

THE DACIA
SANDRIDERS

RALLYE DU MAROC

AUX SOURCES
DU RALLYE-RAID



MEDIA GUIDE

RALLYE DU MAROC
26 SEPTEMBRE - 03 OCTOBRE 2026



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Katrin Adt

CEO, Dacia brand

On behalf of The Dacia Sandriders, a warm welcome to Morocco for Rallye du Maroc and the penultimate round of the 2026 FIA World Rally-Raid Championship.

While the visit to North Africa presents another human and sporting adventure perfectly aligned with Dacia's brand DNA, it's also an opportunity for The Dacia Sandriders to close in on its latest target, namely winning the Drivers', Navigators' and Manufacturers' titles.

It's a bold objective given the highly competitive nature of the W2RC. But we mustn't forget that our crews and team members are highly skilled, while our four-wheel-drive robust and outdoor prototype is engineered to withstand the most extreme conditions.

Running on sustainable fuel it's also eco-smart. Essential and cool, it pursues an ambitious goal with no room for excess. A true full-scale technological laboratory, it embodies our commitment to low-carbon mobility.

There really is no getting away from the significance of Rallye du Maroc in the history of The Dacia Sandriders. In October 2024, the event marked the start the Dacia brand's W2RC adventure. And it was a winning start with Nasser Al-Attiyah and Édouard Boulanger taking first place following a faultless performance.

Of course, that success was emulated 12 months later when Édouard joined forces with Sébastien Loeb to claim victory and secure the Navigators' title, as Nasser finished runner-up in the Drivers' standings to Lucas Moraes, who joined The Dacia Sandriders shortly afterwards.

For the fourth time in this season's W2RC, my message is simply go, go The Dacia Sandriders!

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Tiphanie Isnard
TEAM PRINCIPAL

Rallye du Maroc is a very special event for The Dacia Sandriders. We have been unbeaten here since our very first participation in 2024, our FIA World Rally-Raid Championship debut, so our ambition is to continue that winning streak. But, above all, it's so important that we remain focused and humble.

We arrive in Morocco leading the W2RC Drivers', Navigators' and Manufacturers' standings. Given the achievement and the hard work that's made it possible, protecting those positions remains our absolute priority.

Rallye du Maroc also marks a new chapter for Lucas Moraes, with Pablo Moreno joining him in his Dacia Sandrider for the first time. Since the very beginning of the Sandrider programme, we have always been committed to creating the best possible environment for our athletes to perform at their highest level, and this new pairing is part of that same approach.

At the same time, Dennis Zenz has been an important part of our journey, and we wish him the best in his next career challenge.

Similarly, we extend every good wish to Cristina Gutiérrez as she embarks on a new opportunity. Her contribution to the success of The Dacia Sandriders was significant and will never be forgotten.

We know what we are capable of, but we also know that nothing can ever be taken for granted in the W2RC, so we will approach Rallye du Maroc with the same determination, team spirit and humility that have guided us from the start of this incredible adventure.

OUR DREAM TEAM

Nasser
AL-ATTIYAH



► DRIVING

Born: 21/12/1970 (age 55)
Doha, Qatar

In 100 words: A five-time winner of what is now the FIA World Rally-Raid Championship, Al-Attiyah has dominated motorsport's toughest discipline over the past decade and a half with six Dakar wins among his growing list of achievements. He's been prolific in stage rallying too. As well as finishing in the top four of a World Rally Championship event outright, Al-Attiyah claimed the Production Car world crown in 2006, back-to-back WRC2 honours between 2014 and 2015 and a record 20 Middle East titles. He's also tried out circuit racing and won the skeet shooting bronze medal in the 2012 Summer Olympics in London.

Rallye du Maroc 2025 result: 13th

Fabian
LURQUIN



► NAVIGATING

Born: 09/09/1975 (age 51)
Liège, Belgium

In 100 words: Lurquin began his rally-raid adventure 21 years ago as a navigator aboard a T4 assistance truck. Over time, the Belgian gained extensive knowledge and experience, eventually co-driving Erik Wevers in three Dakar Rally starts from 2012 to 2014. His breakthrough came alongside Mathieu Serradori when they won Africa Race in 2018 before going on to secure a Dakar Rally stage victory in 2020. After joining forces with Sébastien Loeb, Lurquin achieved three Dakar Rally podiums. He was second in 2022 and 2023 before he finished third in 2024. Rally-Raid Portugal 2025 marked the start of his W2RC alliance with Al-Attiyah.

