



Media Information
Rally Dakar 2021
15th January 2021

Rally Dakar 2021 – Sixth overall win for MINI: Record winner Stéphane Peterhansel triumphs in his MINI JCW Buggy.

- Stéphane Peterhansel celebrates his 14th overall win at the Rally Dakar and extends his record.
- It's the second Dakar win in a row for MINI, and the sixth overall since its first victory in 2012.
- Last year's winner Carlos Sainz finishes third on the podium in his MINI JCW Buggy this time around.

Munich. Title successfully defended. The MINI John Cooper Works Buggy has won the Rally Dakar for the second time in a row following the 2020 win. This time it was record winner Stéphane Peterhansel (FRA) and his co-driver Edouard Boulanger (FRA) who topped the podium after twelve stages through the Saudi Arabian desert. It was Peterhansel's 14th overall win at the Dakar, and his third for MINI following his wins in 2012 and 2013. MINI now has a total of six overall wins of the famous endurance rally to its name. Carlos Sainz (ESP) and his co-driver Victor Cruz (ESP), who won in 2020, crossed the finish line in third place with their MINI JCW Buggy this time around.

Peterhansel and Boulanger crossed the finish line of the 43rd edition of the Rally Dakar in Jeddah (KSA) with a lead of 14:51 minutes in the overall standings. The duo only took one stage win, but showed great consistency and didn't make any major mistakes. Third-placed Sainz and Cruz took three stage wins and had a deficit of 1:01:57 hours to the winners at the end.

Peterhansel added another chapter to his impressive Dakar record. He has now won the rally six times on a motorcycle (1991, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1998) and eight times in a car (2004, 2005, 2007, 2012, 2013, 2016, 2017, 2021). MINI took four consecutive wins with the MINI ALL4 Racing between 2012 and 2015, and now for the second time in a row with the MINI JCW Buggy after 2020.

At this year's edition, in addition to Peterhansel and Sainz, a third MINI crew finished in the top ten. Vladimir Vasilyev (RUS) and Dmitry Tsyro (UKR) crossed the finish line in sixth place in the MINI JCW Rally. A total of eight MINI cars competed in Saudi Arabia in 2021, six of which reached the finish line.

Quotes from Rally Dakar 2021:

Stéphane Peterhansel

“I’m over the moon with the win. The pressure was immense since we were leading the overall standings for much of the race. You can only lose in that situation. But I have to say, we drove almost a perfect Dakar without any major errors and once again that was the key to success. Things were perfect between Edouard and me, and I was delighted to have him sat next to me. He couldn’t have done anything better.”

Bernd Körber – Head of the MINI brand

“What a fantastic success for the MINI John Cooper Works Buggy, the X-raid team and in particular for Stéphane Peterhansel and Edouard Boulanger. Congratulations on winning the Dakar! Congratulations to Carlos Sainz and Lucas Cruz as well, who made it onto the podium again after their win in 2020. Second Dakar win in a row, sixth MINI victory since 2012 - everyone in the MINI family can be very proud of this record. In addition to the Buggy, the MINI John Cooper Works Rally with its four-wheel drive did a very good job once again. I’m happy for all the MINI entrants who took on the toughest endurance rally in the world and made it to the finish line. Unfortunately, this success is overshadowed by the tragic accident involving Pierre Cherpin, which affects us all deeply. We wish the relatives every strength.”

Sven Quandt – CEO X-raid

“It’s never easy winning, but this win was particularly difficult since the terrain is very similar to Africa: fast and slow sectors, with lots of stones – topped off by difficult navigation. We’re delighted to have brought home this sixth win for MINI. We didn’t dare dream of first and third place ahead of the Dakar. The past 14 days have been very tiring: leading the overall standings for much of the rally, the tricky navigation and lots of tyre damage. But once again Stéphane showed that it is not without reason that he is Mr. Dakar. He shone on difficult terrain and drove very cleverly strategically. He only got one day win, but a lead of 14 minutes in the overall standings.”

For more information about Dakar 2021, see the organiser’s homepage [here](#).

Rally Dakar 2021: Final results of MINI entrants

Pos	Driver	Co-driver	#	MINI	Team	Time
1.	Stéphane Peterhansel (FRA)	Edouard Boulanger (FRA)	302	MINI JCW Buggy	X-raid MINI JCW Team	44:27:11
3.	Carlos Sainz (ESP)	Lucas Cruz (ESP)	300	MINI JCW Buggy	X-raid MINI JCW Team	+1:01:57
6.	Vladimir Vasilyev	Dmitry Tsyro	317	MINI JCW Rally	X-raid MINI	+3:29:38

MINI MOTORSPORTS COMMUNICATIONS



	(RUS)	(UKR)			JCW Rally Team	
17.	Guilherme Spinelli (BRA)	Youssef Haddad (BRA)	335	MINI JCW Rally	X-raid MINI JCW Rally Team	+7:10:25
24.	Victor Khoroshavsev (RUS)	Anton Nikolaev (RUS)	331	MINI JCW Rally	X-raid MINI JCW Rally Team	+9:40:09
30.	Denis Krotov (RUS)	Oleg Uperenko (LAT)	323	MINI JCW Rally	MSK Rally Team	+11:07:11
DNF	Orlando Terranova (ARG)	Bernardo Graue (ARG)	309	MINI JCW Rally	X-raid MINI JCW Rally Team	
DNF	Vaidotas Zala (LTU)	Saulius Jurgelenas (LTU)	325	MINI JCW Rally	Agrorodeo	

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