

# Kranjska Gora, where winter takes the stage

Official bulletin of the competition



**Audi FIS Ski World Cup Women**  
Svetovni pokal v alpskem smučanju za ženske  
Kranjska Gora, 4 & 5 January 2025



**KRANJSKA GORA**



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**Dear alpine ski enthusiasts,**

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to the Audi FIS Ski World Cup Women taking place on 4 & 5 January 2025 in Kranjska Gora. The best skiers from around the globe will compete in the giant slalom and slalom on the Podkoren piste, promising an unforgettable sporting experience. In addition to the top-level races, a rich accompanying programme will add some more variety to the event. I invite you to join us in supporting our sportswomen and enjoy the great atmosphere at this prestigious event.

Enzo Smrekar,  
President of the Ski Association of Slovenia

**Dear ski enthusiasts,**

We are proud that Kranjska Gora will host the world's best Alpine skiers in the Women's World Cup competitions on 4 and 5 January 2025. The famous slopes of Podkoren will become the scene of intense rivalry for valuable points in the giant slalom and slalom. We have put together a varied accompanying programme for visitors to enjoy their time in a great atmosphere. We invite you to join us in creating unforgettable moments and supporting our skiers in their fight for excellent results. We are confident that this well-organised event will become a permanent fixture on the International Ski and Snowboard Federation's calendar.

Luka Steiner,  
President of the Organizing Committee  
Kranjska Gora 2025



## Dear visitors and women's alpine ski enthusiasts!

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Kranjska Gora which is once again hosting the Audi FIS Ski World Cup Women. Kranjska Gora has already hosted the Women's Ski World Cup on several occasions. From 2020 to 2024, the Golden Fox competition was held in Kranjska Gora. Last year, the 60th jubilee edition of the Golden Fox was hosted here and for one last time under this name. This year, the competition was renamed to Audi FIS Ski World Cup Women Kranjska Gora and the tradition of the competition continues under the new name. It is not just a sporting event, but also an event that greatly boosts the profile of Kranjska Gora and Slovenia in the world, as it also contributes significantly to the development of tourism by attracting visitors from all over the world. I am confident that the first weekend of the New Year is going to bring about a skiing fairytale with many entertaining events. We only hope that the weather will be on our side.

In Kranjska Gora, we always strive to host major sporting events and that World Cup competitions keep returning to our places and venues. This means that event organisers team up with experts and volunteers to create excellent conditions that impress time and time again. We are confident that our top skiers will once again reward us with their outstanding achievements, and the fans will loudly encourage them in their efforts.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who, through your dedication, make it possible for this event to be held at the highest level. Your contribution is invaluable and gives the competition an important mark.

I wish the competitors a stellar performance on our slopes and hope they will keep Kranjska Gora in fond memory, and I wish our visitors a wonderful experience full of sporting enjoyment.

I wish you all the best for 2025, see you next year!

Henrika Zupan,  
Mayor of Kranjska Gora





# Members and experts of OC Kranjska Gora 2025

## Members

Luka Steiner	President
Uroš Zupan	Director of SAS
Janez Bijol	Chairman of the Alpine ski assembly
Matjaž Šarabon	OC Kranjska Gora – SAS
Henrika Zupan	Mayor of Kranjska Gora
Gregor Benedik	Representative of ASK Kranjska Gora
Uroš Čadež	Police representative
Roman Kervina	Slovenian Armed Forces representative
Andrej Šporn	Chief of competition
Jernej Jakše	Security and safety steward service
Jože Ajdišek	Transport and transfers
Matevž Podrekar	Accreditation
Mitja Urbanc	Protocol
Matej Andoljšek	Healthcare
Tomaž Šušteršič	Secretary General of the OC

## Experts

Bojan Perko	Competition Office
Maja Širok	Head of venue preparation
Gorazd Bregant	Head of course preparation
Jožko Križan	Marketing
Nuša Rakovec	Marketing
Mitja Jager	Marketing
Tomi Trbovc	Media/public relations
Mirjam Žerjav	Accommodation
Nicole Rademacher	Ticket sales
Klemen Čuden	Food
Tatjana Kopavnik	Finance, accounting
Ana Dolhar	OC coordinator

## Dear winter sports enthusiasts,

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to the first act of the season, the Audi FIS Ski World Cup Women which will take place on 4 & 5 January 2025 in Kranjska Gora. Our team has thought of everything in order to ensure a first-class experience for everyone involved, including the visitors.

Last year's Audi FIS Ski World Cup competitions in Kranjska Gora were a great success despite the challenging weather conditions. We achieved the impossible and this success gives us the extra motivation to set up an event at the highest level again this year.

