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Around the World in electric cars 2024: Following the Silk Road

The participants in the electric car journey around the world have successfully completed yet another milestone—China. Despite facing numerous obstacles, they pushed through and are now continuing their adventure westward through Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan.

Arriving in China itself posed a significant challenge. A different legal framework and customs regulations, completely different from those in the U.S., created seemingly insurmountable difficulties. However, Rafael de Mestre was able to tackle these issues as well.

80edays 2024 in China

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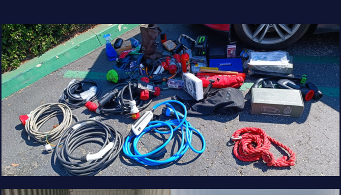
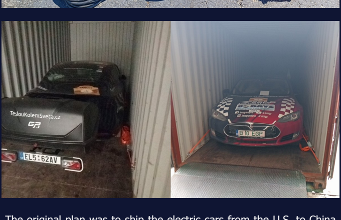
Difficulty of transportation

Despite the complexities of entering China—with its entirely different legal systems and customs regulations compared to the U.S.—what seemed like an impossible hurdle became another victory for Rafael de Mestre. His determination and resourcefulness once again prevailed, proving that no obstacle is too great when it comes to advancing the cause of green transportation.

The original plan was to ship the electric cars from the U.S. to China by ro-ro ship, but delays along the route in the U.S. forced a change of plan. As a result, the electric cars were flown from Los Angeles to Shenzhen. However, customs clearance was denied.

Looking for alternatives and considering the lost time, the best option was to ship the cars to Tianjin. Customs there cleared the vehicles, but blocked personal items that U.S. regulations require to be kept outside the vehicle. In China, all personal items that are accepted must be inside the vehicle.





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The original budget for shipping both electric cars to China was estimated at around $10,000. However, when delays in the U.S. required the cars to be flown instead of shipped by sea, the costs skyrocketed, nearly triple times the initial estimate. To make matters more complicated, further changes to the logistics, combined with unforeseen storage fees during customs delays, nearly doubled the expenses once again. This put significant financial strain on Zdenek, whose budget bore the brunt of these unexpected challenges. Despite these hurdles, the team remained committed to pushing forward in the name of green transportation.

We are still working to solve the absurd and inescapable trap of getting the personal belongings back. There are some memories like the Tesla blanket Rafael got gifted by Tesla in US in 2012 on his first around the world trip. We contacted the embassies to support. This story to be continued on the next newsletter.

It's good to support the disasters of the past, but isn't it better to support Rafael de Mestre's push into the future to avoid them?

Be a Patron for just 5$ and help accelerating EVolution!

https://www.patreon.com/RafaeldeMestre831

80edays car

The large-scale round-the-world journey "Around the World in 80 Days in Electric Cars" aims to raise awareness about the environment and promote advanced technologies for air quality improvement, accelerating the transition to sustainable, eco-friendly mobility.

This ambitious journey is not just a tour; it is a mission focused on increasing environmental awareness and showcasing cutting-edge technologies that ensure clean air and facilitate the transition to sustainable, eco-friendly transportation.

80edays is an international rally exclusively for electric vehicles, held every four years, this time covering three continents and more than thirty countries.

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Unexpected Accident

Another mishap happened to Zdenek's Tesla Model 3. In a parking lot, it was hit by a local driver's vehicle, resulting in damage to the electric car. Fortunately, the situation was resolved thanks to insurance coverage. The process needed to be expedited because the travelers couldn't afford to wait too long. Fortunately, through the efforts of management, they were able to expedite the process and find a service center along the way that could repair the electric car in one day.

Zdenek had to monitor every step of the process to avoid delays. Without the high-level guidance, the wait could have stretched until Christmas. However, the Tesla was restored and returned to its owner, who was happy to continue his journey, partly along the ancient Silk Road.

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China - Ease of Travel

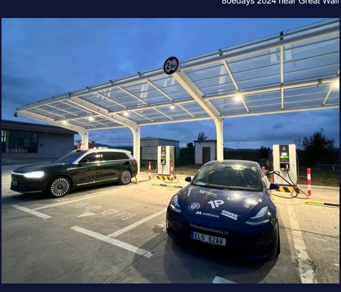
Zdenek was unable to charge the electric car at superchargers with local plugs, but with the help of a Chargerman adapter, he was able to connect to DC charging stations almost everywhere. This made the rest of the trip relatively easy.

This and other adapters were provided by Chargerman, a company that actively supports the development of electric vehicles and infrastructure by offering advanced charging solutions for all types of electric cars. They were a lifesaver for us throughout the journey, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to the company's specialists for their support.

