



**THE SWISS  
ARMED FORCES**

DEFEND

Département fédéral de la défense,  
de la protection de la population et des sports DDPS

Armée suisse

Cdmt Op - Div ter 1 - Patrouille des Glaciers

# PRESS KIT 2026

**15 – 21 avril 2026**    [pdg.ch](http://pdg.ch)    Zermatt → Arolla → Verbier

 SCHWEIZER ARMEE  
ARMÉE SUISSE  
ESERCITO SVIZZERO  
ARMADA SVIZRA

# ENSEMBLE AU CŒUR DE L'EFFORT

 PATROUILLE  
DES GLACIERS

Presenting Partners

 Valais  
GRAVÉ DANS MON CŒUR.

 VERBIER  
PURE ENERGY

 swisscom



## Information for the media

### 1. General

- The PdG 2026 will be the 26th edition of this international event. (3 editions were held between 1943 and 1949; since 1984, the race has been held every two years, except in 2020 due to Covid.)
- Since the race resumed in 1984, only five interruptions have been necessary (1986, 2002: A1, 2012: Z1+Z2/A2, 2016: Z2/A2). In 2024, for weather and safety reasons, only the races starting in Arolla were maintained.
- The A2 race was won in the men's category by the Young Guns patrol, made up of Finn Hösch, Oriol Olm Rouppert and Erik Kaarvatn, and in the women's category by Caroline Ulrich, Thibe Deseyn and Alessandra Schmid. The Petite Patrouille was won by Thomas Bussard, Robin Bussard and Léo Besson.

### Partners and sponsors – 2026 edition

For the 2026 edition, the Patrouille des Glaciers Foundation, which is responsible for the event's promotional and marketing activities, has secured the support of several partners and sponsors, including a number of new ones.

The partner destinations and regions of Verbier, Zermatt, Sion, Val d'Hérens, Val de Bagnes and the Canton of Valais also play an active role in strengthening the international profile of this high-mountain race, a unique human adventure in the heart of the Swiss Alps.

The Patrouille des Glaciers Foundation warmly thanks all its partners, sponsors and suppliers for their trust and support.

### Accreditation

Applications for media and press accreditation are open online from 5 December 2025 until 10 April 2026.

To obtain your accreditation for the Patrouille des Glaciers 2026, please complete the online form:

<https://www.pdg.ch/en/accreditations/>

Once completed, you will receive a confirmation email with details of where and when to collect your "Press" bib:

- 13.04 in Sion : 09.00 – 18.00
- 14.04 in Zermatt : 13.00 – 22.00



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## Press rooms

Press room in Sion: Caserne in Sion (rue des Casernes 40)  
Press room in Zermatt: Hotel Pollux  
Press room in Verbier: Hotel Montpellier

Date	Opening hours	Address
<b>13.04 to 19.04.2026</b>	By appointment	Caserne in Sion, Rue des Casernes 40, Sion
<b>14.04.2026</b>	13.00 – 22.00	Hotel Pollux, Bahnhofstr. 28, Zermatt
<b>15.04.2026</b>	07.30 – 18.00	Hotel Montpellier, Rue du Centre sportif 37, Verbier
<b>17.04.2026</b>	13.00 – 22.00	Hotel Pollux, Bahnhofstr 28, Zermatt
<b>18.04.2026</b>	07.30 – 18.00	Hotel Montpellier, Rue du Centre sportif 37, Verbier



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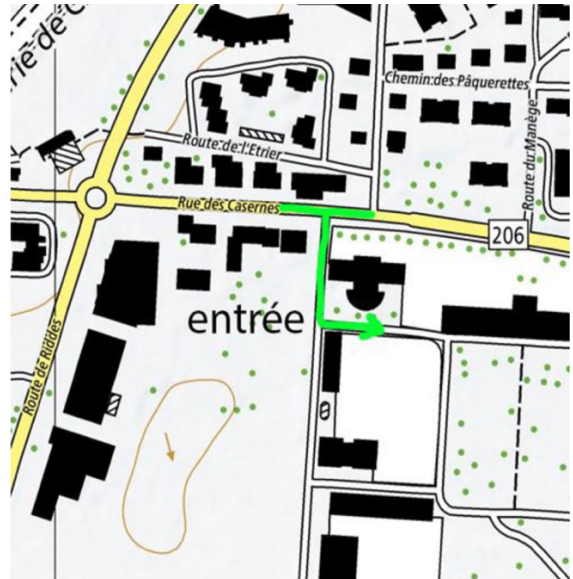
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## Access to the Sion Caserne

To collect your accreditation and press dossier, please report to the guard at the entrance.