We will welcome the world's best alpine skiers competing in the giant slalom and slalom on the legendary slopes of Podkoren. The competition is an incredible opportunity to showcase our hospitality, promote winter tourism and our rich sporting tradition.

In addition to outstanding sporting performances, visitors can look forward to a rich accompanying and musical programme for a great atmosphere in the finish arena and later in the evening in Kranjska Gora. We acknowledge that your support is crucial – both your cheers along the piste and the enthusiasm you bring to our valley.

We promise you that we have done everything in our power to make this an unforgettable event. Cheer our sportswomen on in person and support them in their fight for the best results. Together we can create another grand celebration of sports.

Allow me to thank all the partners and sponsors who have recognised the importance of competition and joined our broad ski family, as well as all the staff of the Organising and Competition Committee who have made the excellent competition conditions a reality.

Sports regards,

Tomaž Šušteršič,  
Secretary General  
OC Kranjska Gora 2025





# Audi FIS Ski World Cup Women Kranjska Gora 2025

The Audi FIS Ski World Cup Women Kranjska Gora 2025 will open a new chapter in the history of women's alpine skiing in Slovenia. The Golden Fox (Zlata lisica), known since 1964 as one of the most important Women's World Cup competitions, started out as a symbol of success and excellent organisation in Maribor. While ski enthusiasts in Maribor had hoped for good snow conditions for many years, the event had to be frequently moved to Kranjska Gora due to climate change and unpredictable winter conditions, as the conditions are much more favourable for the preparation of the race course.



In the past, the Golden Fox competition always attracted crowds of fans from all over Slovenia and neighbouring countries who enthusiastically watched the performances of the world's top female alpine skiers. Despite the moves, the event retained its prestigious name, but as time went on it became clear that the snow conditions in Maribor will become less and less suitable for the organisation of such a complex competition. The last competitions held in Maribor were in the 2018/19 season.

Moving the women's Ski World Cup competitions from Maribor to Kranjska Gora does not only mean a change of location, but also transitioning to a new era of women's alpine skiing in Slovenia. With the official name change to the Audi FIS Ski World Cup Women Kranjska Gora 2025, the Slovenian venue will become a permanent fixture on the World Cup calendar. The organisers believe that the new location, with its infrastructure, tradition and conditions, will contribute to an even better experience for the sportswomen, support staff, organisers and spectators.

Thanks to its rich history of organising world ski competitions, Kranjska Gora has the potential to become a permanent fixture on the world ski map.



The men's World Cup has been held regularly in this idyllic Alpine region for many years, and now the women's section of the World Cup caravane will also find a home here. The Ski Association of Slovenia has gone to great lengths and is committed to ensure that Slovenians can continue to support their top female skiers on their home turf.

In the coming years, the Audi FIS Ski World Cup Women Kranjska Gora will continue to strengthen Slovenia's reputation as a destination for top winter sports, while boosting tourism and the local economy. The many foreign visitors who come to Kranjska Gora every year will have the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful nature of the Julian Alps and the excellent ski infrastructure, which will further strengthen the reputation of this destination.

The new name and venue might also help to raise the profile of Slovenian female skiers, who will be able to compete in front of local fans in conditions that are more familiar and adapted to them. On this special occasion, Slovenian competitors such as Ana Bucik Jogan, Andreja Slokar, Neja Dvornik and other up-and-coming stars will be able to demonstrate their excellence on home ground and perhaps attract even more young athletes to alpine skiing.





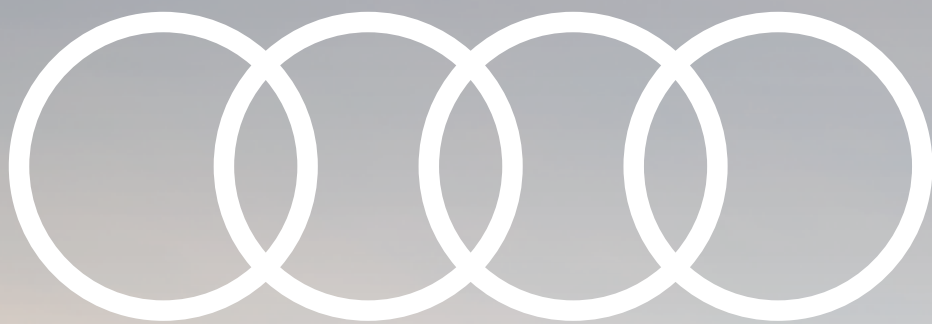
The Audi FIS Ski World Cup Women in Kranjska Gora will be more than just a sporting event – it will be a celebration of skiing, tradition and Slovenian hospitality. The competition will also give Slovenian ski enthusiasts an opportunity to connect with history, enjoy current successes and look to the future of Slovenian alpine skiing with optimism.

