

2024 **1** 2024
AUSTRIA TO ATHENS
CHALLENGE

29 September
to 13 October 2024



Rally ^{the} Globe
VINTAGE AND CLASSIC CAR CLUB



Sponsored by:  Sotheby's

A two week competitive rally across Europe, with over 4,000km of spectacular and challenging roads off the beaten track. Explore seven countries whilst journeying from the magnificent surroundings of snow-capped Austrian Alps, to the ancient city of Athens by the warm waters of the Aegean Sea.


CHALLENGE



Rally the Globe's second Challenge event will traverse dramatic and varied scenery, visit historical landmarks and navigate terrain made famous by motorsport, exploring some of Europe's less visited and wilder countries.

- Blend into the picture-postcard Alpine landscapes of Austria and Slovenia with towering mountains, lush green pastures, hill top churches and serene turquoise lakes
- Cruise along the dramatic Dalmatian coast with its sparkling views of the Adriatic Sea
- Climb sinuous roads amongst trees to be rewarded by the seemingly endless vistas in the Velebit, Durmitor and Sutjeska National Parks
- Find time between the driving to view the famous Mostar Old Bridge in Bosnia & Herzegovina; take an evening visit to the old town and bazaar in Sarajevo; or consult the Oracle in ancient Delphi
- During the single rest day, take a deep breath and relax in Porto Montenegro, with its prestigious marina, beautiful bay and nearby historic towns
- Discover the roads less travelled in the remote inland regions of Montenegro and Albania
- Climb high into the Pindos mountains and drive the testing Acropolis Rally heartlands in Greece.

Expect extraordinary mountain passes, beautiful coastal views, national parks, castles, ancient temples, a little hardship, and of course plenty of varied competition along the way.



30 September
to 13 October 2024

Route notes

Day 0: Sunday 29 September - Ennstal (Austria)

Scrutineering and Documentation take place at the 5* Schloss Pichlarn Hotel, beautifully situated in the Ennstal - a valley renowned for its spectacular scenery, world famous winter sports and a strong motorsport heritage. The hotel is within easy reach of Salzburg and Vienna international airports and is a pleasant few day's drive from most European countries and the UK. In the evening, a reception is followed by the traditional Welcome Dinner.

Day 1: Monday 30 September - Ennstal to Brdo (Slovenia) - 330km

Within 30 minutes of leaving the start, we will be climbing the first mountain pass of the event, crossing the dramatic Niedere Tauern massif. A series of regularities and tests, separated by a scenic lunch stop, then guide us across rolling







countryside to the Slovenian border. We hope that this small but perfectly formed country's tagline as 'the sunny side of the Alps' holds true as we take in the spectacular surroundings of the Solčava Valley. Having enjoyed these dramatic surroundings, we make for our overnight hotel alongside a renaissance castle in Brdo.

Day 2: Tuesday 1 October - Brdo to Rijeka (Croatia) - 290km

The morning of Day 2 sees us ascending into the picture postcard landscapes of the Julian Alps on a series of interesting tarmac and gravel roads. We then descend from these 'Alpine' surroundings to enjoy an exciting special test and lunch before embracing a change of scenery as we enter the more Mediterranean surroundings of the Slovene littoral en route to the Croatian border. From there, it is a short drive to our luxury resort right by the water's edge in the Bay of Kvarner, near the city of Rijeka.

Day 3: Wednesday 2 October - Rijeka to Šibenik (Croatia) - 405km

With a longer drive in prospect, we make no excuses in taking the motorway to speed us past the urban sprawl of Rijeka to reach the more pleasant surroundings further south. The rest of the day will be spent exploring the Dalmatian coastal regions

where arid vegetation clings to the side of dramatic limestone peaks that sharply descend to the blue waters of the Adriatic. A brief afternoon blast precedes a regularity and the final control in the beautiful Krka National Park. This is a short drive from our overnight hotel on the coast, near Šibenik.

Day 4: Thursday 3 October - Šibenik to Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina) - 300km

After a later start, we initially head inland to explore rocky hills criss-crossed by a network of small tarmac lanes. We fully explore this scenic region before a quick sojourn to the sea to get a 'coastal fix' around lunchtime. The afternoon section will then be relatively short and timing for the day will end before the border crossing into Bosnia and Herzegovina. The drive to Mostar from there will only take an hour but you might want to call in at the pilgrimage site of Međugorje; visit the picturesque Kravica Waterfalls or stop off at Mostar's famous 'Stari Most' old bridge.