### 1. Access via Rue des Casernes



### 2. Access via Rue de la Dixence





## 2. Race Program

Date / heure	Lieu	Contenu
Tuesday 14 April, 16.30	ZERMATT, Church	Opening ceremony 1
Tuesday 14 April, 18.00	ZERMATT, Church	Opening ceremony 2
Tuesday 14 April, 22.00	ZERMATT	First Z1 start
Wednesday 15 April, 02.40	AROLLA	Start ceremony and A1 race start
Wednesday 15 April, 03.30	AROLLA	First A1 start
Wednesday 15 April, 14.30	VERBIER	Podium ceremony
Friday 17 April, 16.30	ZERMATT, Church	Opening ceremony 1
Friday 17 April, 18.00	ZERMATT, Church	Opening ceremony 2
Friday 17 April, 22.00	ZERMATT	First Z2 start
Saturday 18 April, 02.40	AROLLA	Start ceremony and A2 race start
Saturday 18 April, 03.30	AROLLA	First A2 start
Saturday 18 April, 14.30	VERBIER	Podium ceremony

Depending on weather conditions, the races may be postponed or cancelled.



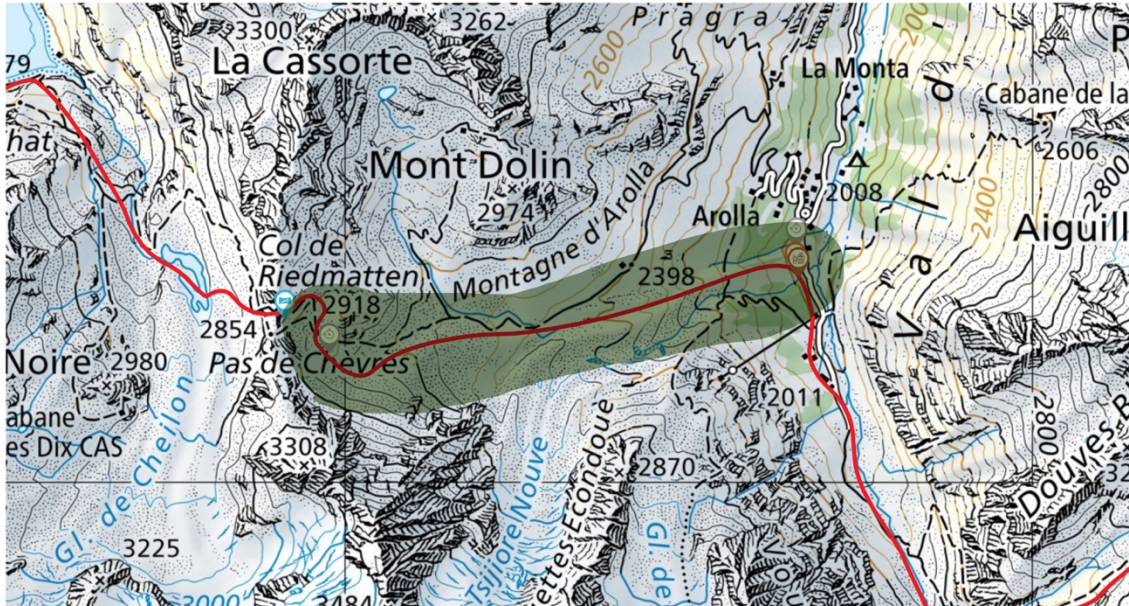
### 3. Transport

No transport is organized for journalists between ZERMATT, AROLLA and VERBIER. The same applies to helicopter transport. The LES HAUDÈRES–AROLLA road has restricted access; however, on presentation of your accreditation, you may travel to AROLLA in your own vehicle, where press parking is available (see next pages). You may also access VERBIER in your own vehicle, where press parking is likewise available (see next pages).

***We encourage you to use public transport to travel to various sites.***

Your press bib allows you to access the media-authorized areas along the route by your own means. The PdG does not organize transport to these areas. The following zones are accessible:

- **From the bottom of the ski slopes to the start in Arolla and onwards to the Pas de Chèvre sector**, following the slopes; access is on foot near the start area and exclusively on touring skis with skins along the route.
- **Col de la Rosablanche**: from Col des Gentianes, taking the Tortin–Gentianes cable car; from there, the destination can be reached after about 3 hours on touring skis with skins.
- **Bottom of Col de la Chaux**: about 1 hour from Col des Gentianes, 2 hours from Verbier and 1 hour from Les Ruinettes (average touring-ski times for all routes).



