GAUCHO TRAIL MOTOR CHALLENGE 2026

NEWSLETTER 1 | APRIL 2026



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Dear ,

Welcome to the first Newsletter for the Gaucho Trial 2026, over the course of the next few months we will issue a number of these newsletters as well as hosting webinars to assist you in your preparations; **please treat these documents as you would a**

Rally Bulletin, they contain a lot of useful and important information, will probably answer 90% of your questions and help you avoid the pitfalls and be ready to enjoy your next adventure.

Our Clerk of the Course for this event, Kim Bannister, is currently in Africa recceing for the Classic Safari in 2027 but will be back in time for the first Webinar to assist you with any questions you may have.

In the meantime, I will leave you with some advice that we provide to every competitor that tackles one of our events, from a one-day Hero Challenge to a forty-day Super Endurance Rally:

1. **1. Drive to the Conditions and your abilities (both car & driver)**
2. **2. Read the paperwork (preferably before asking any questions)**

Enjoy this newsletter and we will see you all on the first webinar on 10 June!

ENTRY LIST

The current entry list of participants is published on the event page on our website, and can be found on this link: **Entry List**

May we request that you send in any missing details for your entry/vehicle at your earliest convenience, so that we can finalise the list and allocate the competition numbers to each entry. Send email to **hayley@hero-era.com** or **admin@hero-era.com**

Should you notice any irregularities in the details published for your crew, please advise us as soon as possible.

REGULATIONS

An electronic copy of the Event Regulations will be sent to all entrants with the next Newsletter; get in touch with the Rally Office if you have any specific questions in the meantime.



CAR SHIPPING ***URGENT, PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Please find below an important message from CARS in reference to vehicle shipping:

Dear Participant,
Given the current geopolitical climate and with the shipment for the upcoming Gaucho Trail fast approaching, we have been closely monitoring vessel availability, routing, and associated costs to ensure we provide the most reliable and secure transport solution for your vehicle.

Following our latest assessments, CARS are planning for all UK and European entrants' vehicles to depart during the first week of August. To facilitate this, all vehicles must be delivered to our facilities no later than Friday 17th July 2026, allowing container loading to take place during the week commencing 20th July.

While Montevideo is typically a direct sailing and the first port of call for most vessels from the UK and Europe, there remains a risk that it could be omitted (as experienced during the recce shipment). In such cases, containers would be offloaded at a transit port in Brazil and held until a connecting vessel becomes available. This process can take several weeks, and with the volume of vehicles involved, this is a risk we cannot take.

Assuming a direct and uninterrupted sailing, vehicles are expected to arrive in South America during the second week of September. CARS have made appropriate arrangements for secure storage at our warehouse upon arrival.

We fully appreciate the impact these timelines may have on participants and have structured the schedule accordingly. However, timely vehicle arrival is critical to the success of the event, and these decisions have been made in the best interests of all participants.

Please note that all plans are based on current information from shipping lines. The evolving situation in the Middle East continues to impact global shipping routes and costs. We are actively monitoringdevelopments and working closely with our partners to ensure we have the most accurate and up-to-date information.

We do anticipate potential cost increases due to rising oil prices and ongoing disruption within the shipping industry. While we will endeavour to honour current ocean freight quotations, we cannot rule out the possibility of revisions should market volatility persist.

In response to these uncertainties, we are also preparing an alternative option of charter aircraft transport for vehicles to Montevideo. This is currently the only method that can provide a high level of certainty around delivery schedules, avoiding the risks of delays, rerouting, and port omissions associated with ocean freight.

For this option to be viable and cost-effective, it will require a sufficient number of participants to commit. We will be sharing further details, including pricing and timelines, shortly, and would encourage you to consider this option carefully.

Additionally, air freight would allow for a later delivery schedule to CARS (approximately the first week of October), which may be advantageous for some participants.

For entrants from the USA and other locations, please contact CARS on +44 (0)1284 850950 to discuss the timings for your shipment as it will likely to differ from those mentioned above.

Alternatively, please email ***melvyn.palmer@carsworldwide.com*** *and / or* ***louise.norman@carsworldwide.com***

We appreciate your understanding and continued support as we work to ensure the success of the event and maintain the highest standards of service for all our clients.

With Best Wishes

Melvyn Palmer - CARS UK

Note: the Carnet de Passage will be required.

CAR INSURANCE * APPLICATION IS TIME SENSITIVE

Tysers have already been in discussion with insurers in South America. Having dealt with them on several previous occasions, they are quite exacting about their processes and given that there are several countries involved, this will take time to conclude.

Also, since it seems likely that the cars may arrive some weeks before the start, storage cover will be required. **Please do not**

delay the insurance application process.