Rallye du Maroc 2025 result: 13th

OUR DREAM TEAM

Sébastien
LOEB



► DRIVING

Born: 26/02/1974 (age 52)
Haguenau, France

In 100 words: The benchmark in the FIA World Rally Championship with nine overall titles, Loeb is now a force in rally-raid. He led on his Dakar Rally debut in 2016, finished runner-up one year later - and again in 2022 and 2023 - and also won the W2RC-counting Andalucía Rally in 2022. Loeb has raced in the Le Mans 24 Hours, tested Formula One cars and claimed victories in World Touring Cars and World Rallycross. Competing with The Dacia Sandriders team-mate Cristina Gutiérrez, Loeb became Extreme E champion in 2022, while his Pikes Peak Hill Climb record, set in 2013, stood for five years.

Rallye du Maroc 2025 result: 1st

Edouard
BOULANGER



► NAVIGATING

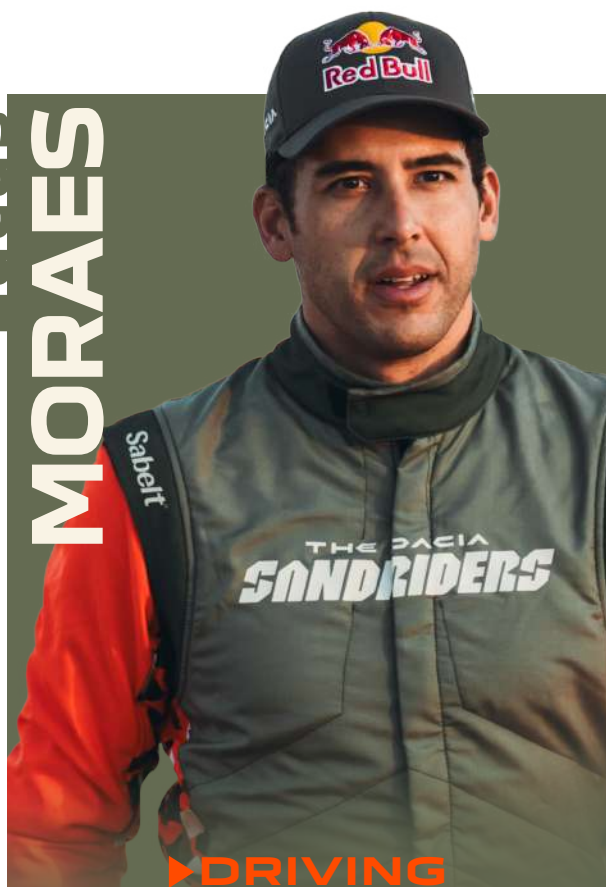
Born: 04/05/1979 (age 47)
Nancy, France

In 100 words: A passionate outdoor sports enthusiast, Boulanger developed a love for motorcycles early in life. His endurance mindset was shaped as a competitive rower. After finishing second in class on his enduro debut in 2005, Boulanger honed his navigation skills, becoming a map specialist and bringing digital mapping to rally-raid. In 2012, he earned his first Dakar Rally entry by winning the Dakar Challenge on Rallye des Pharaons. He later won the 2021 Dakar Rally alongside Stéphane Peterhansel. Having previously navigated Nasser Al-Attiyah, Boulanger joined forces with Sébastien Loeb on Rally-Raid Portugal in 2025. He finished 2025 as W2RC champion navigator.

Rallye du Maroc 2025 result: 1st

OUR DREAM TEAM

Lucas
MORAES



► DRIVING

Born: 12/12/1989 (age 36)
São Paulo, Brazil

In 100 words: A new addition to The Dacia Sandriders' line-up for the 2026 campaign, Moraes completed the Dakar Rally podium on his event debut in 2023 before placing third in the W2RC standings the following season. A three-time Brazilian champion, Moraes won last year's Rally-Raid Portugal for his maiden W2RC victory. He then finished second on the following round, Rallye du Maroc, a result that earned him the FIA World Rally-Raid Championship for Drivers title by a mere 12 points ahead of Nasser Al-Attiyah. Moraes also finished on the podium in Abu Dhabi and in South Africa during the 2025 W2RC season.