Access to Pas de Chèvre



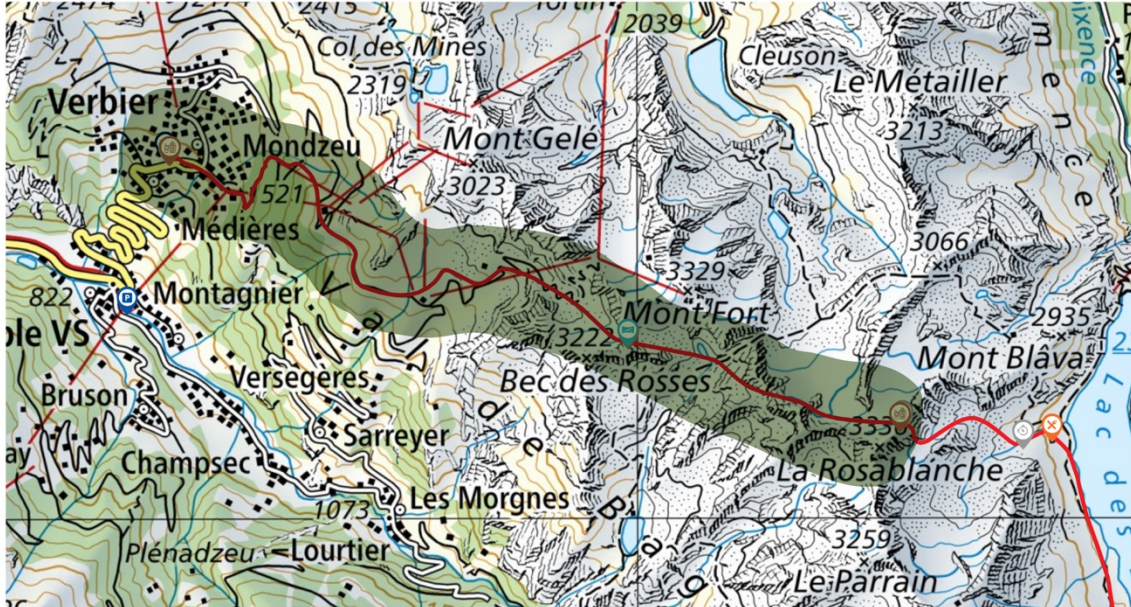
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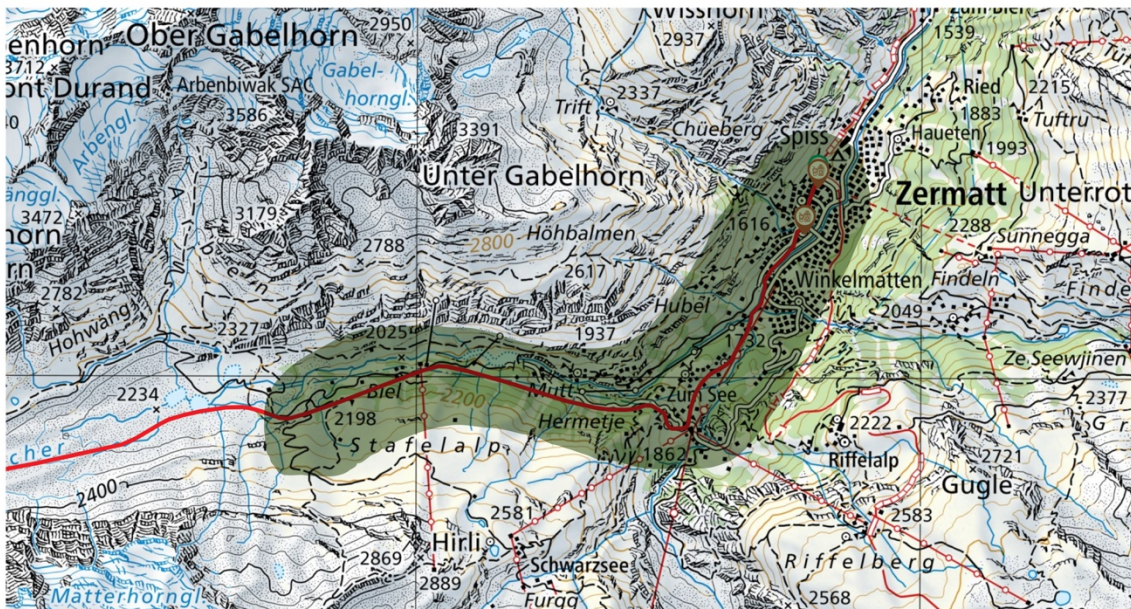
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*Access to Col de La Rosablanche*



*Access to Col de la Chaux*



## Liability clause – Media access

The areas listed above are authorized locations for media coverage of the Patrouille des Glaciers, subject to strict compliance with safety regulations and high-mountain conditions. Media representatives access them by their own means, at their own responsibility, and must be properly equipped and keep themselves continuously informed about weather conditions.

Any instruction given by a member of the organization, military or civilian, particularly in the event of access restrictions or prohibitions, must be followed immediately.