This is an inevitable part of the process because of potential shipping delays and although you will have your hands busy with car preparation, it is important that you fill in the following **application form and submit passports, driving licences and proof of address, without delay:**

https://r1.dotdigital-pages.com/p/2PI6-5LY/motor-rally-quote-application

Tysers will provide quotations for:

- Travel insurance, including medical expenses and repatriation
- Transportation insurance from end to end, not limited to total loss only and including legal liability for contribution towards salvage costs.
- Costs of repatriating the vehicle if undriveable.
- Compulsory 3rd Party Motor insurance in accordance with local legislation*.
- Loss or damage to your vehicle, once discharged by the shipper throughout the duration of the event on an agreed value basis.

** These quotations are likely to take longer as the insurers wait for all car details before submitting their terms. It is also a regulatory requirement that the insurers have to be paid directly, normally in the local currency.*



TRAVEL INSURANCE & MEDICAL MATTERS

A fully qualified medical team will follow the Rally from start to finish. If you suffer from any medical conditions, you have recently had surgery and/or have any medical concerns you are kindly requested to inform our Medical Team in advance; contact details will be provided in future Newsletters, as well as a Medical Questionnaire to fill in and return to the rally doctors prior to travelling to the event.

Travel insurance including repatriation is mandatory.

DOCUMENTATION

If not done so already, may we ask that **all crew members** send a colour copy/scan of the following documents, to Hayley, by email to: **hayley@hero-era.com**

- Passport;
- Driving Licence (even if not designated to drive on-event)
- International Driving Permit;
- Car Registration Document;

Please be advised that we will need to share the copy of your passport and any other documents with any authorities and third parties as and if required in all the countries visited by the rally.

Note that passports need to be valid for at least six months beyond your expected departure date and have two blank pages for your visa.

Visas will be required and further details will be provided nearer to the rally.

Crew members who intend to drive must be over the age of 17, must be insured and have a valid, in-date Driving Licence.

The International Driving Permit (IDP) is compulsory for foreign drivers; this is an internationally recognized document which you will be pleased to have at hand, should you be stopped for any random checks by Traffic Police.

Car Registration Document

It is compulsory to have all the original car documents – NOT COPIES – so make sure you have the original Registration Document of your car with you as well as some spare copies.



ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation for your crew – in a twin or double room – will be provided from Saturday 31st October, two nights prior to the rally start date, through to Saturday 28th November 2026 inclusive.

NAVIGATION EQUIPMENT

During the event you will not be required to navigate any sections solely with the aid of GPS; GPS is likely to be useful on the run in and out of busy cities, to assist you with the route book.

We recommend the Garmin GPSMAP 276CX device, although these are hard to source now as they are out of production. Pre-owned models are available. In the event that you are unable to source one, a suitable GPS device should be sufficient (please note that on other events these may not be appropriate).

VEHICLE TRACKING

On this event, we are offering a satellite-based tracking service which will enable your friends and family to see your location on a

map, accessible from our website.

This is mandatory, allowing our on-event team to track your progress along the route and to locate you if you stray off-route and require assistance. You will need one of the following options.

For crews without a SPOT Trace device
If you do not already own a SPOT Tracker kit, please order the HERO-ERA Vehicle Tracking Bundle from our store here: **https://www.herostore.eu/hero-era-vehicle-tracking-bundle.html**

Please remember that the power cable and bracket should be fitted professionally, before shipping your car but that the SPOT Trace device should be carried in your hand luggage.

For crews with a SPOT Trace from a previous event but without a current subscription

If you already own both the SPOT Trace tracking device and the waterproof cable, please purchase the HERO-ERA Vehicle Tracking Connection here: **https://www.herostore.eu/hero-era-vehicle-tracking-connection.html**

Once you have acquired the HERO-ERA Vehicle Tracking Connection, please remember to provide your device ESN number and Authorisation code to our office, by email: **gemma@hero-era.com**

For crews with a SPOT Trace from a previous event which has a current subscription managed by yourself or others: please contact **gemma@hero-era.com** with your SPOT login details. This is very important because you will be unable to use any device for which we do not hold login details.

RECCE REPORT

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Please find enclosed with this Newsletter the complete recce report: **RECCE REPORT**

SAVE THE DATE * WEBINAR

Please join us on Wednesday 10th June 2026 at 15:00 BST for the first event Webinar.

Timing will be reconfirmed and a link to log in will be sent out in a separate communication.

If you have any specific event-related questions, please send them to us in advance so we can prepare the relevant information: **admin@hero-era.com**

Should you need further assistance or have any specific questions, please do get in touch directly.

Kindest regards,

The Rally Office
Admin@hero-era.com