



1981 PARIS - ALGIERS - DAKAR

THE DAKAR IN FIGURES

3rd PARIS - ALGIERS - DAKAR

- **Start:** 1 January 1981 from Paris (Trocadéro)
- **Finish:** 20 January 1981 in Dakar (Rose Lake)
- **Rest:** 9 January 1981 at Gao
- **Length of rally:** 6,263 km
- **Number of kilometers of specials:** 3,357 km
- **Countries crossed:** France, Algeria, Mali, Upper Volta, Ivory Coast, Senegal



NUMBER OF COMPETITORS: 291

- **At the start:** 170 cars
106 motorcycles
15 trucks
- **At the finish:** 91 véhicules
including 60 cars
28 motorcycles
3 trucks

OVERALL CAR STANDINGS:

Metge/Giroux (Fra) *RANGE ROVER*

OVERALL MOTORCYCLE STANDINGS:

Hubert Auriol (Fra) *BMW*

OVERALL TRUCK STANDINGS:

Villette/Gabrielle/Voillerau (Fra) *ALM/ACMAT*

MAIN COMPETITORS

Motorcycle

- **Honda:** Cyril Neveu, Gilles Desheulles, Philippe Vassard, Bernard Rigoni
- **Yamaha:** Michel Merel, Jean-Noël Pineau, Yvan Tcherniovsky, Jean-Paul Lloret, Serge Bacou
- **BMW:** Fenouil, Hubert Auriol, Bernard Neimer
- **KTM Fenwick:** Yann Cadoret, Philippe Augier, Gilles Francru, Elia Andrioletti

Truck

- **Mercedes:** Groine-De Saulieu

Car

- **CX 2400 GTI** (Citroën usine officielle) : Ickx-Brasseur, Lapie-Olhagaray, Luc-Alessandrini, Deschazeaux-Plassard
- **Renault 20 turbo** : les Frères Marreau
- **Renault 30** : Houel-Planté, Frikel-Gabreau
- **Porsche 924** : Costa-Gandrille, Chasseuil-Gauvain
- **Lada Niva** : Briavoine-Deliaire
- **Buggies** : Sunhill, Cortel-Corbetta

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Montcorgé rides in a Rolls:** Thierry de Montcorgé enters a Rolls Royce sponsored by Christian Dior and christened "Jules", from the name of the most recent lines of menswear from the company. Nearly 2000 hours of labor were required to transform the vehicle: relocated engine, reduced weight, four-wheel drive, roll bars, new steering and gear box, new shock absorbers, etc.
- **Ickx-Brasseur:** first competition for Jacky Ickx and Claude Brasseur. The former was a four-time winner of the Le Mans 24 Hour Grand Prix and the latter competed in go-karting. They will be driving CX 2400 GTI.
- **Six women and engines:** Nicole Maitrot (Honda 125), Marie-Claude Laredo (Yamaha 500), Patricia De Keyser and Marie Ertaud (Kawasaki 250) are all up for this 3rd edition.
- **Martine de Cortanze:** first lady of the Dakar in 1979, this lover of all-terrain races who had horrible luck in 1980 when her bike burned, will take off this year on a Yamaha 250.



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- **Christine Martin:** steering the handlebars of her Honda XL 250 S, she won the Ladie's Trophy in 1980. The young woman, age 30, with a degree in sociology and a filmmaker, has been tackling all-terrain events for four years.
- **The oldest:** Georges Houel, paired with Pierre Planté, participates in his second Dakar rally. At the age of 67, he does not want to hear talk of retirement. On his resume are fifteen Monte-Carlo competitions, four Morocco rallies, four Acropolis and three Tours d'Europe.

THE ROUTE

- **Prologue à Olivet (5 km)**
- **Prologue à Sète (7,5 km)**
- **1^{ère} étape : Alger – Mouj-Barra (liaison 300km)**
- **2^{ème} étape : Mouj-Barra – 4 Chemins (949 km dont 38 km de spéciale)**
- **3^{ème} étape : 4 Chemins – Tit (605 km dont 565 km de spéciale)**
- **4^{ème} étape : Tit – Gao**
 - Tit-Timeaouine (540 km de spéciale)
 - Timeaouine-Gao (liaison)
- **Repos à Gao**
- **5^{ème} étape : Gao – Tombouctou (412 km de spéciale)**
- **6^{ème} étape : Tombouctou – Niono (570 km de spéciale)**
- **7^{ème} étape : Niono – Bobo Dioulasso (1 080 km dont 252 km de spéciale)**
- **8^{ème} étape : Bobo Dioulasso – Bouna (liaison 828 km)**
- **9^{ème} étape : Bouna – Korhogo (ss 326 km)**
- **10^{ème} étape : Korhogo – Kolokani (310 km dont 210 km de spéciale)**
- **Repos à Kolokani**
- **11^{ème} étape : Kolokani – Nioro (spéciale de 297 km)**
- **12^{ème} étape : Nioro – Dakar (563 km)**
 - Nioro-Bakel (325 km de spéciale)
 - Bakel-Louga (142 km de spéciale)
 - Louga-Dakar (liaison 96 km)

