

Silk Road Rally 2013 Basel - Istanbul - Shanghai

A group of 44 vintage car enthusiasts, most of them from Switzerland, with 20 automobiles of at least 40 years of age have been travelling along the ancient prestigious Silk Road since September 1st, 2013. They will finally arrive in Shanghai on October 24th, 2013.

The rally officially covers approximately 12'000 km of the legendary Silk Road from **Istanbul to Shanghai** in 56 days. On August 26th 2013, the Swiss competitors started in Basel, the sister-city of Shanghai, and they met some other participants in the expedition in Istanbul. The Swiss drivers are very excited to see the final destination: in fact, Basel and Shanghai have a sister-relationship since 2008. The partnership is active in different areas and this fall a new Confucius Institute was opened in Basel under the cooperation of the University of Basel and the East China Normal University in Shanghai, representing the second center of this kind in Switzerland.

According to the Swiss Vintage Automobile Club Classic Car Event, the aim of the rally is not only speed and sports, but also to get to know various regions, countries and people from the Asian part of the world.

The drivers enjoyed breathtaking landscape and unique riding pleasure in six countries along the Silk Road: **Turkey, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kirgizstan and China**. Regional culture and close encounters with local people as well as places of interest and cultural importance enhanced the impressions along the tour.

The special venture aims to promote mutual understanding and cultural exchange between the countries visited. In depth guided tours at chosen places, especially planned for multi-day stays, deepen the first-hand experience. The tour guided by "China Tours GmbH Hamburg" guarantees comprehensive care for all drivers and vehicles. Besides accommodation in 3 to 5-star hotels, a few overnight stays in tents add to the adventurous character of the rally. A special welcome event supported by the Consulate General of Switzerland in Shanghai will crown this challenging journey upon arrival of the vintage cars on the banks of the Huangpu.