

AUTOMOTIVE

## Mercedes demonstrates off-road capabilities on roadless journey

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*Mercedes models in the Scottish Highlands*

By STAFF REPORTS

Germany automaker Mercedes-Benz is showing that roads are not always a necessity after driving the width of the Scottish Highlands.

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In what is to be believed to be the first journey of its kind to be completed, Mercedes drove from the east coast to the west coast of the United Kingdom, without driving on any open public roads. Showcasing its four-wheel drive capabilities, Mercedes fleet for the expedition included dozen vehicles, mixed between its GLE, GLS and G-Class models.

Where we're going, we don't need roads

Over the course of two days and 65 miles, Mercedes fleet drove across the Scottish Highlands. To combat the elements each vehicle was outfitted with road-legal "mud tires," but no other modifications were made.

The expedition was lead by Mercedes G-Class model, first unveiled in 1979 and touted for its "rugged go-anywhere ability and luxury." Hand-assembled in Graz, Austria, at a rate of only 15 models per day, the G-Class has permanent 4MATIC all-wheel drive and a low-range gearbox meant for all terrains.



## *Mercedes vehicles on their journey across the Scottish Highlands*

Mercedes' GLS, with quilted leather massage seats suggests opulence, but the model's Off-Road package ensures it can be taken off the beaten path with ease.

Similarly, the GLE is fitting for the high-streets, but its Off-Road package makes the model Highlands-ready.

Mercedes' route through the Highlands has not been publicized due to the privacy of 11 landowners who granted permission for the automaker venture across.

Automakers commonly take the path less traveled to display automotive know-how.

For example, British Automaker McLaren is bringing its track driving experience to an icy terrain for the first time.

The Pure McLaren Arctic Experience will take place in January 2017 in northern Finland, 200 miles from the Arctic Circle, giving consumers the opportunity to steer its Sports Series vehicles on snow-covered roads and an ice track. With this launch, McLaren joins other automakers that have rolled out ice driving experiences, providing a safe environment for participants to handle their vehicles in challenging conditions ([see story](#)).

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