Rallye du Maroc 2025 result: 2nd

Pablo
MORENO



► NAVIGATING

Born: 28/03/1990 (36)
Toledo, Spain

In 100 words: A racing mechanic by profession and Cristina Gutiérrez's chief mechanic for many years, Moreno took on the role of navigator on an event in Spain in 2018, despite his lack of navigating experience. His second outing was the 2019 Dakar Rally in Peru, no less, and, after a break following the 2020 edition, he rejoined Cristina in 2022. Together, they contested the Dakar Rally and W2RC in 2023 and 2024, winning the Challenger category, before joining The Dacia Sandriders. With Gutiérrez taking on a new challenge following her departure from the team, Moreno has replaced Dennis Zenz alongside Lucas Moraes.

Rallye du Maroc 2025 result: 9th

THE DACIA SANDRIDERS: KEY PERSONNEL



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DACIA SANDRIDER UNDER THE SKIN

Inspired by the Dacia Manifesto concept car, the Dacia Sandrider has been designed specifically for use on rally-raid events and is homologated for the FIA W2RC's headlining Ultimate category.

With key inputs from experts within the Renault Group and motorsport engineering specialist Prodrive, agility and weight-saving were among the main considerations during the design process. That's resulted in a no-frills exterior with body panels fitted only as necessary, with its lighter weight helping to reduce fuel consumption.

While the Sandrider is as light as possible, it's also as strong as possible to withstand the punishing terrain it will encounter and to keep its crews safe.

Anti-reflective paint has been applied to improve on-board visibility, while the Sabelt seats are upholstered in special anti-bacterial fabrics that self-regulate humidity. A magnetic plate built into the Sandrider's bodywork prevents bolts from being lost in the sand during wheel changes.

To keep cockpit temperatures down, anti-infrared pigments have been directly integrated with the Sandrider's carbon body panels.

The Sandrider's 3-litre V6 twin-turbo direct injection engine runs on sustainable fuel supplied by Aramco.



TECH SPEC

FIA CLASS

Ultimate T1+

Chassis
Tubular

Body
Carbon fibre

Engine

V6, 3 litres, twin-turbo,
direct injection

Maximum power

265 kW/360 bhp at 5,000 rpm

Maximum torque

539 Nm at 4,250 rpm

Fuel

ARAMCO sustainable
fuel, 102 RON to FIA
Appendix J Art.252-9.1

Wheels

17-inch aluminium

Tyres

BF Goodrich, 37 inches

Length x width x height

4,140 x 2,290 x 1,810 mm

Wheelbase

3,000 mm

Front/rear overhang

590/550 mm

Transmission

4X4

Gearbox

6-speed sequential

Front/rear suspension

Double wishbone

Suspension travel

350 mm

Brake calipers

Alcon 6 piston, monoblock

Brake discs

Alcon ventilated discs, diameter 355mm

Pedal box

Alcon floor mounted, adjustable.
Alcon brake and clutch master cylinders.

Seats and belts

Sabelt 6 point harnesses and
carbon fibre seats

RALLYE DU MAROC 2026 IN SHORT

From the southwest coastal resort of Agadir, Rallye du Maroc begins its route east to Zagora during Stage 1 on Tuesday September 29 as competitors embark on what organisers have described as a "an extremely varied challenge".

Located within the Draa Valley, Zagora will then host the next four days of the event as it returns to the itinerary for the first time since 2024.

Although the location of the bivouac won't change from the end of the first stage onwards, organisers have introduced several new elements with a pledge that every day will be "demanding, truly intense".

The 27th edition of Rallye du Maroc covers total distance of 2524 kilometres, including 1575 against the clock split over five stages. Sand dunes make up some 10 per cent of the route, sandy tracks a further 31 per cent, while Morocco's demanding rocky terrain forms 11 per cent of the competitive action.

Once the challenge of Stage 1 has been completed, crews take on Stage 2 on Wednesday September 30 with the action based west of Zagora.

Stage 3 on Thursday October 1 runs to the northeast of the Bivouac, while the penultimate stage, Stage 4, on Friday October 2, is also located the northeast of Zagora. With a timed distance of 384 kilometres, Stage 4 is the longest of the 2026 Rallye du Marco in terms of the timed distance.

The fifth and final stage on Saturday October 3, meanwhile, challenges crews on a route south of Zagora, the event's shortest at 259 competitive kilometres, before it's back to the Bivouac for the prize-giving ceremony from 19:30 local time.