On 4 & 5 January 2025, the world's top alpine female skiers will compete in the giant slalom and slalom races, and their fight for valuable World Cup points will take place on Kranjska Gora's famous Podkoren slopes. The competition is sure to attract the attention of the world's public, not only because of the intense race, but also because Slovenia is entering a new era of hosting prestigious women's alpine competitions.

Kranjska Gora is becoming the new home of the women's ski spectacle, combining the rich tradition of previous years with new opportunities and a fresh start for the decades to come. In this way, Slovenian audiences will continue to enjoy top sporting events and support their sporting heroes on the world's biggest stage.







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significantly to the deterioration of ambient air quality. In particular, they contribute to excessively elevated concentrations of ground-level ozone,  $PM_{10}$  and  $PM_{2,5}$  and nitrogen oxides. PORSCHE SLOVENIJA, d.o.o., Bravničarjeva 5, 1000 Ljubljana. Image is symbolic. More at [audi.si](https://www.audi.si).



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# Audi FIS Ski World Cup Women

Svetovni pokal v alpskem smučanju za ženske  
Kranjska Gora, 4 & 5 January 2025



## PROGRAMME

### FRIDAY, 3 January 2025

KRANJSKA GORA (Alpine Village)

19:00 Music entertainment with the  
**ABBA MIA TRIBUTE BAND**  
(free entry)

### SATURDAY, 4 JANUARY 2025

PODKOREN VENUE

09:30 1<sup>st</sup> run giant slalom

11:00 Ski party with **MIRAN RUDAN & inDESIGN**

12:30 2<sup>nd</sup> run giant slalom

13:45 Result Announcement (finish arena)

KRANJSKA GORA (Vitranc Hall)

18:00 Giant slalom award ceremony  
Public draw of bib numbers for Sunday's slalom

18:15 Music entertainment with the  
**ZVITA FELTNA BAND** and **FIS LEGENDS**  
- **CIKCAK BAND** (free entry)

### SUNDAY, 5 JANUARY 2025

PODKOREN VENUE

10:00 1<sup>st</sup> run slalom

11:30 Ski party with the **ČUKI BAND**

13:00 2<sup>nd</sup> run slalom

14:15 Result announcement and slalom  
award ceremony (finish arena)



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## Interview

# Ana Bucik Jogan

### **What are your first memories of Kranjska Gora?**

My first memories of Kranjska Gora go back to children's races. We had a race for the national cup and that was the first time I set foot on the slopes of Podkoren. At that time, naturally, the piste seemed even more challenging than today. This is my first memory of Kranjska Gora, which is more vivid than my first World Cup race at the same venue.

### **What comes first to mind when you think of Kranjska Gora, and why?**

When I think of Kranjska Gora, I think of the home race, the fans. It's basically one big joy for me, giving me motivation, and it's first and foremost a race I always look forward to.

### **What part of the Women's Alpine Ski World Cup in Kranjska Gora do you like the most?**

What I like the most is that it is our home race and that there are so many fans. Above all, having all my closest family members, friends and relatives around me always boosts my motivation: this is why I love this race so much.

### **The Women's Alpine Ski race in Kranjska Gora in January is considered one of the most challenging in the World Cup. Especially because of the shade and icy track. Do you (dis)agree, and why?**

Yes, for sure. The terrain configuration itself is challenging and the preparation of the course was icy on many occasions, but it's not always so icy. As for the preparation itself, it varies a lot depending on the year. The configuration is among the most challenging ones, which is a big advantage for us locals, because we know it better than the other competitors, so I look forward to it. It's always good to know all the bumps, you need to pull off all the turns on the course and manage the final slope at the end, it's a very dynamic race.

### **What do you think about when you're in the starting hut before you go downhill? On the giant slalom or the slalom?**

In the starting hut, I usually think about how to achieve the best possible run and tell myself those last few motivational things to start the race as determined as possible. Preparation for the giant slalom and the slalom is very similar in my case.

### **As an athlete, how does it feel to be surrounded by fans during your run, especially when you reach the final slope? What do the fans who flock to Kranjska Gora mean to you?**

You can already feel the fans when you leave Team Hospitality, go towards the start and sit on the chairlift. At that point you can already feel they are with you and this is a big, big, big plus for me, so I always want there to be as many fans as possible.

### **What does it mean to you that you have family and friends at the finish arena in Kranjska Gora?**

Having family and friends around is always a very good influence on me, it affects me very positively and this is why it's one of the races I look forward to the most.

