

2019 FIA World Rally Championship
Round 5/14: Xion Rally Argentina

The MICHELIN LTX Force M6 and H4 up for Rally Argentina's varied stages

After March's asphalt interlude in Corsica, the 2019 FIA World Rally Championship moves on to the season's second gravel fixture, in Argentina, on April 25-28. Based in Villa Carlos Paz, about 700 kilometres northwest of Buenos Aires, Rally Argentina is the first of a sequence of five rounds on dirt. It will be followed by visits to Chile, Portugal, Sardinia and Finland, before the next sealed-surface outing in Germany in August.

Like last year, the 2019 Rally Argentina features a menu of 18 special stages that total 347.50km and an overall distance of 1,300.38km, compared with 358.25km and 1,300.45km respectively in 2018. The small difference between the two is essentially due to the fact that around seven kilometres have been chopped off 'Characato', plus a few other minor adjustments to the itinerary. Changes include Sunday morning's high-altitude Giulio Cesare, which is being run in the opposite direction this time around, while the legendary 'Copina-El Cóndor' test – which finishes at an altitude of more than 2,100 metres above sea level – will be run twice on the last day, including once as the week's Power Stage.

To address the variety of demands made by Rally Argentina's stages, Michelin will provide its WRC partners with a choice between the medium-compound MICHELIN LTX Force M6 and the harder MICHELIN LTX Force H4. Their WRC2 colleagues will be able to fit either the soft-compound MICHELIN Latitude Cross S80 or the hard H90.

"Rally Argentina is a technically challenging event that the drivers tend to enjoy," says **Arnaud Rémy**, the manager of Michelin's rally programmes. "There is always a huge turnout of spectators, too, and this is effectively one of the WRC rounds that draw the biggest crowds, with an estimated million fans out on the stages. We don't expect the conditions to be very hard-wearing since the ground is quite sandy. The medium-compound MICHELIN LTX Force M6 is likely to be the most popular option, but the harder H4 could be a string alternative if the weather is hotter than predicted, or if the stages cut up badly or throw up sharp rocks during the first passes."

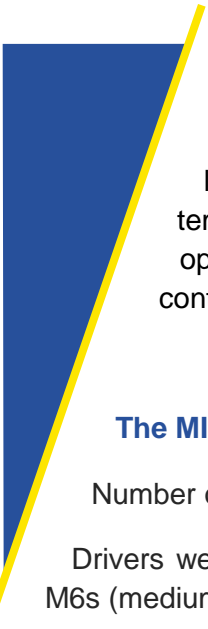
Argentina is a rally apart on the calendar owing to the big contrast between its low-lying stages and the more mountainous terrain it visits, while the service park is located on the shores of Lago San Roque in Villa Carlos Paz.

Competitive action will begin with the hugely popular super-special in the nearby town centre on Thursday evening. Friday's programme will see crews head north for the Calamuchita Valley's fast, sandy roads, while Saturday will take them to the Punilla region to the west.



Didier Laurent – didier@autopressclub.com – Phone: +33.6.75.60.50.62

Alessandro Barlozzi – alessandro.barlozzi@michelin.com – Phone: +33.6.42.23.55.93



The epicentre for Sunday's stages will be the rocky Traslasierra Mountains where the lofty altitudes to which competitors climb will clearly have an influence on the temperature and engine power. This cocktail promises to provide Michelin with a fresh opportunity to showcase the strength and versatility of its WRC tyres in highly contrasting conditions.

The MICHELIN LTX Force M6 and MICHELIN LTX Force H4 (WRC runners)

Number of tyres available for Rally Argentina: **440**

Drivers were authorised use up to 28 tyres (including shakedown) from a total allocation of 28 M6s (medium compound) and 16 H4 (hard compound).

The MICHELIN LATITUDE Cross H90 and MICHELIN LATITUDE Cross S80 (WRC2 runners)

Number of tyres available for Rally Argentina: **220**

Drivers were authorised to use up to 26 tyres (including shakedown) from a total allocation of 26 H90s (hard compound) and 16 S80s (soft compound).

Michelin's staff for the 2019 Xion Rally Argentina

Michelin will have a staff of 12 in Argentina:

- **Arnaud Rémy** (manager of Michelin's rally programmes)
- 2 coordinators
- 4 technical team advisors (CTEs)
- 4 fitters
- 1 Press officer