Our participants moved quite quickly and visited the Great Wall. Here, Zdenek and his family marveled at the awe-inspiring views from the towering walls of the Great Wall, a monumental structure so vast it can be seen from space. As they traveled along its path, they paused to enjoy meals at local restaurants while the landscapes rapidly changed before their eyes-from towering industrial skyscrapers in bustling cities to humble, timeworn huts in remote desert villages. Each change of scenery was a reminder of the incredible diversity and beauty the world has to offer.

Rafael often found himself working on European time, sacrificing sleep during the night, which led to some logistical challenges. Yet, his determination allowed him to cover impressive distances, sometimes exceeding 600 km in a single day, especially on weekends.

80edays 2024 near Great Wall



Charging on the way

The battery, expertly repaired by electrify.eu and several years old, performed flawlessly in the harsh conditions—whether battling the dunes, enduring storms, or facing temperatures ranging from 9°C to 45°C. It's truly remarkable how electric vehicles continue to prove their resilience, not only reviving time and time again but also evolving to become even more advanced. This only strengthens the case for a global shift to cleaner, more sustainable transportation.

Despite the arid landscape, our mission participants encountered large charging stations everywhere. The road itself was clearly new and reliable, and equipped with charging stations, so the participants faced no difficulties in recharging their electric vehicles.

Our route passed through the following cities:

09-Sep Tianjin

10-Sep Tianjin

11-Sep Yangquan

12-Sep Jingbian

13-Sep Zhongwei

14-Sep Wuwei

15-Sep Jiuquan

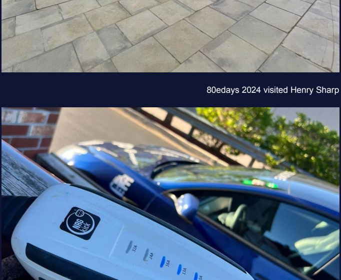
16-Sep Guazhou

17-Sep Hami

18-Sep Urumqi

19-Sep Khorgas

80edays 2024 visited Henry Sharp



With NRGkick, charging is always completely safe and reliable. Numerous safety mechanisms regularly check the situation and protect against overloading or overheating, for example. With the numerous plug attachments, you can also charge at any power source with maximum safety - without fear of scorching.

NRGkick charging units are equipped with WiFi and Bluetooth as standard and are optionally available with GSM/SIM. The flexible wallbox therefore offers you full connectivity. For example, you can also connect your NRGkick to the free NRGkick app for intelligent control.

And they constantly help us on the road!

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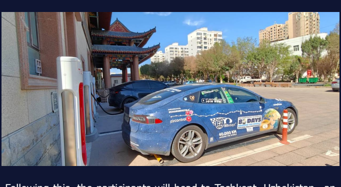
Ahead: Kazakhstan and New Adventures

The next phase of the journey will take a fresh route, requiring our participants to skip Astana and Karaganda, initially part of the plan. Instead, the main stop in Kazakhstan will be Almaty, where representatives of the environmental group Project Alice are eagerly awaiting. Having supported Rafael on previous expeditions, they continue to play a key role in environmental conservation efforts throughout Kazakhstan.

Next, the team will make their way to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan—a destination Rafael missed during last year's promotional tour with the iconic Tesla Roadster. We are hopeful that Kyrgyzstan will embrace the electric vehicle movement and become an active contributor to its growth.



Following this, the participants will head to Tashkent, Uzbekistan—an exciting new addition to the itinerary. From there, they will travel to Aktau, where the electric cars will be shipped to Baku, Azerbaijan, marking another thrilling chapter in this global adventure.

Travel itinerary:

20-Sep Almaty

21-Sep Almaty

23-Sep Bishkek

25-Sep Shymkent

26-Sep Tashkent

27-Sep Samarkand

28-Sep Bukhara

29-Sep Urgench

02-Oct Tazhen

04-Oct Aktau

06-Oct Baku

08-Oct Tiblisi

09-Oct Batumi

10-Oct Giresun

12-Oct Ankara

13-Oct Istanbul

80edays 2024 in China

After days of intense discussion and debate, we have finally found a solution. The cars have arrived in China, and the journey continued successfully.

Mark your calendars! The arrival date is confirmed, and we'll be celebrating the grand finale with the Official World Record Officer in Barcelona on November 3, 2024. Don't miss it!

Of course, more challenges lie ahead—like the remote, often disappearing roads of Kazakhstan—but with Rafael, there's always a way forward. Known as "Mr. Possibility," he never fails to find a solution, no matter how unconventional it may seem.

More information about the race and its participants can be found on the official website: https://80edays.com/

+++ Goodyear summer 19" tires wanted for the Model S ... it is having winter tires! +++ best US tire efficiency promotion +++ crossing US one month promoting the tires! +++

We invite everyone to get in touch:

Email: office@80edays.com

Whatsapp: 80edays fans

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Gratitude

GOODYEAR

80 DAYS AROUND THE WORLD

ACCELERATE THE EVOLUTION WITH US!