Day 5: Friday 4 October - Mostar to Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina) - 320km

Another relatively short day is in prospect to allow for a mid-afternoon arrival in Sarajevo. We initially head north west into the Ljubuša Hills for a series of regularities. After stopping for

lunch close to Lake Jablanica, a shorter afternoon sees us climbing into the Bjelašnica Mountains. Cresting the final ridge, we see the city of Sarajevo below us. The Bosnian capital has a certain 'East-meets-West' vibe and has had a long and often turbulent history. We are staying close to the 'old town' and there is a free evening allowing you to explore the sights, restaurants and perhaps a spot of nightlife in this fascinating city.

Day 6: Saturday 5 October - Sarajevo to Porto Montenegro (Montenegro) - 335km

Our sixth day sees us heading into the Jahorina Hills for the first regularities. We then enjoy a picturesque drive through the Sutjeska National Park Gorge. South of here, high plateaus take us close to the Montenegrin border. We finally cross into the country of the 'Black Mountain' near the coast and make for the beauty of Boka Bay (better known as Kotor Bay). Our destination for the next two nights is Porto Montenegro - one of the most prestigious marinas on the Adriatic Coast. To reach there, we take a short ferry crossing.

Day 7: Sunday 6 October - Rest Day in Porto Montenegro

Aside from the usual Rest Day car and crew maintenance tasks, the main activities on offer here are unsurprisingly water-based



with boat trips around Boka Bay visiting such sites as Our Lady of the Rocks, the Blue Cave and the historic towns of Perast and Kotor. If you prefer a more relaxing day, however, Porto Montenegro offers outdoor pools, an indulgent spa and a choice of restaurants.

Day 8: Monday 7 October - Porto Montenegro to Kolasin (Montenegro) - 315km

An early start is planned to enable us to climb the famous 'Kotor Serpentine' before it gets too busy with tourist traffic. Fine views over Boka Bay are on offer as we ascend ever higher. We then turn inland to tackle a series of regularities. Perhaps the highlight of the day, however, will be a run through the spectacular Durmitor National Park - one of Europe's best scenic drives. After a compact but busy day, we arrive in the developing ski town

of Kolasin, where we stay in an Alpine-style resort hotel.

Day 9: Tuesday 8 October - Kolasin to Shkodër (Albania) - 280km

We complete our exploration of Montenegro by enjoying more sinuous roads, a fun circuit test and lunch in a unique location before we make for Albania. We enter our sixth country via a scenic mountain road, which quickly snakes us down to the main valley for the relatively short drive to the bustling city of Shkodër - one of Albania's oldest inhabited settlements. Our home for the night is a modern business hotel right in the heart of the action.

Day 10: Wednesday 9 October - Shkodër to Berat (Albania) - 355km

Turning inland from Shkodër, we begin a journey of discovery through one of the lesser known

corners of Europe. We motor along sweeping regional tarmac roads through rolling countryside towards Tirana. After lunch in the hills above the capital, it is more of the same for the afternoon drive to Berat - nicknamed 'The Town of a Thousand Windows'. There will be a chance to visit the fortress and old town - a UNESCO World Heritage Site - before arriving at our overnight hotel, housed in a renovated classical university building.

Day 11: Thursday 10 October - Berat to Ioannina (Greece) - 320km

Leaving Berat, we head for the valley of the Vjosa River - one of the last wild rivers in Europe. From there, a climb into the hills on recently tarmaced roads transports us across to the coast, near Himarë. Having enjoyed lunch 'on the beach', we make for



Photos: gerardbrown.co.uk, shutterstock.com & venues

the Greek border at Kakavia and our return into the EU Schengen Area. Once the formalities here are completed, it is an easy run to the lakeside town of Ioannina and our 5* hotel close to the water's edge.

Day 12: Friday 11 October - Ioannina to Plastiras Lake (Greece) - 295km

From Ioannina, we are soon climbing into the Northern Pindos Mountains. During this morning run, we reach an altitude of nearly 2000m before descending to a lunch halt near Metsovo. In the afternoon, the gradients are gentler and the highlight will be a visit to the remarkable Monasteries of Meteora, set atop immense natural rock pillars. After this touristic interlude, all that remains is a fun test before a

final climb to reach the tranquil surroundings of Lake Plastiras and our overnight stop in a rustic mountain resort hotel.

Day 13: Saturday 12 October - Plastiras Lake to Delphi (Greece) - 330km

More twisty roads and mountain passes are on the menu for this morning as we journey south to Karpenisi. After lunch, the scenery changes as the pine forests give way to more traditional Greek landscapes. We are now also into the heartland of the Acropolis Rally and hope to enjoy some classic sections before arriving in Delphi. After a quick visit to 'consult the Oracle', we reach our overnight hotel, situated on a hillside above the town and offering panoramic views all the way down to the sea.

