

Organisers of the 2026 Rwanda Mountain Gorilla Rally have unveiled the competitive itinerary for this year's highly anticipated event, promising a punishing test of endurance across 12 grueling special stages.

The premium fixture on the FIA African Rally Championship (ARC) calendar, scheduled for 10-12 July, will see continental heavyweights converge on Rwanda for a weekend expected to shake up the championship leaderboard.

While the action begins on Friday with a spectator-friendly showcase at the Kigali Convention Centre, the true test of machine and driver arrives on Saturday, 11 July, in Nemba.

#### A Marathon Saturday in Nemba

According to official route maps released by the Rwanda Automobile Club (RAC), Day 2 will see drivers tackle a relentless, high-speed loop consisting of 12 special stages covering a competitive distance of 157.80 kilometres.

The route structure relies on four distinct speed tests, each repeated three times to thoroughly test tyre management and mechanical reliability:

- **Gasenyi** (Stages 1, 5, and 9)
- **William L** (Stages 2, 6, and 10)
- **Gako** (Stages 3, 7, and 11)
- **Nemba** (Stages 4, 8, and 12)

The tight, technical gravel tracks of the Eastern Province are notoriously unforgiving, and the decision to pack nearly 158 kilometres of competitive running into a single day means error margins will be razor-thin.

#### Growth on the International Stage

The announcement comes amidst a sharp rise in interest for the Rwandan leg of the tour. Defending champion Karan Patel of Kenya currently holds the championship lead with 83 points, but a surging regional grid is aiming to exploit the local terrain to close the gap.

Speaking during the official launch of the event, Christian Gakwaya, the President of the Rwanda Automobile Club, expressed confidence in the growing prestige of the rally.

“We are happy and excited to host this event once again,” Gakwaya said. “We are noticing an increase in entry number of quality, level of cars as well as participants for the event which is promising—a confirmation that our race is being considered at the international level.”

### Fan Safety a Priority

With massive crowds expected to line the routes, organizers have placed a major emphasis on crowd control and spectator placement, starting with the opening super special stage in the heart of the capital.

“We invite fans for the spectator event which starts on Friday at Kigali Convention Centre, to watch the race in a safe place,” Gakwaya added. “Our safety marshals will be available to show you where to go and watch. Come on Saturday and Sunday for the full event.”

Following Saturday’s marathon leg in Nemba, the survivors of the rally will head into Sunday’s final stages before the podium presentation.