THE RACE

• Prologue at Olivet and at Sète

Michel Merel on a Yamaha and Ydraut-Red at the wheel of their R12 emerge from the mud in Sologne and win the French prologue at Olivet. At the Garrigues campes in Sète, Briavoine's Lada proves to be the fastest. In motorcycles, Pineau's Yamaha cannot be bested. Cyril Neveu breaks his chain after 30 meters of racing and loses 25 minutes.

• 1st and 2nd stages: Algiers – Mouj-Barra – 4 Chemins (1249 km, including 38 km special)

1st African special and coordinated assault by the Citroëns. Luc-Alessandrini, Deschazeaux-Plassard driving their CX's finish ahead of Chasseuil-Gauvain driving a Porsche. Ickx-Brasseur finish in the fourth position. On bikes, Rigoni bests Bacou and Vassard.

• 3rd and 4th stages: 4 Chemins – Tit – Gao

During the 4 Chemins-In Ecker special, many competitors make a poor choices and take a left at the fork in the road at the village of Silet 90 kilometers from the point of arrival. Auriol and the Marreau brothers, who heeded Thierry Sabine's warnings, dominate and increase their leads in the overall standings. The Honda team amasses more troubles: broken engines for Neveu and Desheulles. Forced to wait for their crews, they lose precious minutes. The Marreau brothers string great performances back to back and also win the Tit-Timeaouine special. As for motorcycles, Desheulles leaves behind his misadventures from the previous day and finishes first. After six stages, Auriol leads the race ahead of Tcherniavsky and Francru. The Marreau brothers are beating the teams of Ickx and Briavoine.

• 5th stage: Gao – Timbuktu (412 km of special)

During the 9th special, the Marreau brothers lose more than 11 hours after having problems with their oil pump. As for Ickx and Brasseur, they encounter some suspension problems. Metge-Giroux, behind the wheel of their Range, steal the lead from Cotel-Corbatta and their buggy. Briavoine-Deliale are just behind in third place. Auriol has the lead among bikes ahead of Bacou and Merel, both on Yamahas.

• 6th stage: Timbuktu – Niono (570 km of special)

The second takeover for new leaders Metge and Giroux. They seize the lead once again and pad their top position. The story for motorcycles remains unchanged. Auriol is still untouchable.

• 7th stage: Niono – Bobo Dioulasso (1,080 km, including 252 km of special)

Zaniroli scores his first special win. On the bike side, there is also a first for Bacou, who triumphs on his Yamaha.

• 8th and 9th stages: Bobo Dioulasso – Bouna – Korhogo (828 km, including 326 km of special)

Briavoine, second on the stage, narrows to two minutes the lead time of Metge, who falls victim to a ruptured steering tiller. There is also a close call for Auriol, who arrives on two wheels but with one cylinder. The victory goes to Bacou, but there is no change in the overall standings, where 33 motorcycles are still in the hunt.

• 10th and 11th stages: Korhogo – Kolokani – Nioro (310 km, including 507 km of special)

Close struggle between Briavoine and Metge. At the wheel of his Range Rover, Metge attacks hard amidst the dried shrubs of Fesh-Fesh and regains his leader position from Nioro.



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- 12th stage: Nioro – Dakar (563 km)

Briavoine slips another position thanks to Cotel in his buggy, who records the best time between Nioro and Bakel. For the motorcycles, Auriol leads while continuing to forge ahead. Fifty kilometers after Kayes, Ickx and Brasseur team's CX performs a spectacular roll-over. Game over for this appealing and deserving duo who returned, resigned, to Bakel late in the night on board the Africatours truck. During the last special toward Louga, 80 survivors are still in the race. Auriol, who had not attached since Gao, wins the scratch time. In the car class, first place goes to Briavoine. Metge and Giroux for cars and Auriol on his bike arrive victorious in Dakar.