RECENT WINNERS

Nasser Al-Attiyah (QAT)
Mathieu Baumel (FRA)

Guerlain Chicherit (FRA)
Alexandre Winocq (FRA)

Yazeed Al-Rajhi (KSA)
Timo Gottschalk (GER)

Nasser Al-Attiyah (QAT)
Mathieu Baumel (FRA)

Sébastien Loeb (FRA)
Édouard Boulanger (FRA)

2021

Toyota GR DKR Hilux

2022

Prodrive Hunter

2023

Toyota Hilux Overdrive EVO

2024

Dacia Sandriders

2025

Dacia Sandriders

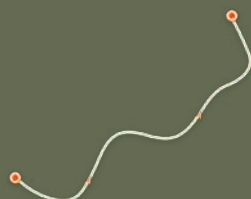


THE CHALLENGE IN STORE

Desafío Ruta 40, 2026

FIA World Rally-Raid Championship

Round 3 of 5 **May 24-29**



SEP 29

STAGE 1

636
KM
Total

368
KM
Liaison

268
KM
Special

SAN JUAN-SAN JUAN

A mainly gravel-based stage on a loop that starts and finishes in San Juan marks Desafío Ruta 40's return to the FIA World Rally-Raid Championship after two years. Sections through dried riverbeds are part of the challenge during the event-opening stage.



MAY 26

STAGE 2

720
KM
Total

386
KM
Liaison

334
KM
Special

SAN JUAN-SAN RAFAEL

The event heads south into Mendoza for stage two and to the second bivouac in San Rafael via a route featuring gravel, salt flats and sand with asphalt and dunes thrown in for good measure. Covering a total of 720 kilometres on mainly flat terrain it's the longest day of Desafío Ruta 40.



MAY 27

STAGE 3

574
KM
Total

165
KM
Liaison

409
KM
Special

SAN RAFAEL-SAN RAFAEL

A notable feature of Desafío Ruta 40's third stage is the crossing of the El Nihuil dunes ahead of a high-speed section on salt flats followed by a closing section through mountain-based tracks. At 409 kilometres, no stage is longer in terms of the timed distance.



MAY 28

STAGE 4

634
KM
Total

310
KM
Liaison

324
KM
Special

SAN RAFAEL-SAN JUAN

Stage four peaks at 3200 metres as the event heads back to San Juan via the Andes mountains, complete with technical, rocky sections and fesh-fesh sand. The stage is rated as "tough, but also wild" by the Desafío Ruta 40 organisers. Wildlife, such as guanacos (part of the llama family) and zorros (grey foxes) are expected to be visible along the route.



