

Home » Active » UPDATE: Spirit of the Union off road drive covers seven emirates

## UPDATE: Spirit of the Union off road drive covers seven emirates

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### Golden sands, pink rocks and gravel wadis of all seven emirates crunched under the tyres of a convoy of 4x4s.

As National Day celebrations took place all over the UAE, 40 off-road enthusiasts of all nationalities hit the open road to pay their own tribute to the Spirit of the Union – the official theme for the 44th annual National Day.

As the sun rose on 27th November, Let's Drive's colourful convoy hoisted their UAE flags and rolled out on the Al Ain Road from Murquab.

Expats from around the world and their Emirati friends took 12 hours to trek off-road across all of the UAE's emirates – Al Faqa and Shuwaib in Abu Dhabi, Al Badayer and Maliha in Sharjah, Fujairah's picturesque mountain dam Wadi Siji, Manama in Ajman, Bedouin Oasis camp in the Ras Al Khaimah desert, before finishing in Falaj Al Moalla, Umm Al Quwain at 8pm.

Organiser Jamal Khan said it was a double celebration for the group: "Let's Drive was born on 2nd December 2014, so the National Day also marks our first anniversary. So we thought of doing something exciting, and what better way than doing an off-road Spirit of the Union Drive to connect all seven emirates and explore their geological formations and culture.

"There was a lot of interest in this trip, but sadly we could not accommodate all, as only 4x4 cars and skilled drivers could complete this challenging track. We accommodated as many passengers as we could.



Organiser Jamal

"The group had great fun driving together over the golden sands, pink rocks and gravel wadis, and were very satisfied to have safely completed this challenge in a day. All the participants were excited for the drive and came prepared with all the necessary recovery equipment.

Simba, from Canada, said: "An awesome and historic experience that was worth every second – from start to finish!"

Hamida, from India, revealed some of group's adventures, as he added: "Awesome trip – getting stuck in sand was part of the fun."

It's not the first time the Meetup group has taken on a long-distance drive. They've previously covered 1,400 km of Oman's rugged scenery and explored 2,500km of Europe.



What drives them on? Jamal says: "As we do it purely for our passion and love for travel and off-roading, our focus has always been to allow a small number of members on each trip, so they can get an opportunity to mingle, and have fun together while exploring nature's beautiful trails."

*Experience the thrill of going off-road with Let's Drive, which holds regular wilderness get-togethers. Join up at [www.meetup.com/LetsDrive](http://www.meetup.com/LetsDrive).*

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