Christine Martin, victim of a serious fall when she was in sixth place, ultimately finishes 10th and walks away with the Ladies' Cup. The first private driver is Alain Padou driving a Honda. In trucks, victory is secured by the ALM/ACMAT driven by Villette, Gabrelle and Voillereau.

SUBSIDIARY

- Stage victories

Num	Etape	Spéciale	Km	Vainqueur Auto	Nat	Marque	Vainqueur Moto	Nat	Marque
1	Olivet	Prologue	5	Ydraut/Rouget	Fra	Renault	Merel	Fra	Yamaha
2	Sete	Prologue	7,5	Briavoine/Deliaire	Fra	Lada	Pineau	Fra	Yamaha
3	Alger-Moudj Barra	Liaison	300						
4	Moudj Barra-Quatre chemins	Moudj Barra-Messaad	38	Luc/Alessandrini	Fra	Citroën	Rigoni	Fra	Honda
5	Quatre chemins-Tit	Quatre chemins-In Ecker	565	Marreau/Marreau	Fra	Renault	Auriol	Fra	BMW
6	Tit-Gao	Tit-Timeaouine	540	Marreau/Marreau	Fra	Renault	Desheulles	Fra	Honda
7	Gao-Tombouctou	Gao-Tombouctou	412	Metge/Giroux	Fra	R Rover	Auriol	Fra	BMW
8	Tombouctou-Niono	Tombouctou-Niono	570	Metge/Giroux	Fra	R Rover	Auriol	Fra	BMW
9	Niono-Bobo Dioulasso	Niono-Bobo Dioulasso	252	Zaniroli/Lemoynes	Fra	R Rover	Bacou	Fra	Yamaha
10	Bobo Dioulasso-Bouna	Liaison	808						
11	Bouna-Korhogo	Bouna-Korhogo	326	Ickx/Brasseur	Bel	Citroën	Bacou	Fra	Yamaha
12	Korhogo-Kolokani	Korhogo-Tingrela	210	Briavoine/Deliaire	Fra	Lada	Merel	Fra	Yamaha
13	Kolokani-Nioro du Sahel	Kolokani-Nioro du Sahel	297	Metge/Giroux	Fra	R Rover	Vassard	Fra	Honda
14	Nioro du Sahel-Dakar	Nioro du Sahel-Bakel	325	Cotel/Corbetta	Fra	Buggy	Vassard	Fra	Honda
14	Nioro du Sahel-Dakar	Bakel-Louga	142	Briavoine/Deliaire	Fra	Lada	Bacou	Fra	Yamaha