The organization declines all liability, within the limits permitted by applicable law, in the event of accidents or material or bodily damage. Outside the authorized areas, any presence is strongly discouraged and is undertaken solely at the risk of the people concerned, without any liability for the organization.

The Patrouille des Glaciers is a ski mountaineering competition held in high mountains, in a demanding and hazardous environment, where respect for the mountain requires strict compliance with safety rules.

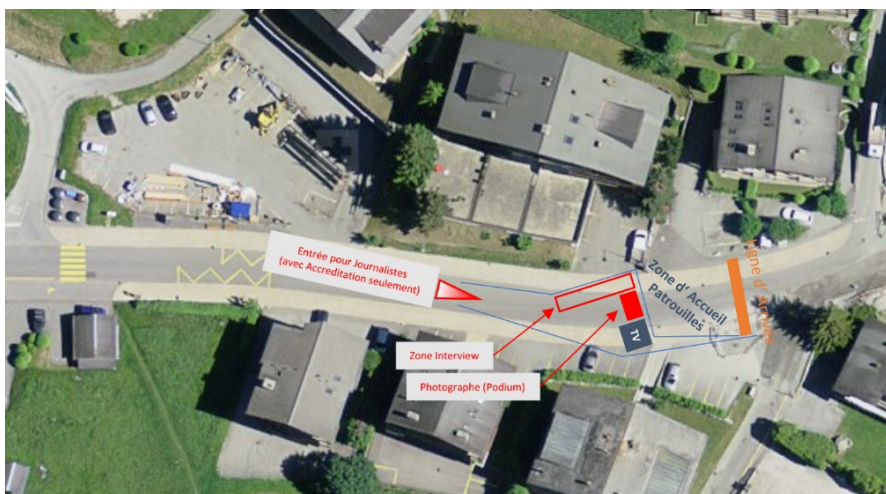
The use of drones above the Patrouille des Glaciers course is strictly prohibited.

## Parking / How to get to ZERMATT

It is not possible to reach ZERMATT by car. There are sufficient parking spaces in TÄSCH in the car park next to the railway station. You can then take the train to ZERMATT. The train journey takes 12 minutes.

## Parking / Finish area in VERBIER

On presentation of their badge, accredited press representatives may access parking area P4 in VERBIER, where the number of spaces is limited. If all spaces are taken, please follow the instructions given and park where indicated. A press room is available at Hôtel Montpellier, Rue du Centre sportif 37 (see location No. 6 on the map below).



Site map of the finish area



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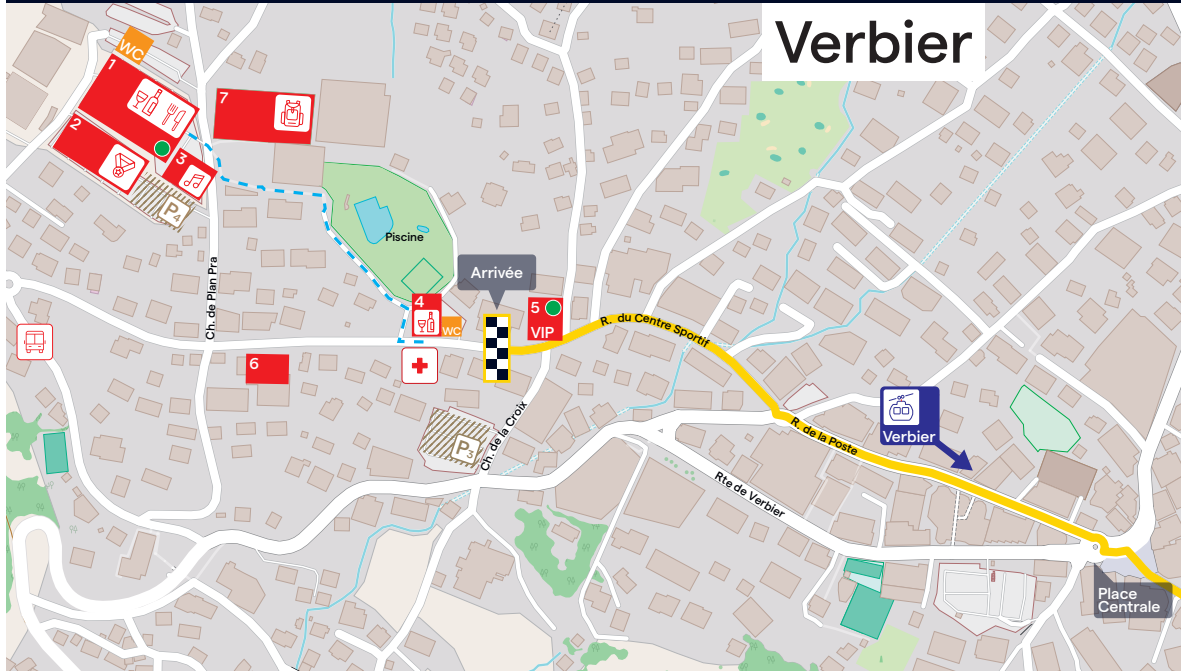
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## DES PATROUILLE GLACIERS

