

## LAKE ZELL INSTEAD OF MONACO FOR THE FIRST TIME: ZELL AM SEE-KAPRUN IS THE NEW DESTINATION OF THE 10TH RED BULL X-ALPS

**Zell am See-Kaprun, 16 March 2021: The tenth edition of the Red Bull X-Alps, the toughest paragliding competition in the world, awaits with the biggest change in the course layout for the first time since the race was established. With the relocation from Monaco to Lake Zell after nine events, Zell am See-Kaprun is the new destination for the finish of the race - just in time for the 10th anniversary of the race series. After the last turnpoint on Schmittenhöhe mountain, the athletes go directly onto a landing raft on Lake Zell.**

For 33 athletes from 17 nations across the world, the starting signal of the 10th Red Bull X Alps will be on 20 June 2021 at Mozartplatz in Salzburg. From there, they will run through the city to the Gaisberg mountain, and then cross the entire length of the Alpine arc without stopping. And that only on foot or with a paraglider. Along the route of 1,238 km, which is the longest and most challenging route so far, 12 specific turning buoys, so-called "turn points", must be passed until the finish line is finally reached. But this year, for the first time since the race was established, there is a special novelty and the biggest change at the Red Bull X Alps, because the finish line is no longer in Monaco, but directly on the crystal-clear Lake Zell. Taking several days, with only the most necessary breaks and recovery phases for the athletes, the route leads through Austria, Germany, Switzerland, France and Italy, and then back to Austria to the last turn point on Zell's local mountain - the Schmittenhöhe. There, the turning buoy is located at the famous Sisi Chapel at 2,000 m above sea level. With the new finish area on Lake Zell already in view, the participants then head with their paragliders for the finish platform in the Oberschneider Bay behind the Zell am See Casino. By 2 July 2021, at least 1 team must have reached the landing raft, either with a pinpoint landing or by swimming there.

With the turn point on the Schmittenhöhe and the finish on Lake Zell, Zell am See-Kaprun will be part of the famous Red Bull X Alps series, presenting the most challenging course in 2021, for the first time. More info on the event at <https://www.zellamsee-kaprun.com/en/events/redbullxalps>. A first glimpse of what can be expected of the new Red Bull X Alps route in Zell am See-Kaprun is available here: <https://youtu.be/FTTPybn6x44>

*"The international Red Bull X Alps competition is considered the toughest paragliding competition in the world. We are particularly pleased that Zell am See-Kaprun is now part of this spectacular race series. With the new finish destination on Lake Zell, Red Bull is putting the focus back on its home town of Salzburg for the first time in many years, and has found a professional partner in Zell am See-Kaprun. We are looking forward to welcoming the athletes soon in the holiday paradise between glacier, mountain and lake," summarises Maximilian Posch, chairman of the Zell am See Tourism Association, proudly.*

*"The Schmittenhöhe has been an important name among paragliders for a long time, and is known for great paragliding flights with 360° panoramic views. We are proud that this summer our local mountain in Zell will be the turn point of the famous Red Bull X Alps for the first time, and we hope it will inspire athletes from all over the world," says Dr Erich Egger, CEO of Schmittenhöhebahn AG about the new course.*

*"The internationality of the Red Bull X Alps once again guarantees Zell am See-Kaprun a well-known name in the world and underlines the status of our region as a top sports destination. Thanks to the new finish area, the athletes will in future land directly in the heart of the Alps on the crystal-clear Lake Zell." says a delighted Mag. Renate Ecker, Tourism Director Zell am See-Kaprun.*

#### **ABOUT ZELL AM SEE-KAPRUN:**

Glacier, mountains and lake - the all-year round destination of Zell am See-Kaprun in Austria combines 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 great variety of worlds of experiences in summer and in winter. These include Gipfelwelt 3.000 on the Kitzsteinhorn - the only glacier ski resort in Salzburger Land, the Maiskogel family resort, 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 pistes, including the glacier, with a single ski pass. Tradition and authenticity are reflected in the events and culinary specialities of the region. [www.zellamsee-kaprun.com](http://www.zellamsee-kaprun.com)

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