PRESS RELEASE

HARD, HARDER, MOUNTAIN ATTACK on 16.01.2026

> Austria's biggest ski touring event
> Hundreds of athletes from over 20 nations at the start

Saalbach - Hinterglemm, 19.12.2025. Austria's biggest and toughest ski touring race, the Mountain Attack in Saalbach Hinterglemm, will enter its 28th edition on 16.01.2026.

For 28 years, the Mountain Attack has offered all amateur and amateur athletes the unique opportunity to compete against the best ski mountaineers in the world in the same outdoor conditions, at the same time and over the same distance. Professionals and amateurs united in the same competition on a highly challenging course is unique.

The race starts on Friday, January 16, 2026 at 16:00 on the village square in Saalbach.

The athletes will sprint around 400 meters along the village road to the base area at the foot of the Schattberg. Under the motto: "On your skins, get set, steep uphill!" the Glemmtal mountains are then "attacked". With gradients of up to 70 percent in the lower part of the Schattberg, the first ascent already demands everything from the athletes.

THE RACES of the Mountain Attack: 4 DIFFERENT COMPETITIONS

1. **the Schattberg Race:** this is a pure vertical race (ascent race). Here you have to conquer 1017 meters of altitude with the finish at the summit of the Schattberg.

2. **the Tour**: An individual race (several ascents and descents). Participants have to conquer 5 summits and a total of 2,036 meters of ascent and descent. The route leads over: Schattberg - west summit - descent to Hinterglemm - through the village - ascent Hasenauer Köpfl - Reiterkogel - descent Wetterkreuz - Bernkogel - descent to Saalbach

3. **the Marathon**: also an individual race. Here you have to conquer 3,010 meters of altitude. The route to Hinterglemm is identical to the tour. However, the participants also have to tackle the Zwölferkogel ascent, the northern descent to the Hochalm and the ascent from the Hochalm towards Hasenauer Köpfl. The athletes therefore climb a total of 6 mountain peaks!

4. **the Marathon Relay**: celebrated its premiere last year. The marathon distance must be completed as a team of 3. The starting runner masters the ascent to the Schattberg - west summit - descent Hinterglemm. There the timing chip is handed over to the 2nd runner: Ascent Zwölferkogel - descent to the Hochalm. Handover to 3rd runner: ascent Hasenauer Köpfl - descent to the finish in Saalbach. Target group: Mountain friends, sports enthusiasts, company teams

Salzburg State Championships
For the third time, the Salzburg state champions in the long-distance categories (individual marathon & individual half marathon) will be crowned as part of the Mountain Attack. The SK Viehhofen with Peter Gruber at the head of the team will be responsible for organizing the event as part of the Mountain Attack.

CLASSES: Marathon Men & Women, Tour Men & Women, Marathon Men +45, Tour +45 Men, Marathon Relay (overall ranking) and Schattberg Race (vertical)

PRIZE MONEY: Total € 9.360,-

COURSE RECORD BONUS
If the course record, set by Jakob Herrmann in 2020, is beaten with 2:15:10 hours, there is an extra bonus of € 500

MOUNTAIN HERO: Combination ranking with the marathon of the World Games of Mountainbiking 2026 (long distance - marathon only)

IMPORTANT SIDE FACTS

Live stream
As in previous years, a LIVE STREAM of the race will be available on www.mountain-attack.at in 2026. In cooperation with Drei-Business and the Mediahaus production team, the Mountain Attack will be broadcast live in 5G quality from the start preparations at 3:40 pm until approx. 7:30 pm.
In addition, postings, live contributions and current pictures on the social media channels of the Mountain Attack (Facebook: Mountain Attack / Instagram: @mountainattack1999) will keep fans informed about the current course of the race.
In the finish arena on site, the race will be broadcast live on an LED wall in the finish area. Four presenters, eight mobile camera teams, 5 fixed camera positions and a state-of-the-art broadcast van will provide action-packed images and background reports on all aspects of the Attack.

Live Tracking App
Timekeeping is carried out by Attack partner Time2Win using active transponder technology. All participants can use this tracking system via a dedicated Time2Win app and the smartphone they carry with them acts as a GPS transponder. This means that spectators and fans can follow their athletes at all times and view their split times and placings live.

