



Jun 05, 2015 12:50 BST

RAC and Audi world record attempt: most countries driven to on a single tank of fuel

Audi A6 ultra, two drivers, 1,000 miles and just one £88 tank of fuel

Paddy Power offer odds of 10/1 for reaching 12 countries

The RAC and Audi will on Tuesday 9 June embark on setting a new world record for the most countries driven to on a single tank of fuel.

Racing driver Rebecca Jackson and motoring journalist Andrew Frankel will start their epic 1,000-mile [#RecordRoadTrip](#) at Maastricht in the Netherlands

at 9.30am local time, taking turns driving almost continuously in an Audi A6 ultra heading towards the Balkans.

Striving to maximise their all-important miles-per-gallon figure, the pair will drive on a carefully planned route through Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Switzerland, Lichtenstein, Austria, Germany and Italy. If they conserve enough fuel they may make it to Slovenia which would be a record 10 different countries.

But bookmakers [Paddy Power have set odds](#)* of the pair reaching 12 countries of 10/1, of 5/2 for travelling between 1,000 and 1,200 miles, and of 7/4 for exceeding 1,200 miles. In terms of who will be the most fuel efficient driver, Paddy Power favours Frankel over Jackson – 10/11 v 4/5.

The route has been painstakingly designed by the RAC, which has more than 100 years' experience of providing [European breakdown](#) cover for members, trying to avoid the mpg-sapping effects of built-up, congested towns and cities, motorways and mountains.

An Audi A6 ultra was chosen for the record-setting adventure, not only because of its excellent fuel economy combined with a large 73-litre tank, but also because it is a 'standard' executive class production car, the like of which is regularly driven through Europe by British holidaymakers every summer. The car has not been modified in any way, other than being fitted with fuel-efficient, low rolling resistance tyres.

RAC #RecordRoadTrip coordinator Simon Williams said: "We're confident the combination of two skilled drivers, a highly fuel efficient Audi A6 ultra and a route that takes in the most possible countries in the least fuel-taxing way will lead to a hard-to-beat record that covers at least 10 countries, hopefully more. The bookmakers seem pretty confident the Audi won't make it to 12 countries as they've offered generous 10/1 odds so that's a bet we'd like to win.

"The Audi A6 ultra can do 67.3 miles to the gallon so we are looking at one tank of diesel taking Andrew and Rebecca over 1,000 miles, but driving a route of this length is never going to be straightforward and there will no doubt be many challenges along the way. That said, for most people, driving in Europe is usually far less onerous than they expect it to be.

“In order for the RAC and Audi to set a new Guinness World Record for the most countries driven to on a single tank of fuel we had to start the attempt in mainland Europe as ferry or rail Channel crossings are not allowed.”

Jon Zammett, head of Audi UK public relations, said: “With the RAC we are planning a serious record-setting run with all the detailed planning you would expect from a German car maker.

“At a time when MPG is a top priority we are using an A6 ultra to set a new world record, using real world parameters. It’s truly astounding how efficient our executive car can be in normal use. We are demonstrating advanced fuel efficiency and just how far an A6 ultra can travel on a single fill-up. By traversing Europe for as little as £88** (€123) in fuel costs this record trip will hammer the point home.”

Andrew Frankel, who is known to readers of the RAC Club Digital Magazine and to motorists generally as a trusted car reviewer, has prior experience of long-distance, fuel-efficient driving challenges having driven a car from the North African coast back to the UK on a single tank of fuel.

Andrew said: “I wanted to be involved in setting a record that stands the test of time, but I know that staying focused on the economy display, the sat nav, the speedo and the road, at three in the morning, in unfamiliar territory, is going to be exceedingly tough. Add to that competing with Rebecca for the best mpg figure and you have the makings of a real challenge.”

Rebecca Jackson is well-known in the motoring world as a racing driver, television presenter and journalist. She is currently planning to compete in the 24 Hours of Le Mans 2016.

Rebecca added: “Most people won’t think of me in terms of fuel-efficient driving, but if you’ve ever tried to handle a racing car in the wet then you’ll know how important smooth control is. I think this will help to give me the edge over Andrew in fuel economy, but no matter who proves to be the best our healthy competition should help us set a strong record.”

Roadside assistance for the #RecordRoadTrip team is being provided by the RAC’s new Patrol Ambassador of the Year, Ben Wilson from Manchester, who will follow the record-attempt car all the way from the Netherlands to

wherever it eventually runs out of fuel.

RAC's Simon Williams added: "While the RAC can't be right behind everyone that drives on the continent our five-star, market-leading European breakdown cover is the next best thing as it gives that all-important reassurance that you and your vehicle will be taken care of should you be unlucky enough to have something go wrong."

Follow Andrew and Rebecca's progress in the RAC Audi #RecordRoadTrip at: www.recordroadtrip.com or via Twitter: [@recordroadtrip#recordroadtrip](https://twitter.com/recordroadtrip#recordroadtrip)

Ends

* **Paddy Power odds (as of 4 June 2015)**

Total number of countries driven to on the single tank of fuel

5/6 - 10 countries or under

9/4 - 11 countries

10/1 - 12 countries

6/1 - 13 countries

7/1 - 14 countries

8/1 - 15 countries or more

How many miles will be driven on the single tank of fuel?

7/2 - 1,000 miles or under

5/2 - 1,001 to 1,100 miles

5/2 - 1,101 to 1,200 miles

7/4 - Over 1,200 miles

Who will have the best mpg when the fuel runs out?

4/5 - Rebecca Jackson

10/11 - Andrew Frankel

Issued by the RAC. For all enquiries, please contact the press team:
press.enquiries@rac.co.uk

Our press team can:

- Answer all RAC-related media enquiries
- Provide motoring advice for publication
- Comment on topical driving stories
- Arrange interviews with RAC spokespeople - ISDN radio studio facilities available

Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/RAC_Press

Contacts



RAC Press Office

Press Contact

press.office@rac.co.uk

Emails monitored during normal office hours. For breakdown queries, call 0330 159 0740

ISDN number on request