13 – 19 avril 2026

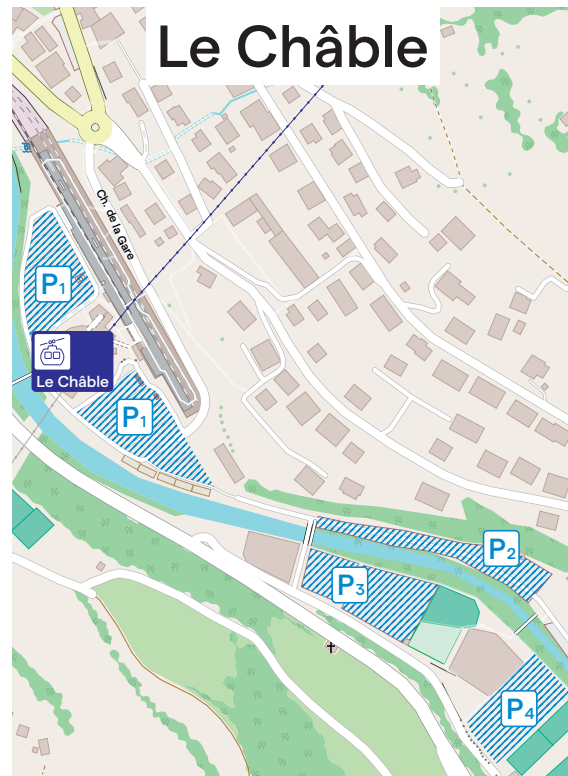
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Plan de Verbier



Merci de suivre la signalisation sur place.

	Parkings publics Le Châble – Curala
	Parkings publics Le Châble – Espace St-Marc
	Parking du Catogne – réservé VIP et bénévoles
	Parking Périn – réservé partenaires, médias et organisation
	Accès piétons
	Itinéraire d'arrivée des patrouilleurs
	Télécabine de Médran
	Espace Hospitalité
	Tente, bar et restaurant Exposition PdG
	Cérémonie des prix
	Village d'animations
	Bar
	Tribune VIP
	Salle de presse médias
	Centre Sportif Point de rencontre des bénévoles
	Poste sanitaire
	Bus navette (vers Médran et Le Châble)





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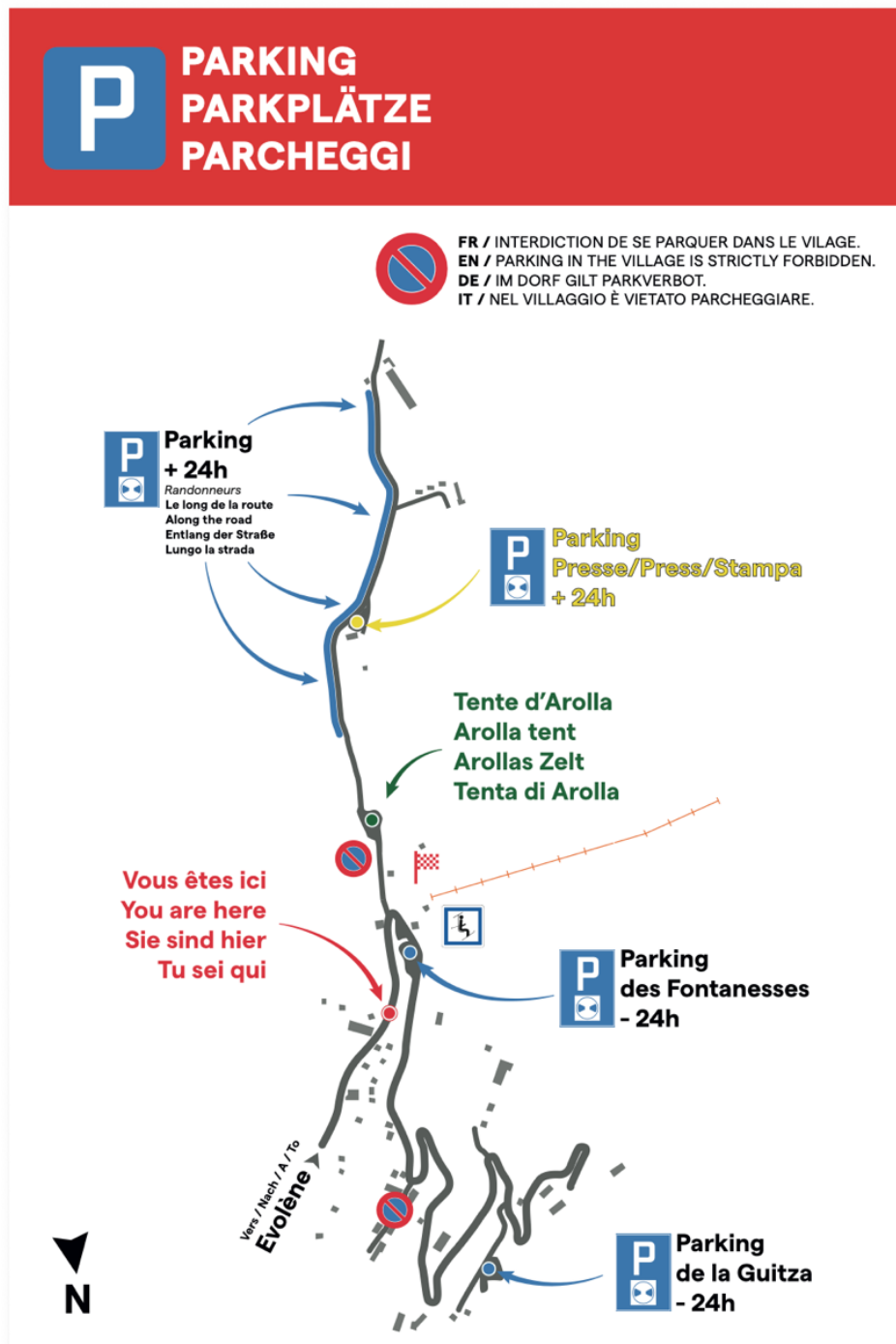
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## Parking AROLLA

