



## *Keeping up with the B.E.A.T.*

Although the *British Euro Auto Tour* is not a Mercedes-Benz Club event it still holds its own as a wonderful get-away through some

of the most scenic areas in central Arizona.

For this **14<sup>th</sup> annual** ride participants readied their vehicles in anticipation for this two day auto rallye event. Every beautifully represented car from Deutschland and the surrounding European countries attended. With over 22 different marques this event had a wonderful turnout. Summed up with a sentence from their website, "the B.E.A.T. represents the largest multi-marque driving event in the Southwest where owners can mingle with other drivers of a different marque." This is the roots of the event to share camaraderie with new and old friends, all while sharing stories on these beloved vehicles.

Participants began the tour in north Phoenix meeting right off I-17. Eager car enthusiasts exchanged stories in the hustle before starting their engines. Registered participants of the event received a grab-bag of goodies to commemorate this years Tour.

The convoy headed out towards Wickenburg, our first stop of the day, for coffee and donuts. Followed shortly after for a drive through Joshua Tree National Forest and towards 89 up to Prescott. The landscape was phenomenal as lines of all makes and models of European cars sped down the hot asphalt towards our next stop in Prescott.

As we rolled into town we were lined up along Prescott's famed Whiskey Row. B.E.A.T. is the only car organization that forces a closure to this most popular street. Participants had quite a warm welcome from the community. Exchanging stories, showing off engines, and what makes each of their cars unique.

After a hearty lunch we loaded back into our rides and prepared for our drive up towards Mingus Mountain and around the switchbacks towards Jerome. Out over the gorgeous landscape was our next stop at Dead Horse Ranch. This was a short stop at one of Arizona's State Parks where participants had their picture taken and a series of contests were held for an award ceremony that evening.

One by one each car decided to make the final plunge down the 89A to cruise downtown Sedona and Oak Creek Canyon.

The days ride ended at Little America in Flagstaff. All were able to get out and stretch after the long journey. Food and a cash bar were provided while participants enjoyed more of each others company.

The traveling car show returned to Phoenix via Strawberry, Pine and Payson early Sunday afternoon. All with aspirations for next year.

For more information pertaining to the B.E.A.T., and how you can be involved, please visit their website at [www.thebeataz.com](http://www.thebeataz.com).

*Joseph Esneault*

[Go to This Event's Photo Gallery](#)