

Press Information:

Only 1 days to go until the start of the 28th Mountain Attack

- Numerous athletes from more than 20 nations at the start
- High-calibre field across all categories

SAALBACH-HINTERGLEMM, 15 January 2026. From insider tip to ultimate endurance benchmark: what began in 1999 as a niche event with around 300 pioneers has long since evolved into the “Wimbledon” of ski mountaineering. On Friday, 16 January, Saalbach-Hinterglemm hosts the 28th edition of the Mountain Attack – and the outlook could hardly be more promising.

Once again, Saalbach-Hinterglemm becomes the focal point of international ski mountaineering. At the 28th “Mountain Attack”, athletes from more than 20 nations will line up to take on one of the longest, steepest, and most demanding individual races in the world. At exactly 4:00 p.m., the starting signal will sound in the village square by Martin Zauner, Regional Minister for Sport – marking the beginning of a grueling test of endurance, strength, and mental resilience for recreational racers and elite professionals alike.

The opening section immediately sets the tone: the climb to the Schattberg features gradients of up to 70 percent and demands maximum physical capacity. After roughly 1,000 metres of elevation gain, the first checkpoint awaits – a decisive section where not only stamina but also precise footwork and race strategy are essential. History has shown that crucial race moments are often shaped here. As dusk sets in – around one hour after the start – the field continues from summit to summit, with every step bringing the athletes closer to the finish.

Favorites for 2026

MARATHON: Both in the women's and men's categories, an exciting race is expected. In the women's field, last year's winner Evi Gudelius (GER) and Tyrolean athlete Bianca Somavilla start as the top favorites. The men's race also features a high-caliber field of competitors, with particularly strong contenders expected from Italy. Veteran athlete William Boffelli, last year's runner-up Davide Magnini, South Tyrolean Alex Oberbacher, and Matteo Eydallin are all among the leading title contenders. Five-time Mountain Attack winner Christian Hoffmann (AUT) will also be aiming for a podium finish. He is by far the most experienced top athlete in the field.

TOUR: A closely contested race with minimal time gaps is anticipated in the men's competition. Among the key contenders are Samuel Eisl and Michael Fölsner (both AUT), as well as Germany's Josef Huber. In the women's field, defending champion Linda Fölsner is expected to be the athlete to beat.

SCHATTBERG RACE: Tina Fischl (GER) and Martin Schider (AUT) start as favourites for victory.

Attack Fan program

Spectators, supporters, and fans can look forward to a comprehensive event experience. After the spectacular start, the Schattberg X-press gondola offers direct access to the mid-station or all the way to the summit – the perfect vantage point to cheer on the athletes and experience the intensity of the race up close. Our recommendation: this ride is definitely worth it. In Saalbach's village square, all race details will be displayed on a large LED wall, accompanied by live commentary from Marina Herzmayr and Rudi Schwaiger, with musical support from Red Bull DJs. The awards ceremony will take place at 10:00 p.m. in the finish area, followed at 11:00 p.m. by the Attack Clubbing at Castello – the fitting grand finale to an unforgettable race evening.

THE RACES of the Mountain Attack: 4 DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES

The SCHATTBERG RACE:

This is a pure vertical race (uphill-only). Competitors must conquer 1,017 vertical metres, with the finish located at the summit of the Schattberg.

The TOUR:

This is an individual race (multiple ascents and descents). Athletes must complete five summits, covering a total of 2,036 vertical metres uphill, with corresponding descents. The course leads across:

Schattberg – West Summit – descent to Hinterglemm – through the village – ascent to Hasenauer Köpfl – Reiterkogel – descent to Wetterkreuz – Bernkogel – descent to Saalbach.

The MARATHON:

Also an individual race, featuring 3,010 vertical metres of ascent. The course is identical to the Tour up to Hinterglemm. In addition, competitors must tackle the Zwölferkogel ascent, the north descent into the Hochalm, and the subsequent climb from the Hochalm towards Hasenauer Köpfl. In total, the athletes conquer six summits.

The MARATHON Relay:

Teams of three complete the full marathon distance.

Runner 1: ascent to Schattberg – West Summit – descent to Hinterglemm (handover).

Runner 2: ascent to Zwölferkogel – descent into the Hochalm (handover).

Runner 3: ascent to Hasenauer Köpfl – descent to the finish in Saalbach.

Target groups: mountain partners, sports clubs, company teams.

RACE PROGRAMME

16:00 — Start Marathon, Tour, Category +45, Schattberg Race, Marathon Relay

ca. 16:40 — First expected arrivals at Schattberg (all categories)

ca. 16:55 — First expected arrivals in Hinterglemm

ca. 17:35 — First expected finish arrivals in Saalbach (Tour)

ca. 18:15 — First finish arrivals in Saalbach (Marathon)

22:00 — Awards ceremony, Schattberg Arena, Saalbach

Partners and sponsors of the Mountain Attack 2026:

Partner der Mountain Attack 2026: Skicircus Saalbach-Hinterglemm-Leogang-Fieberbrunn, Land Salzburg, UNIQA Versicherung, La Sportiva, Red Bull, Edelweiss, ISUZU, Raiffeisen Bank, Skidata, TechnoAlpin, Prinoth, MAKITA, Bauchinger, Salzburg AG, Palfinger, Salzburg Airport, evil eye, Zeiss Vision Center, Suunto, Pieps, Petzl, Colltex, Lenz, Holmenkol, Leki, My Gym Prime, Teekanne, Melasan Sport, Segafredo Zanetti, Velo/BAT Austria, eurogast, HEAD/Tyrolia, BOA, Rehrl&Partner, Salzburger Nachrichten, mediahaus.tv, skimostats, die Offset, NMC

Further information:

Organizer: Roland Kurz, NMC GmbH, M +43 664 3376125, E r.kurz@nmc.ac

Press Contact (Race Day / Results): Rosi Schiefauer, M +43 676-9119594, E presse@mountain-attack.com

Saalbach Hinterglemm Tourist Board +43 6541-6800120