2012 · 2016 · 2024

Special thanks to NRGkick giving us the mobile chargers and adaptors to be able to charge wherever there is light burning and to Richard for sponsoring the set of all season Kelly (Goodyear) tires to the Tesla Roadster.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the individuals, clubs, and organizations that have supported and promised to support Rafael and the 80edays mission in future. Your hospitality, enthusiasm, and commitment make this journey possible. Let's continue to innovate, inspire and impact the world for the better.
Support Rafael on Patreon and get exculsive insights!
https://www.patreon.com/RafaeldeMestre831

A little history:

The project began when Rafael de Mestre was planning to drive around the world in 2013 but canceled the plan when he heard about two Frenchmen who set off on the Electric Odyssey around the world in 2012. Without any planning he simply started to follow them around the world in his Tesla Roadster electric car to make it a race to arrive in Strasbourg faster than the French, who started in March 2012.

Rafael only managed to leave on May 11, 2012 from Barcelona to Strasbourg, and further along the route, catching up with and ahead of the French team.

All along the way, Rafael and his Tesla overcome difficulties with visas and cross-country permits, local holidays and difficult roads. Several times Rafael has to fly to Germany for paperwork, come back and continue on his way. The roads of Kazakhstan proved difficult for the roadster, and there were no charging stations and the electric car had to be charged from ordinary sockets or power distribution panels of hotels.

In Europe, after about 27,000 kilometers of driving through sandstorms at around 53°C heat, over the worst roads on earth and through thunderstorms, the electric car had an accident in Germany near the finish line. But Rafael managed to get support from Tesla and in a fast-track five days the Tesla Roadster was repaired and brought back to life.

As a result, Rafael was ahead of the French team. His route took 28,282 km and became the longest route on a serial 100% electric car, which was recorded as a world record. He spent 127 days on this route and became the first person in the world to travel alone around the world in an electric production car, which was classified as two separate world records.

More world records were set by Rafael in 2016, when he made his second round-the-world trip in an electric car. This time he started in a Tesla Model S, but 10 other teams from around the world rode with him.

The second stage of the 80edays was already bigger and organized by Rafael de Mestre himself. The route this time amounted to more than 25 thousand kilometers through 20 countries and three continents. The teams were from Germany, Austria, Italy, Hungary, Spain, Switzerland, Switzerland, USA and China.

Participants drove through iconic cities where more than 30 events were organized to raise awareness of electric vehicle technology. At the same time, the teams planted trees with a plaque in major cities - symbols of clean air. Which will henceforth become a reference point for all future 80edays participants.

The teams successfully completed their journey in 80 days, including intercontinental flights. Which was another world record.

Rafael de Mestre, the initiator of 80edays, believes that the whole world must work together to eliminate the problem of air pollution.

"Electric cars are the best solution to avoid toxic gases in our cities, and they encourage the battery industry to improve the technology. Other technologies benefit from this improvement, so it's not just charity but business, the best motivation to move forward quickly for the most precious thing we have - our children," believes Rafael.

Crews on production of 100% electric vehicles from any country in the world are welcome to participate for the next and probably last edition. Official registration is open and available over email to office@80edays.com

Contact 80edays

Short note:

#80edays — is a mission that breaks boundaries! We are proving that electric vehicle technology is poised to become the first choice for drivers because it is environmentally sustainable and has a well-developed infrastructure. The 80edays mission is to accelerate the transition to sustainable mobility. This is the largest rally in 100% electric vehicles around the world. Participants in the world race prove that electric vehicles have already become the choice of drivers. It is a conscious transition to quiet, clean and sustainable energy. The world electric car race is held every 4 years across three continents. In 2012 and 2016 participants crossed more than 20 countries, and covered more than 28 thousand kilometers in electric vehicles. Any team from any country in the world can represent its nation by taking part in a production electric car.

#Tree route — in collaboration with Myclimate, the official eco-partner of 80edays, trees were planted along the route of the race in 2016, which today determines the route. The Myclimate project seeks to restore forests and offset carbon emissions. The 80edays project, which promotes clean air, is well complemented by the goals of our partner, and provides a joint opportunity to raise public awareness on environmental issues. Together, we highlight the critical social and climate issues arising from increased pollution and rapid deforestation. 80edays planted 10,000 trees to compensate for the CO_2 footprint of 80edays.

Rafael De Mestre — is an ambassador of electric mobility and founder of the Eco Grand Prix SRL, the organizer of ecoGP, the electric car 24h races, winner of the first round-the-world race in 2012 and awarded 2013 by the Energy Globe Award Romania and 2024 by the Global Recognition Award. He holds the record for solo trip around the world in a standard electric car, the fastest round-the-world trip in an electric car (80 days) together with the teams of 2016's 80edays Elduro and won several EV rallies in Europe. (Wikipedia DE) (Wikipedia EN)

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