



Media information
05 June 2018

BMW Motorrad International GS Trophy Central Asia 2018. Day 3. Canyon delight.



Synopsis of Day 3.

Location: Camp Gobi Erdene, Dune Else (N 43° 49.234' E 102° 19.891')

Weather: Sun, 25°C

Course: 195km, Gobi Oasis, Dalandzadag to Camp Gobi Erdene

Terrain: 65% gravel, 30% sand, 5% highway

Special tests: No special tests today

Top three teams: 1 Korea, 2 South Africa, 3 Germany

Camp Gobi Erdene, Mongolia. Today's stage was effectively a liaison, with no special tests. With a generous time allowance the competitors were instructed to make the most of the scenery as they rode. By the end of the day all were voicing complete satisfaction as Mongolia turned magnificent. Most notably the GS riders appreciated the breathtaking Dungeene Canyon where the riders rode along the gravel river bed for 20km between rock cliffs 100m high



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and sometimes only 5m apart! And then the biggest surprise – finding the river frozen for one section (making for a tricky crossing!).

After this the course took a short climb up onto the Yucca Plateau, again a surprise, for within minutes the riders had transitioned from a deep gorge to a high plain. A refuel in the village of Bayandalai again reminded the riders that this was Mongolia, a sparsely populated remote country, as they queued for the one pump operated by the one elderly Mongolian lady outside the one rendered building on the edge of the village, most of the other buildings being yurts (also known as gers), save for a school building. All roads here being unpaved.

The 100 km from here to the finish at Camp Gobi Erdene was – as ever – entire different. Instead of a high plateau the riders found themselves weaving along a vast flood plain between two mountain ridges – and such geology meant rock was mixed with the sand, adding yet more technicality to the ride. And finally to the west of the trail rose sand dunes – beautifully lit, too, in the late afternoon sun. And what a stunning end to the day, the GS riders pitching their Marmot tents at the gateway to the sands of the Gobi Desert.

So far from being 'boring', day three has proved to be the most enjoyable yet. While the terrain continues to be difficult the GS riders are adapting, learning. The Mongolian terrain deserves respect, but for all that it demands it is repaying with an experience so rich, so unique that the riders are having the rides of their lives.

Quotes:

Francisco Lopez, Team Latin America: "Today was awesome, it was great to watch the desert, to see the dunes, and we had good trails today, we had fun. As today's stage had been altered and made a liaison we thought it was going to be boring, but it wasn't, it was really interesting, we had grass, gravel and sand – so you needed your skills too. The canyon was beautiful, we woke to a temperature



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of 19°C so to ride into there and find ice and then to go back out onto a vast plain to the warmth of the day – it was beautiful.”

Jamie Jones, Team Canada: “Out of 10, I’d have to rate this experience as a 12 or 13! Certainly I’ve never done anything like this before, for me it’s awesome to come here to Mongolia, never having been here, it’s really cool to see the terrain and the country, it’s amazing the expanse, how it keeps going and going. In Canada we have space but we don’t have the trails that just lead off the road everywhere, unmarked and gravel, it’s really different. And when we find these Mongolians living out in the wilderness I’m asking myself what are they doing here – it’s taken us three and a half hours to ride out this far. It’s just normal for them, but they must have a good grocery supplier for food – and water! And I love how the animals are out there on their own, and they seem to just hang around, there are no fences but they don’t take off, you couldn’t have that back home.”

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Day Two overall standings:

- 1 Korea 77 points
- 2 South Africa 68
- 3 Germany 56
- 4 France 54
- 5 Latin America 53
- 6 USA 48
- 7 UK 44
- 7 Argentina 44
- 9 Japan 38
- 9 Russia 38
- 11 Canada 35
- 11 China 35
- 13 Australia 33
- 14 Mexico 31
- 15 Southeast Asia 29
- 16 India 24
- 17 Ausamerica (female team) 15
- 18 Euafrica (female team) 5



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Find all information about the BMW Motorrad International GS Trophy 2018 Central Asia at the dedicated website www.gstrophy.com.

Find press material on BMW motorcycle, Original BMW Motorrad accessories and BMW Motorrad rider equipment in the BMW Group PressClub at www.press.bmwgroup.com.

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