 - **IMPORTANT:** Don't leave the track until a Sweep team is with you or you have the "Green Light" of the RDC officials.
- Your GPS track will be counted only from the point where the breakdown occurred, and not the detour to assist the vehicle out of the desert.

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- NOTE! This option is only if you get the vehicle to a major road and a tow truck is confirmed on its way.
- There must be sufficient water in the breakdown vehicle for all occupants while they are waiting for recovery.
- The driver of the broken car must confirm with the RDC officials when they reach a garage, or the tow truck arrives.

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Let's have an awesome challenge!