During race week, press parking is available (shown in yellow on the map below).





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## 4. News before and during the PdG

To stay up to date with the latest race news, please consult our website ([www.pdg.ch](http://www.pdg.ch)) during the event.

You can also follow the race live via the following link: [live.pdg.ch](http://live.pdg.ch), with no app installation required. This platform allows you to track race progress in real time in a simple and efficient way.

- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/PatrouilleDesGlaciers](http://www.facebook.com/PatrouilleDesGlaciers)
- Instagram: [patrouilledesglaciers\\_official](https://www.instagram.com/patrouilledesglaciers_official)
- LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/company/patrouilledesglaciers/](http://www.linkedin.com/company/patrouilledesglaciers/)

## 5. Photos

A drive containing event photos is available to journalists and media. The link to this drive can be found on our media page on the official website:

**<https://www.pdg.ch/presse-media/>**

## 6. Results

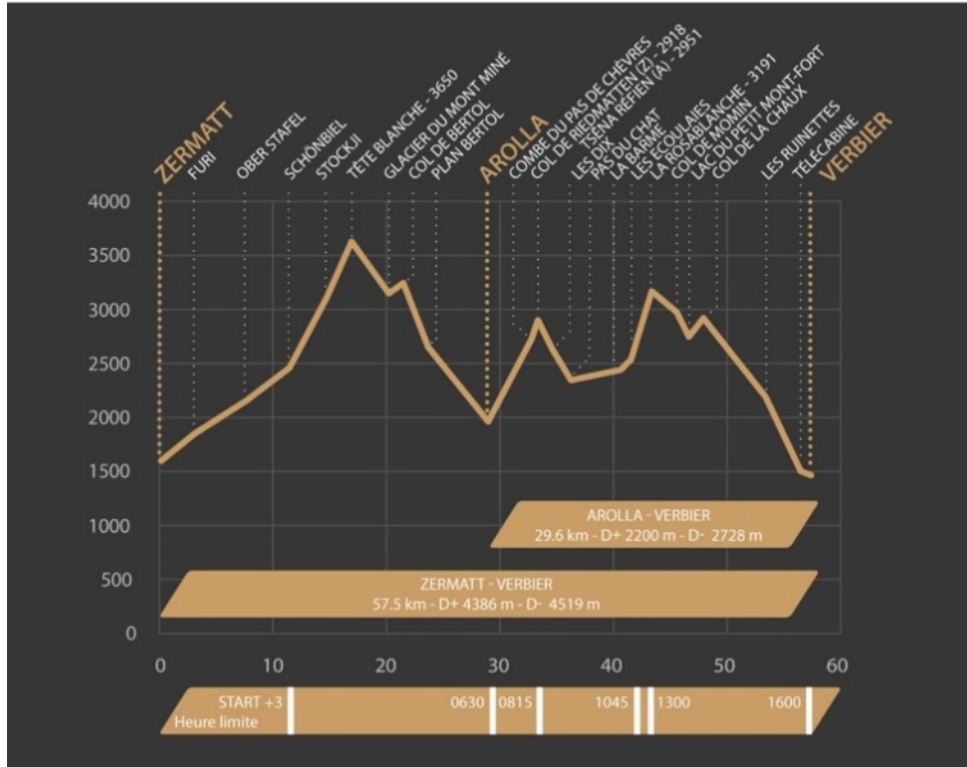
Provisional results are available in real time on the official Patrouille des Glaciers app or at [live.pdg.ch](http://live.pdg.ch).