MAY 29

STAGE 5

553
KM
Total

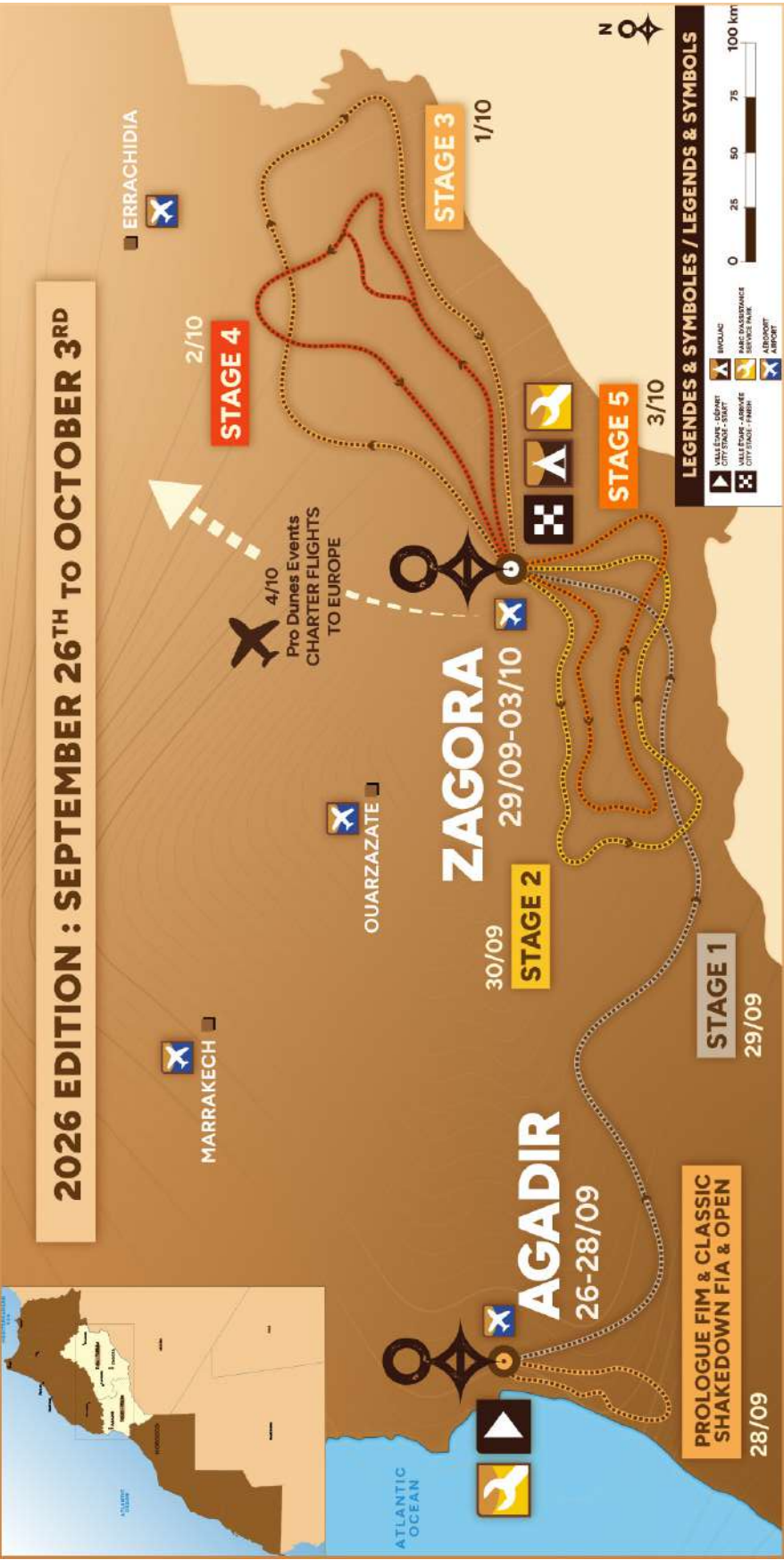
233
KM
Liaison

320
KM
Special

SAN JUAN-SAN JUAN

There's more altitude and riverbeds to overcome on the fifth and final stage on Desafío Ruta 40 with roads more akin to World Rally Championship-style tests. The podium and prize giving ceremony take place at the Teatro Bicentenario in San Juan.

ROUTE MAP



NAVIGATOR SECTION

LET'S TALK NAVIGATION

There's been a tweak to the navigator line-up for The Dacia Sandriders on Rallye du Maroc as the team continues its quest for success in the FIA World Rally-Raid Championship. While Édouard Boulanger and Fabian Lurquin continue their partnerships with Sébastien Loeb and Nasser Al-Attiyah respectively, Pablo Moreno will take the place of Dennis Zenz in partnering Lucas Moraes. A highly respected mechanic and accomplished navigator, this is what the 36-year-old Spaniard has had to say.

“

Excitement builds:

“I'm really excited to compete alongside Lucas for the first time. It's a privilege to work with the reigning world champion and I'm really looking forward to this new challenge.”

Ultimate focus:

“My focus will be on doing the best possible job, giving everything I can to help The Dacia Sandriders fight for a strong result and supporting the whole team in every way possible.”

New alliance:

“Rallye du Maroc will be an important first opportunity for Lucas and me to start working together, understand each other and build our partnership inside our Dacia Sandrider. It will also be valuable preparation for the Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge, where we hope to carry that experience forward and finish the season with another strong performance.”



DACIA SANDRIDER RALLY-RAID EXPLAINER

New to the W2RC? Not sure if there really are pit stops in the desert or how a transfer section works? This short explainer will help.

PIT STOP

On certain stages, particularly those held over a longer distance, pit stops are included on the route to allow mechanics to change tyres and carry out essential repairs in a dedicated zone. The clock continues to run so work is kept to a minimum.

NAVIGATORS:

These multi-tasking maestros perform a key role in W2RC events. As well as the complex and highly intense task of guiding their drivers through arduous stages and liaison sections of more than 500 kilometres in length, they can be called upon to assist in the event of an on-stage wheel change or mechanical breakdown.

ULTIMATE:

The Dacia Sandriders competes in the W2RC's headlining Ultimate division and contests the Drivers', Navigators' and Manufacturers' titles. There are four sub-categories: Stock, Challenger, SSV and Masters and separate classification for motorcycles.