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• Overall scratch standings

Clt	Concurrents	Marques	Nat				
OVERALL CAR-TRUCK STANDINGS							
1	METGE/GIROUX	RANGE ROVER	Fra	46	VASSEUR/JAXEL	LAND ROVER	Fra
2	COTEL/CORBETTA	BUGGY/CITIZEN	Fra	47	MAISSA/BOULADE	LAND ROVER	Fra
3	BRIAVOINE/DELAIRE	LADA	Fra	48	MARGUERON/MARTY/FASEL	TOYOTA	Fra
4	SIMON/BOULANGER	RANGE ROVER	Fra	49	REVERBERI/FORLLAZ	DAIHATSU	Sui
5	GROINE/NOGRETTE	MERCEDES	Fra	50	DE CASANOVE/LOUE	MERCEDES	Fra
6	ZANIROLI/LEMOYNE	RANGE ROVER	Fra	51	BERTRAND/TUMOINE	RANGE ROVER	Fra
7	DELEFORTERIE/DELEFORTERIE	TOYOTA	Fra	52	TERRIER/MALATESTA/NUSSBAUM	TOYOTA	Fra
8	LAHAYE/COQUANT/GAEREMINCK	TOYOTA	Fra	53	DUBOSCQ/DUBOSCQ	MAN	Fra
9	BARRUEL/CEROU	MERCEDES	Fra	54	BLAQUIE/BARDET	UNIC PAC	Fra
10	SIMONIN/KOROTKEVITCH	MERCEDES	Fra	55	SERET/BLOT/DELCAMBRE	RVI SMB	Fra
11	TROSSAT/RICHARD	LADA	Fra	56	KUBOTA/ITO	TOYOTA	Jap
12	BIASINI/BIASINI	RANGE ROVER	Fra	57	PECRIAUX/MARLIER	TOYOTA	Fra
13	RAYMONDIS/BOS	RANGE ROVER	Fra	58	AVOYNE/LANDAIS	LEYLANDMARATHON	Fra
14	TCHERNAVSKY B./LASSEE	TOYOTA	Fra	59	NEMOTO/YOKOTA/OGAKI	TOYOTA	Jap
15	GUERMONPREZ/MALARD	RANGE ROVER	Fra	60	LIECHTI/KOBEL/PROZ	MAN	Fra
16	LUC/ALESSANDRINI	CITROEN	Fra	OVERALL MOTORCYCLE STANDINGS			
17	VERGNAUD/PAGANELLI	MERCEDES	Fra	1	AURIOL H.	BMW	Fra
18	VILLETTE/GABRIELLE/VOILLEREAU	ALM/ACMAT	Fra	2	BACOU S.	YAMAHA	Fra
19	LEROUX/MASERATI	TOYOTA	Fra	3	MEREL M.	YAMAHA	Fra
20	PUREN/CHAPEL	RANGE ROVER	Fra	4	FENOUIL	BMW	Fra
21	ROTHLISBERGER/UHLMANN	TOYOTA	Bel	5	FRANCRU G.	KTM	Fra
22	HACQUIN/VANBERSY	TOYOTA	Fra	6	PADOU A.	HONDA	Fra
23	AUBRY/AUBRY	MERCEDES	Fra	7	NEIMER	BMW	Fra
24	BEINHAUER/POHL	PUNCH	All	8	VASSARD P.	HONDA	Fra
25	Mmes DELANNOY/SACY	MERCEDES	Fra	9	BECKER C.	YAMAHA	Fra
26	HUGUENY/CARDINAEL/ALBERTO	TOYOTA	Fra	10	Mme MARTIN C.	HONDA	Fra
27	HOWARD/MILES	RANGE ROVER	GB	11	COURTOIS	YAMAHA	Fra
28	LEVAUFRE/JOSEPH	TOYOTA	Fra	12	D'ABOVILLE N.	SUZUKI	Fra
29	BADION/PAWOWE	MERCEDES	Fra	13	LEBRUN G.	HONDA	Fra
30	ROQUES/BOUSQUET	TOYOTA	Fra	14	BOISGONTIER D.	HONDA	Fra
31	CLATOT/DUHAMEL	PUNCHPINZGAUER	Fra	15	LOIZEAUX R.	BMW	Fra
32	VOLABEL/VERSINO	MERCEDES	Fra	16	JOINEAU	SUZUKI	Fra
33	WAMBERGUE/BACHOLLE/BACHOLLE	PUNCHPINZGAUER	Fra	17	DESPAGNE J.L.	YAMAHA	Fra
34	BRY/SALOU/PEU	FORD	Fra	18	MAITROT J.	HONDA	Fra
35	MARCY/GUERIN	RANGE ROVER	Bel	19	Mme D. CORTANZE M.	YAMAHA	Fra
36	DE PAOLI/BRESCIANI	RANGE ROVER	Fra	20	MORI H.	YAMAHA	Sui
37	DUPARD/MATTEI	RANGE ROVER	Fra	21	GUILLET M.	HONDA	Fra
38	LEVALLOIS/BOUCHER	LADA	Fra	22	FURET C.	HONDA	Fra
39	CHAMPART/MARTINOT	MERCEDES	Fra	23	PAINEAU	YAMAHA	Fra
40	MALET/TRAININI	TOYOTA	Fra	24	VILSANGE O.	YAMAHA	Fra
41	CAZENAVE/LAURILLARD/SCHORP	RANGE ROVER	Fra	25	NEVEU C.	HONDA	Fra
42	GROINE/DE SAULIEU/MALFERIOL	MERCEDES	Fra	26	Mme ERTAUD M.	YAMAHA	Fra
43	GOUDOT/SUBTIL	LADA	Fra	27	JOUY T.	HONDA	Fra
44	CHAMBOLLE/KEOMURDJAN	TOYOTA	Fra	28	LINCKE T.	YAMAHA	Sui
45	LACAZE/PAROT	CITROEN	Fra	29	Mme N. MAITROT	HONDA	Fra
				30	ROLLANO D.	SUZUKI	Fra
				31	TISSIER	BOMCANAM	Fra