Final results and winners will be published at:

<https://www.pdg.ch/resultats>



## 7. Course profile



### Z1/Z2 races

- ZERMATT – SCHÖNBIEL in a maximum of 3 hours
- Passage through AROLLA at 06.30 (except Z2 start at 03.00)
- Arrival in VERBIER at 16.00
- Total distance: 57.5 km
- Elevation: +4386 m, -4519 m

### A1/A2 races

- Passage at LA COMBE DU PAS DE CHÈVRES by 08.15 at the latest
- Arrival in Verbier at 16.00
- Total distance: 29.6 km
- Elevation: +2200 m, -2728 m



## Facts and figures on PdG 2026

### 1. Introduction

The PdG is an international military ski mountaineering race organized by the Swiss Armed Forces. The event is contested by military or civilian patrols of three competitors and is open to male, female, and mixed teams.

The race runs from ZERMATT to VERBIER (course Z) and from AROLLA to VERBIER (course A) and must be completed in a single stage. This unique race is characterized by the length and altitude of its route profile, as well as by the demands of the alpine environment.

Participants must meet the following demanding requirements:

- very good knowledge of the high mountains, an essential condition for dealing with unforeseen and sometimes extreme situations encountered in the Alps;
- a rope-team spirit that always prioritizes, within the patrol and towards other participants, friendship, solidarity, caution, awareness of one's own limits, and respect for the mountains and nature.

Switzerland distinguished itself in ski mountaineering at the 2026 Olympic Games, notably thanks to medalists Marianne Fattouh and Jon Kistler. Alongside them, other Swiss athletes represented the country at the highest international level, including Arno Lietha, Caroline Ulrich, Thomas Bussard, and Rémi Bonnet. The 2026 Patrouille des Glaciers will notably feature Caroline Ulrich and Aurélien Gay, both members of the Swiss and international ski mountaineering elite.

For the 2026 edition, the Patrouille des Glaciers is pleased to rely on four ambassadors with complementary profiles. They include two top-level ski mountaineering athletes pursuing different sporting paths and objectives, as well as two personalities who are members of the PdG Foundation Board. Together, they embody sporting excellence, the transmission of values, and the institutional commitment that define the Patrouille des Glaciers.



Caroline Ulrich, from **La Tour-de-Peilz**, is a member of the Swiss ski mountaineering team. She has an impressive record, including four world titles in the cadet category, **two gold medals at the Youth Olympic Games**, and European and **world titles in the U23 category**.

Caroline Ulrich will take part in the 2026 edition as part of the Swiss team. Her involvement also has a **strong generational dimension**: she is the daughter of a former participant who was among **the first women to start the Patrouille des Glaciers**, illustrating a unique transmission of values and passion for this legendary race.



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Aurélien Gay, from **Le Levron** and based in Martigny, is a member of the Swiss ski mountaineering team. A recognized **specialist in the vertical race discipline**, he has established himself on the international stage through his consistency and high-level performances.

The 2024–2025 season marks a high point in his career, with **two medals at the Ski Mountaineering World Championships** in Morgins: bronze in the Vertical Race and **silver in the team event**, confirming his status among the world elite.

He will take part in the 2026 edition, driven by a clear ambition: to prevail in this legendary race and add his name to the Patrouille des Glaciers honors list.



Andrea Sherpa-Zimmermann, from **Biel/Bienne**, is the ninth woman to have climbed Mount Everest and works as a **lawyer at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)** in Lausanne. An entrepreneur, she is involved in projects linked to the mountains and the international sphere. As a former top-level athlete on the Swiss ski mountaineering team, she has solid experience in high-mountain competition and **has already won the Patrouille des Glaciers**.

As a member of the PdG Foundation Board, Andrea Sherpa-Zimmermann contributes to passing on the values, history and spirit of this emblematic event. Registered for the 2026 edition, she will start the main race between Zermatt and Verbier, confirming her long-term commitment to the Patrouille des Glaciers and to top-level ski mountaineering.



