

1,238 KM TO LAKE ZELL: THIS WAS THE 10TH RED BULL X-ALPS

Zell am See-Kaprun, 2 July 2021: Red Bull X-Alps, the toughest paragliding competition in the world, came to an end at 11:30 am on Friday, 2 July 2021. 5 athletes mastered the longest route ever and landed at the new finish in Lake Zell.

Chrigel "the Eagle" Maurer from Switzerland took the title for the seventh time in succession, Patrick von Känel and Simon Oberrauner finished 2nd and 3rd in the tenth edition of the world's toughest adventure race.

Chrigel Maurer from Switzerland landed on the raft already on Monday evening, 28 June, with a 130 km lead, scoring his seventh victory in a row after 8 days, 6 hours, 30 minutes and 28 seconds. Patrick von Känel from Switzerland and Simon Oberrauner from Austria went head-to-head with Maxime Pinot from France. Känel started from the last turn point Schmittenhöhe and landed on the floating raft in the sparkling waters of Lake Zell just shortly after 1:30 pm on 29 June. Ten minutes later, Oberrauner was jubilant about his place on the podium.

29 athletes from 15 nations worldwide started at 11:00 am on 20 June 2021, from Mozartplatz in Salzburg to cross 5 countries and pass 12 turning buoys and facing a distance of 1,238 km on foot or by paraglider only. With only the most necessary breaks and recovery phases, the athletes made their way through Austria, Germany, Switzerland, France and Italy back to Austria to the last turn point on Zell's local mountain, the Schmittenhöhe, right next to the Sisi Chapel 2,000 m above sea level. Afterwards they headed immediately for the landing raft directly on Lake Zell, which had to be reached by 11:30 am on 2 July.

One athlete who covered more kilometres than most was French participant Benoît Outters. Known for his incredible endurance, he managed an incredible 170km and 7,700 altitude metres on foot in the last 40 hours of the race and finished on Wednesday evening. In total, he hiked an impressive 597km and had flown 1,644km in 11 days.

ZELL AM SEE: FANTASTIC NEW DESTINATION

Now in its 10th edition, the world's toughest adventure race impressed with historic innovations. Not only did the athletes have to overcome the longest route since the race's inception, but the finish line was also moved from Monaco to Lake Zell for the first time. The feedback from the athletes was unanimously positive, the reception on the Schmittenhöhe and in Zell am See was great and created a goosebump atmosphere. With the turn point on the Schmittenhöhe and the finish on Lake Zell, 2021 was the first year in which Zell am See-Kaprun became part of the famous Red Bull X Alps series.

After reopening in May, the 10th Red Bull X-Alps was the first big event in Zell am See-Kaprun in 2021. Thanks to innovative live tracking, the race could be followed at any time over the past days, and the excitement could be enjoyed by fans all over the world. The final results are available at the following link: <https://www.redbullxalps.com/the-race/race-results.html>

Race organiser Ulrich Grill, who initiated the race in 2003 together with the late adventurer Hannes Arch, said this year was a special challenge for the athletes. "It was really a tough race. Not only was it the longest route in the history of the event, but especially in the second week, the conditions were really rough for the participants, forcing them to march incredible distances on foot across the mountains. But that's part of the adventure - sometimes you can fly far, and sometimes you're forced to walk."

"Behind us is an incredibly exciting and spectacular competition. We are very happy that the athletes landed well in Zell am See and can enjoy the new destination of the Red Bull X-Alps between glacier, mountain and lake for the first time. Great pictures go out from Lake Zell into the world and underline once again the importance of our region as a top sports destination and the unique environment that makes us what we are," summarises Maximilian Posch, Chairman of the Zell am See Tourist Board.

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 wide range of experiences in summer and in winter. These include "Gipfelwelt 3,000" on the Kitzsteinhorn - the only glacier ski resort in SalzburgerLand, the Maiskogel family region, the panorama and family mountain Schmittenhöhe, Lake Zell and the multi-award winning 36-hole Leading 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 just one single ski pass. Tradition and authenticity are reflected in the events and culinary specialties of the region. www.zellamsee-kaprun.com

Zell am See-Kaprun Tourismus
Johanna Klammer, BA
Tel. +43 6542 - 770 28
j.klammer@zellamsee-kaprun.com
www.zellamsee-kaprun.com
www.facebook.com/zellamseekaprun
www.twitter.com/zellamseekaprun