



Media Information
Dakar Rally 2019
07 January 2019

Dakar Rally 2019 – Stage 01, Lima - Pisco

- **First stage of Dakar 2019 ends with three MINI cars in the top five.**
- **All eight MINI crews arrive at Pisco – five inside the top ten.**
- **Carlos Sainz in the MINI JCW Buggy sits comfortable in second.**
- **Jakub ‘Kuba’ Przygonski (POL) places MINI JCW Rally third.**

Munich. Dakar 2019 is the 41st edition of the unique Dakar Rally and today (7th January) saw the first of ten stages finish with good news for MINI Motorsport and motorsport partner X-raid when all eight MINI crews completed the 331 km Stage 1 without incident.

Leading the charge into tomorrow’s Stage 2 for MINI Motorsport will be the Spanish pairing of Carlos Sainz and Lucas Cruz of X-raid MINI JCW Team. The defending Dakar title holders placed their MINI JCW Buggy in second place at stage end.

Jakub ‘Kuba’ Przygonski (POL) and co-driver Tom Colsoul (BEL) – winners of the 2018 FIA Cross Country Rally World Cup – continued their run of good form by placing their MINI JCW Rally third overall.

Fifth place was filled by the second of five MINI JCW Rally cars competing in this year’s Dakar, crewed by Yazeed Al-Rajhi (KSA) and long-term co-driver Timo Gottschalk (GER).

The fourth MINI vehicle inside the top ten was the MINI JCW Buggy of Stéphane Peterhansel (FRA) / David Castera (FRA) in seventh spot. Three places further back in tenth spot and just 4min 25sec off the winning time was the third MINI JCW Buggy of Frenchmen Cyril Despres and Jean Paul Cottret.

Just outside of the top ten were the two MINI JCW Rally cars of Joan ‘Nani’ Roma (ESP) / Alex Haro (ESP) and Orlando Terranova (ARG) / Bernardo ‘Ronnie’ Graue (ARG). The two MINI crews finished in 11th and 12th respectively.

Boris Garafulic (CHD) and co-driver Filipe Palmeiro (POR) in the fifth MINI John Cooper Works Rally completed Stage 1 16th overall from a starting list of 100 competitors in the Auto category.

Carlos Sainz

“Really no major problems. We knew more or less what we were going to find and we stuck to our plan. We didn’t want to open tomorrow so we took it a bit easy.”

Jakub ‘Kuba’ Przygonski

“It was quite a tough special stage, only 80kms but it was really fast and the shadows cast from the sun being up in the clouds made visibility more difficult, so it was not so easy to see where the dunes went up or down. But we were pushing with no risks and we were really happy that we could keep with the rhythm of the Dakar legends. Tomorrow is for sure a long stage and the start of the race.”

Yazeed Al-Rajhi

“It was a good day, we drove well and didn’t take any risks. We were stuck in the dust of Harry Hunt for a long time but it was all ok and we are fifth now, which is good.”

Stéphane Peterhansel

“The first stage is always the same story when we start the race after a few weeks or months without racing – you feel not really confident and especially because the dunes of Peru are not the same as the dunes in Morocco for example. For me, I need a little bit of time to be confident, so we decided to start not really with a full attack.”

Cyril Despres

“Dakar is always a mix of emotions; I love this race and I love this job so day one always gives a good feeling. It was especially good today because there was no pressure to push hard. It’s easy to enjoy it when you are just in the rhythm – really cool!”

Joan ‘Nani’ Roma

“It’s always a little bit strange, the first day, and also the delay for an hour is not easy when you are in your helmet ready. In the beginning, I felt like I started really slowly but was so fast that I caught Loeb in front of me and after that I really didn’t know if I went fast; I really lost all of my point of reference. But anyway, it is good to start tomorrow a little further back and that was partly the plan. Maybe I lost a minute or two more than planned but it is ok.”

Orlando Terranova

“It was an easy first stage. We took it very easy to warm up and made some final changes to the seat position; I achieved better speed in the final 30 km so it was good.”

Next race is Stage 2, Pisco – San Juan de Marcona. For more information about Dakar 2019, please visit the host's event home page [here](#).

Dakar Rally 2019: MINI standings after Stage 1

Pos	Driver	Co-driver	#	MINI	Team	Time
2 nd	Carlos Sainz (ESP)	Lucas Cruz (ESP)	300	MINI John Cooper Works Buggy	X-raid MINI JCW Team	001:03:40 +00:01:59
3 rd	Jakub Przygonski (POL)	Tom Colsoul (BEL)	303	MINI John Cooper Works Rally	Orlen X-raid Team	001:03:41 +00:02:00
5 th	Yazeed Al-Rajhi (KSA)	Timo Gottschalk (GER)	314	MINI John Cooper Works Rally	X-raid MINI JCW Rally Team	001:04:09 +00:02:28
7 th	Stéphane Peterhansel (FRA)	David Castera (FRA)	304	MINI John Cooper Works Buggy	X-raid MINI JCW Team	001:04:38 +00:02:57
10 th	Cyril Despres (FRA)	Jean Paul Cottret (FRA)	308	MINI John Cooper Works Buggy	X-raid MINI JCW Team	001:06:06 +00:04:25
11 th	Joan Roma (ESP)	Alex Haro (ESP)	307	MINI John Cooper Works Rally	X-raid MINI JCW Rally Team	001:06:26 +00:04:45
12 th	Orlando Terranova (ARG)	Bernardo Graue (ARG)	310	MINI John Cooper Works Rally	X-raid MINI JCW Rally Team	001:06:51 +00:05:10
16 th	Boris Garafulic (CHI)	Filipe Palmeiro (POR)	321	MINI John Cooper Works Rally	X-raid MINI JCW Rally Team	001:08:28 +00:06:47

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