Nicolas Bideau, from **Lausanne**, works for the **Swiss Confederation in Bern**. In **2011**, he was appointed **director of Presence Switzerland**, the federal body responsible for promoting Switzerland abroad. Since 2022, he has served as **Head of Communication of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)**.

As a member of the Patrouille des Glaciers Foundation Board and a former participant in the race, Nicolas Bideau will take part in the 2026 edition on the **Arolla–Verbier** course. His participation embodies the strong link between institutional commitment, attachment to the mountains, and the spirit of the PdG.



## 2. Participation

For the 2026 edition of the PdG, the figures are as follows:

### 1,376 patrols

- 247 Swiss military patrols
- 32 international military patrols
- 279 military patrols in total (~20% of all patrols)
- 118 civilian patrols accompanied by a guide
- 965 civilian patrols without a guide
- 112 all-female patrols
- 449 mixed patrols
- 817 male patrols
- The youngest participants are 18 years old, with a total of 5 athletes recorded in this age group (3 men and 2 women).
- The oldest participant is 83 years old.
- The oldest female participant is 69 years old.

36 nationalities are represented among the patrols.

## 3. Personnel

- Around 900 Armed Forces personnel, including 75 mountain specialists, are deployed supporting the PdG.
- These personnel are distributed across 15 posts or checkpoints.
- In addition, foreign military personnel specializing in alpine operations (AUT, GER, FRA) are present.

## 4. Logistics

A few figures illustrating the logistics as a whole:

- 300 tons of equipment deployed
- No equipment is left behind: Mountain Specialist School 15 of the Armed Forces Alpine Service Competence Centre carries out the complete cleanup of the route.

## 5. Medical personnel

Medical coverage is guaranteed throughout the race. In the event of an accident, runners will be taken care of within minutes by

- 45 healthcare professionals (35 doctors, 4 nurses, 4 medical dispatch coordinators, and 2 mountain rescue guides)
- Supported by 200 medical troops
- More than 6 tons of medical equipment was deployed during the race.



## 6. Mobile network

Thanks to the deployment of a telecommunications specialist staff, many of whose members come from Swisscom, we can provide 4G/5G coverage across the entire route.

- Military resources are used to carry the Swisscom signal.
- Four redundant systems always ensure connectivity, in addition to independent systems.
- More than 1,600 mobile phones equipped with a GPS tracker and an emergency number are in use. Each patrol is equipped with a GPS-tracking mobile phone, enabling geolocation and emergency calls.

## 7. Categories and classification

Each category—male, female, or mixed patrols—is divided into three age classes for each race:

- combined age of the 3 patrol members up to 102 years
- combined age of the 3 patrol members from 103 to 150 years
- combined age of the 3 patrol members from 151 to 195 years.

For each Z race, three trophies are awarded:

- best female team
- best male team
- best mixed team

A trophy is also awarded to the best military patrol on the Z course. Foreign military patrols are included in the Swiss military ranking.

## 8. Records

### ZERMATT – VERBIER

#### Men

- 5:35:27 by Robert Antonioli (IT), Matteo Eydallin (IT), Michele Boscacci (IT) in 2018.

#### Women

- 7:15:35 by Jennifer Fiechter (CH), Axelle Mollaret (F), Laetitia Roux (F) in 2018.

### AROLLA – VERBIER

- 3:32:07 by Déborah Chiarello (CH), Marianne Fatton (CH), Florence Buchs (CH) in 2018.



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## **9. Sustainability**

As part of the promotion of public transportation, a partnership with SBB allows patrols to benefit from free return travel from their place of residence. Three people who are accompanying them can also benefit from a 50% discount on the purchase of a ticket. The organizers strongly encourage spectators to use public transport.

The PdG is also part of a broader sustainability approach, with a CO<sub>2</sub> assessment carried out for each edition. This identifies the main sources of emissions and defines corrective measures. It is available online at <https://www.pdg.ch/en/impact/>

## **10. Close cooperation between the PdG Foundation and the Armed Forces**

Close cooperation links the Swiss Armed Forces and the Patrouille des Glaciers Foundation, chaired by Philippe Rebord. The Foundation is responsible for the event's marketing and promotion, while the Armed Forces handle the operational and organizational aspects of the race.

Corinne Rimet-Baume, the foundation's executive director, highlights the attractiveness of the event: "The PdG Foundation is delighted to bring together new partners and sponsors around this legendary ski mountaineering race, whose true scale is not always immediately apparent."

## **11. Media contacts**

For military enquiries:

Lieutenant Colonel Harley Anderegg, Head of Communications, 076 302 24 88, [presse@pdg.ch](mailto:presse@pdg.ch)

For the Patrouille des Glaciers Foundation:

Corinne Rimet-Baume, 079 621 40 15, [operations@fopdg.ch](mailto:operations@fopdg.ch)