

Press release

The legend returns to Zell am See-Kaprun with 16,000 visitors: Round two for the spectacular GP Ice Race

Following the successful premiere last year, the two initiators Ferdinand Porsche and Vinzenz Greger decided to hold a second edition of the GP Ice Race. The event with top stars such as Marcel Hirscher and Axel Lund Svindal was staged on 1 and 2 February 2020 and thrilled 16,000 viewers at the Zell airfield.

Zell am See-Kaprun, 3 February 2020: 1937 to 1974: Ice race on the frozen Lake Zell, many spectators on the ice, a Porsche with spikes on the tyres and a skier tied to its back with a rope drifts over the ice track. Black and white pictures bring back memories of the legendary ice races at Lake Zell in the past. On 10 February 1952, a skijoring event was held for the first time in honour of Ferdinand Porsche. Finally, in 2019, the great-grandson of the car designer and Porsche founder of the same name and his partner Vinzenz Greger hold the ice race again in Zell am See for the first time in 45 years. The GP Ice Race continues one year later and takes place again at the airfield in Schüttdorf on 1 and 2 February 2020. Last weekend offered a spectacular cross-section of the history, present and future of the automobile in front of 16,000 visitors and 350 media representatives.

High-quality motorsports action with Hirscher and Svindal

More than 150 participants, including amateur and professional racers, demonstrated their skills on the ice with spectacular historical and current show vehicles. The drivers, including rally champions and vice champions of SKODA, who performed an Ice Race of Champions, competed against each other on the ice track in no less than 8 different competition classes. An absolute highlight of the GP Ice Race was the visit of the two former ski stars Marcel Flirscher and Axel Lund Svindal. Two-time Olympic and seven-time World Champion Marcel Hirscher, supported by Red Bull, was behind the wheel of the Audi S1 EKS WRX quattro and performed spectacular laps on the ice track with the 580 hp rallycross car. The Zell am See-Kaprun region has already been working successfully with Audi as part of an economic cooperation for almost two years.

Axel Lund Svindal, the world champion and Olympic champion from Norway, also hurtled across the ice rink at racing speed in the skijoring show performance. He was pulled by the winning car of the 1984 Dakar Rally, a Porsche 911 Carrera 3.2 4x4 (953) driven by the Le Mans winners Timo Bernhard and Jörg Bergmeister. The racing driver and para-Olympic ski star Reinhold Sampl started on the ice track in a 500 hp rallycross Pantera RX with Audi A1 optics. The German racing driver icon Hans-Joachim "Strietzel" Stuck was again among the prominent guests and supporters. Stuck drove a vintage Jägermeister Formula 1 racer of the March-Cosworth 741 type with 480 hp. The winning car of the ice races of 1960 and 1961 was also back on the grid for the first time this year: the Hartmann Formula Junior racing car.

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E-mobility exhibitions

An Audi e-tron FE06 Formula E racing car was also presented on the ice track with works driver Daniel Abt behind the steering wheel. With the NASCAR racing car on spikes, Red Bull also provided a spectacle on ice. In addition to the numerous show performances, anyone could take part in ICE Karting and race across the track on a specially prepared ice-kart. The programme also included spectacular taxi rides in racing cars and helicopter flights by the regional company Senn Air over the large event site. In addition to historical and modern racing and rally vehicles, visitors of the numerous on-site exhibitions were also able to marvel at the latest highlights of modern electric mobility from Porsche, such as the Porsche Taycan, the Porsche 919 Hybrid Evo and the current Porsche 99x Electric, which will compete in the Formula E World Championship. The local company Porsche Design was again the official timekeeper of the GP Ice Race. The company also celebrated the second new edition of the ice race with a specially designed chronograph. The "GP Ice Race Special Edition" Chronotimer has a 42 mm titanium case and can be purchased.

Great resonance

The two organizers **Ferdinand Porsche and Vinzenz Greger** are very happy about the huge success of the event: „Thanks very much to everyone involved who made this great weekend possible with their big effort. We are overwhelmed by the 16,000 visitors and are already looking forward to the GP Ice Race next year.“, Vinzenz Greger added: „We are going to announce the date for 2021 at a later date.“

Mag. Renate Ecker, tourism director of Zell am See-Kaprun, is proud of this great event in the home of Porsche: "The Porsche Family has had close ties to our town for many decades and we are delighted that we have been able to revive this tradition of ice racing in Zell am See after 45 years. With our ICE WEEK and many companies in Zell am See, we offered a great programme around the topic of ice a week before the event. A highlight was the exhibition of air-cooled race cars of the Southern Californian company "Luftgekühl" on the forecourt of the Ferry Porsche Congress Center."

Further information is available at <https://www.zellamsee-kaprun.com/gp-ice-race>

About Zell am See-Kaprun:

Glaciers, mountains and lake – the all-year round destination of Zell am See-Kaprun in Austria brings together the diversity of the Alps. In the unique natural paradise at the edge of the Hohe Tauern National Park, sports enthusiasts, active holidaymakers, families and those seeking relaxation will discover a wide range of experiences in summer and in winter. These include the "Gipfelwelt 3,000" in 3,029 metres on the Kitzsteinhorn - the only glacier ski resort in Salzburger Land, the Maiskogel family region, the panorama and family mountain Schmittenhöhe, Lake Zell and the multi-award winning 36-hole golf course. In winter is Zell am See-Kaprun one of Austria's most attractive winter sports regions. Thanks to the Ski ALPIN CARD ticket network, snow enthusiasts can conquer a total of 408 kilometres of ski slopes including the glacier. Tradition and authenticity are reflected in the events and culinary specialties of the region. First-class sports events like IRONMAN 70.3 and Grossglockner Ultra Trail attract sports enthusiasts to the spectacular mountain world.

Zell am See-Kaprun Tourismus

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