TRANSFER ZONE:

Transfer Zones are used to link two parts of a stage and are established to neutralise a stage for a certain length should the competitive route run too close to a town or village or cross a major road, for example. Although Transfer Zones are non-competitive, an allotted time is set.



WHAT'S NEXT?

November 22-27

ABU DHABI DESERT CHALLENGE



15

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GET IN TOUCH

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MEDIA WEBSITE

🌐 <https://media.dacia.com/section/w2rc/>

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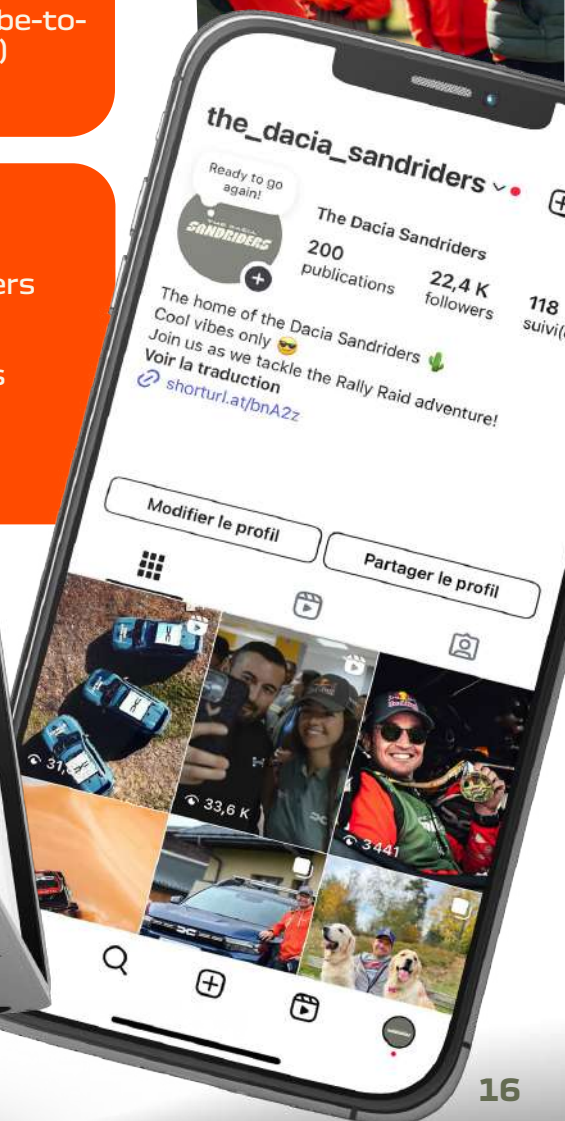
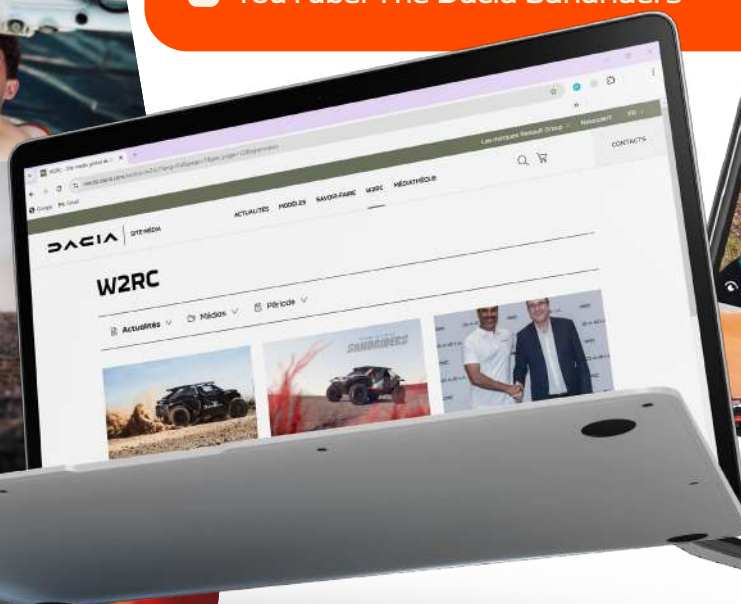
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THE DACIA **SANDRIDERS** MEDIACONTENT

Welcome to The Dacia Sandriders' media content site where you can download content from all rounds of the W2RC and other events for use in your coverage.

