

## **Peking to Paris 2019**

### **Day 10. Achit Lake camp - Kochevnik camp. 343.14km.**

This morning we began our long goodbye to Mongolia and, upon the shore of Lake Achit, billions upon billions of sand flies arrived to bid us farewell.

We awoke to find that tents and cars alike were clothed in what Kerry Finn thought were lacewings. Whatever they were though they were annoying but, at least they didn't bite. That bloodsucking variety is waiting for us in Siberia.

Maybe it was a sense of premature nostalgia, but it seemed that some of the best landscapes we've seen so far filled the windshields on the way to the border and over the impressive Altai mountains.

The border crossing itself was typically tedious but, thanks to the diligence of the Rally Office and our fixers on the ground, most crews were through, and into Russia within four hours.

As ever though some of the rally didn't make the border crossing without a little assistance but after being towed and trucked across the line, they were delivered safely into the hands of our old friends Arkadai and Sergei for repairs and some TLC.

Nick Grewal and Dirk Burrowes' Packard 110 Deluxe and car Bernhard Rieder and Petra Rieder's Porsche 911 were both headed straight to Novosibirsk for a clutch and ignition problems respectively.

From the border, there was then an easy 166km run into the camp at Kochevnik where a handpicked team of Nomads chefs had been smuggled in to cook us dinner on the banks of a river.

After their own epic and eventful crossing of Mongolia, Mitch Gross and Christopher Rolph almost didn't make dinner - again - and they were last seen chuffing happily westward. They made camp just before lights out and we look forward to catching up with them soon.

It's looking likely though that they've already broken the record for the longest journey in a steam car however.

Finally, we've got to say a big "thank you and goodbye" to Nomads and "hello it's great to be back" to Kyrgyz Concept. We know we're in safe hands once again.

Tomorrow's schedule is a busy one and the long haul through The Motherland begins in earnest.

Syd Stelvio