Day 14: Sunday 13 October - Delphi to Vouliagmeni (Greece) - 260km

More traditional Acropolis Rally terrain is traversed on our final morning. Then, we plan to have lunch in one of the many vineyard estates that abound in the Attica region. Suitably refreshed, all that remains is an enjoyable test and an easy run to reach our final destination of Vouliagmeni, at the heart of the Athenian Riviera. A mid-afternoon arrival should allow time to enjoy the facilities of our 5* hotel, which has its own private beach, before the traditional *Rally the Globe* Prizegiving Dinner.

We hope you can join us!

Route details are subject to change.



Photos: gerardbrown.co.uk & venues



Rally the Globe
VINTAGE AND CLASSIC CAR CLUB

Rally the Globe is a not-for-profit club that exists to support a broad family of motorsport enthusiasts who want to explore the world in vintage and classic vehicles. We go out of our way to find memorable accommodation and unique experiences. You will be with a great bunch of like-minded people creating memories that will last forever.

Entry to the *Austria to Athens Challenge* is open to all abilities. Husbands and wives, parents and children, and just good friends all compete on our events. The challenges of the day and the evening social gatherings ensure life-long friendships are forged - united in an adventure.

Eligible cars

Just about anything with four wheels of a specification built before the end of 1976. If your car was built in the late 1970s but is identical to an earlier car then it is almost certainly eligible, but please check with us before submitting your entry form.

We love to see people using older cars so there is an entirely separate classification for cars of a specification produced before the end of 1945.

Event description

Whilst the *Austria to Athens Challenge* will take place predominantly on asphalt roads, many of the competitive sections

will include gravel sections to spice things up. We use minor roads to explore areas that few tourists will ever see, and whilst we go out of our way to avoid the roughest roads, you and your car should be prepared for some bumpy and stony sections in the remoter reaches of the route.

There will be two or three "Regularity" sections per day, where you will try to arrive at secret checks at a precise time. We have also planned tests against the clock on private land, tracks and closed roads. And there may also be a few Time Control Sections in remote and traffic-free areas.

Underlying these competitive elements will be the basic challenge of driving 4,000 km in a fifty-year-old car. Your preparation, ingenuity and resilience will all be tested.

The route will predominantly be defined in a detailed tulip Road Book although some of the later regularity sections may require some simple map reading skills. Overview maps of the route will also be provided.



Hospitality

Fifteen nights' accommodation is included in a shared room (double or twin). Single rooms are available for a supplementary fee but may be limited at some hotels.

We strive to provide good accommodation wherever it is available. In some remoter parts of the route our options are limited, but when we are in more mainstream locations, and particularly during the rest day, the hotels will be top quality.

A group dinner will be provided most evenings, and on the majority of driving days lunch and coffee halts will also be arranged in a variety of venues.

What to take

A fire extinguisher, first aid kit, warning triangle, high-vis jackets and a towrope are all mandatory. You may park in historic areas where we insist an oil-resistant groundsheet is placed under each car.

Your car will need to be fitted with a tripmeter that can be calibrated to that of the organisers

(eg Monit G100+) and you will need a simple stopwatch (or two) for the regularity sections.

On event support

Our expert team of sweep mechanics follow the last car on the rally route and are equipped to help anyone they come across. Should you need to be transported by truck we will help as much as we can, but all responsibility, including payment, rests with the competitor.

We always have at least one doctor or paramedic on our experienced and friendly on-event team.

Getting there and back

The start of the event is within easy reach of both Salzburg and Vienna international airports and is no more than a few day's drive from most European countries including the UK. The finish is close to Athens international airport and if you would like to ship your car home we can put you in touch with specialist transport companies - or perhaps you'll extend your adventure by

taking a ferry across the Aegean Sea and driving home!

Insurance and other documents

Vehicle insurance is not included and whilst many insurers include this kind of event in their classic car policies, some do not. We strongly recommend you also have adequate travel, medical, breakdown and cancellation insurance to cover you from as soon as you enter the event.

You do not need any kind of competition licence, a full driving licence that is valid in Europe is enough.

More information

Our regular newsletters will keep you updated, including any relevant travel and medical information you may need. If you require any further information or advice please feel free to contact *Rally the Globe* on the details below - if we don't know the answer, we will know someone who does.

T: +44 113 360 8961
E: info@rallytheglobe.com

For more information and latest news see: www.rallytheglobe.com



www.rallytheglobe.com
+44 113 360 8961
info@rallytheglobe.com

Rally the Globe
VINTAGE AND CLASSIC CAR CLUB

Rally the Globe Limited
Airedale House, Albion Street,
Leeds LS1 5AP UK



Sponsored by:



Sotheby's