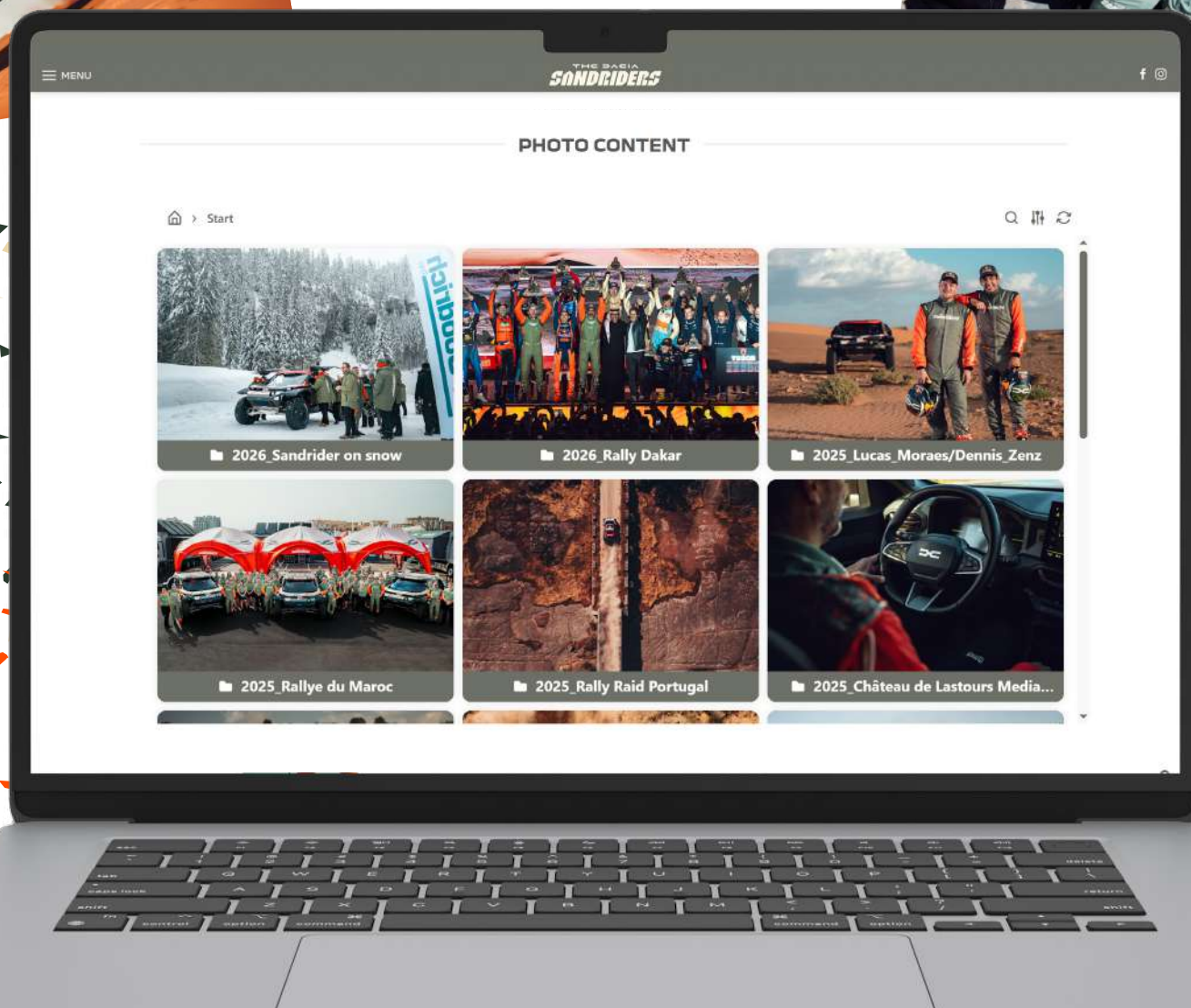
MEDIA WEBSITE

 <https://media.thesandrider.com>

 Password: DaciaSandRDRS2025

SPORTITY APP MEDIA CHANNEL

 Password: THEDACIASANDRIDERSMEDIA2026



EVENTS DURING DURING RALLYE DU MAROC 2026

Sunday September 27

18:00

Pre-race press conference
(Hotel Sofitel Agadir Royal Bay Resort)

Saturday October 3

18:00

Post-event press conference
(Zagora Bivouac)

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