

Peking to Paris 2019.

Day 23. Kazan - Nizhny Novgorod. 487km

Today was slated as a transit day so there was no competition or timing, just driving. Plain and simple, through three passage controls and some pretty impressive countryside. Luckily we were leaving Kazan on this busy Monday morning and we rolled out along the mighty Volga River and passed by the old Kazan Kremlin where mosques, churches and a synagogue sit side by side surrounded by imposing walls and fine architecture.

The days rolling route took in massive fields, herds of cattle and many villages and small towns. It was a relaxed drive for the most part with three Passage Controls sited at strategic fuel stations and cafes.

The Peking to Paris rally has visited Nizhny Novgorod three times now and, upon our arrival in we were given another civic reception on a hill overlooking the ever present Volga with Pete Stone and Jim Smith manning the Main Time Control before the short drive along the beautiful riviera to the Marins Park Hotel just off the Kanavino Bridge. This is the fifth largest City in Russia and was, from 1932 - 1990 called Gorky (after the writer Maxim Gorky) and was also a closed city because of the sensitive industry it contained.

After what has been an easy day today, the clock starts ticking and the pressure ramps up again early tomorrow morning and the two leading crews, comprising Graham and Marina Goodwin and Gerry Crown and Matt Bryson need to be on their mettle right from the carpark.

Syd Stelvio