DATA & FACTS
Mountain Attack International Touring Ski Marathon
Date: Friday, 16.01.2026,
Start: 16.00 hrs, Saalbach
Location: Skicircus Saalbach-Hinterglemm
Routes: 4 competitions on marked and secured slopes

Marathon: 3010 vertical meters, 6 summits
Tour: 2036 vertical meters, 5 peaks
Schattberg Race - vertical race with finish at the Schattberg summit 1017 vertical meters
Marathon Relay: 3010 vertical meters, 6 peaks as a 3-person relay

RACE PROGRAM

16.00 Start Marathon, Tour, +45 category, Schattberg Race, Marathon Relay at the village square in Saalbach (several start waves)
approx. 16.40 First planned arrivals at the Schattberg
approx. 16.55 First planned arrivals in Hinterglemm
approx. 17.35 First planned arrivals in Saalbach (Tour)
approx. 18.15 First planned arrivals in Saalbach (Marathon)
22.00 award ceremony Attack Arena, Saalbach

PROGRAM

from 15.00 Start Moderation:
Marina Herzmayer & Rudi Schwaiger
from 15.40 LIVE coverage with pictures from the Schattberg, Zwölferkogel, Hochalm, Reiterkogel and from the course and finish line
19.30 Music-Attack with Red Bull DJ in the Attack Arena Saalbach
22.00 Award ceremony Attack Arena Saalbach
From 22.30 Attack-Clubbing Castello / Saalbacher Hof

Free fan gondola to the Schattberg immediately after the start at 16.00

Song: „Hard! Harder! Mountain Attack!
Austria's toughest race now has the perfect beat as well. The brand-new anthem "Hard! Harder! Mountain Attack!" by Helga Koch is now available on Apple Music and Spotify. >> www.mountain-attack.at

THE "MOUNTAIN MEN" OF THE PAST YEARS:

Paul Verbnjak (AUT) 2025
Christian Hoffmann (AUT) 2024, 2022, 2016, 2014, 2013
Jakob Herrmann (AUT) 2023, 2020 with course record
Michele Boscacci (ITA) 2019, 2018
Toni Palzer (GER) 2017
Tadei Pivk (ITA) 2015
Kilian Jornet Burgada (ESP) 2012, 2011
Konrad Lex (GER) 2010
Guido Giacomelli (ITA) 2009, 2007, 2006
Andi Ringhofer (AUT) 2008, 2005, 2004
Martin Hornegger (AUT) 2003
Mirco Mezzanotte (ITA) 2002
Luciano Fontana (ITA) 2001
Fabio Meraldi (ITA) 2000
Omar Oprandi (ITA) 1999

THE "MOUNTAIN WOMAN" OF YEARS GONE BY:

Evi Gudelius (GER) 2025
Bianca Somavilla (AUT) 2024
Elena Nicolini (ITA) 2023
Alba de Silvestro (ITA) 2019, 2020, 2022
Jennifer Fiechter (SUI) 2017
Raffaela Rossi (ITA) 2016
Rosemarie Pötzlsberger (AUT) 2013
Mireia Miro Varela (ESP) 2011
Michaela Eßl (AUT) 2010, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2018
Francesca Martinelli (ITA) 2007, 2008, 2009
Simone Hornegger (AUT) 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006
Kathi Stangassinger (GER) 1999

THE WINNERS 2025

Marathon
Winner men: Paul Verbnjak (AUT) 02:15:57
Winner women: Evi Gudelius (AUT) 03:10:35
Winner men +45: Sepp Jetzbacher (AUT) 02:48:48
Tour
Winner men: Alex Oberbacher (ITA) 01:34:07
Winner women: Linda Wilhelmstätter (AUT) 02:05:17
Winner men +45: Erich Kraft (AUT) 01:57:29
Schattberg Race
Winner men: Kilian Rettensteiner (AUT) 00:46:04
Winner women: Ueda AYAKA (GER) 00:51:01
Marathon relay
Winner team: Brixental Connection 02:34:15

ORGANIZER

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MEDIA INFORMATION and ACCREDITING as well as PRESS PHOTOS and FILM MATERIAL

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