### **Can you share some more about your feelings before the home race in the Kranjska Gora World Cup?**

There are always feelings before a race. Some kind of positive excitement and a desire to perform well, perhaps even more than at other venues.





## Interview

# Andreja Slokar

### **What are your first memories of Kranjska Gora?**

Unfortunately not the best. I remember there was a national cup competition in which, unfortunately, many girls were injured.

### **What comes first to mind when you think of Kranjska Gora, and why?**

When anyone mentions Kranjska Gora, I think of the piste in Podkoren and never the town of Kranjska Gora. I probably associate the town with the ski slope, because I have competed and trained more on the slopes of Podkoren than I have skied in Kranjska Gora, like on the Dolenc route.

### **What part of the Women's Alpine Ski World Cup in Kranjska Gora do you like the most?**

I don't remember ever training there before I started competing in the FIS Alpine Ski World Cup. But there were national championship races.

### **How many ski days did you spend on the slopes of Podkoren in the past, when you were in the younger categories?**

I did not spend any on the course where the World Cup races are held, but I did spend many on the adjacent course, which is not as steep and easier.

### **What do you think about when you're in the starting hut before you go downhill? On the giant slalom or the slalom?**

I mostly think about what I need to do on the course, both about my skiing technique and tactics. But it also frequently happens that I convince myself in my mind that I know how to and can do it.

### **What do the fans who flock to Kranjska Gora mean to you?**

It's a nice feeling when people cheer and are happy, but also when they are disappointed with you. It's a really good feeling to experience all these emotions in Slovenia.

### **How positive is it that an Alpine Ski World Cup race is held in Slovenia?**

It's terrific for the promotion of alpine skiing in Slovenia and I hope that we will be able to compete at home in the future as well. It's nice to continue both women's and men's races.

### **What does it mean to you that you have family and friends at the finish arena in Kranjska Gora?**

I'm not used to having family around at World Cup races because they rarely come, but it is nice to see them.

### **There is always some pressure at World Cup level, but how do you deal with it before the home race?**

In general, I don't deal very well with the pressure, but I'm working on it. I can feel the difference between a home race and a race abroad. It is less burdensome, but it can also be positive if it's the pressure of a big race. Then I come alive and it gives me further encouragement.





## Interview

# Neja Dvornik

### **What are your first memories of Kranjska Gora?**

My first memories of Kranjska Gora are from childhood, when I was about eight years old and won a race with a 10 second lead. I also have very fond memories of Kranjska Gora from a race in the Rok Petrovič Cup.

### **What part of the Women's Alpine Ski World Cup in Kranjska Gora do you like the most?**

The World Cup race in Kranjska Gora is a difficult one and there is no better feeling than arriving at the finishing slope – you're tired, but you still need to squeeze out those last eight turns. The race on the slopes of Podkoren is really tough, not only because of its configuration and poor visibility in the January shade, but also because of the base which is usually quite icy. In my experience, there is no middle ground – you either do very well or you don't succeed at all. You have to be really well prepared for this race, especially mentally.

### **What do you think about when you're in the starting hut before you go downhill? On the giant slalom or the slalom?**

I always put everything important away in my subconscious before I walk over to the starting hut. But just before the start, I try to keep my head as clear as possible. Not mindlessly empty, I just don't think about what I have to do and what is going to happen. Because I know that if I rely on my know-how and instincts while on the piste, I have nothing to worry about. All that matters is keeping in mind that I am in a race and that I need to compete and take risks.

### **As an athlete, how does it feel to be surrounded by fans during your run, especially when you reach the final slope?**

The fans play an integral part! I don't usually hear them during the run because I focus only on the run and what's happening on the course, so the rest gets a bit muffled. But if the fans are really loud, I can hear them on the finish slope and they bring out the last bits of strength I need for the last slope, where I'm already somewhat tired.

### **What do the fans who flock to Kranjska Gora mean to you?**

Home races are always something special, but it's the fans who make them so special and that is why I always want to perform well at home.

### **Can you share some more about your feelings before the home race in the Kranjska Gora World Cup?**

It's a race like any other, but I still feel some of that positive nervousness because I want to perform really well and achieve good results at the home race, in front of local fans. But it's important that I don't get distracted and that my mind is focused on the things that really count for a good performance.

### **There is always some pressure at World Cup level, but how do you deal with it before the home race?**

When I get the feeling that I'm under pressure, I push it away by filling my head with things that are more important at the moment and by keeping in mind that skiing is something I love to do. But the race is about opening the valves and doing my best at any given moment.

### **What result or moment are you most proud of since you started competing in the World Cup races in Kranjska Gora?**

My first points for the 2021 World Cup in giant slalom. These two races were some of the most challenging in my career. It's also a fond memory because Meta Hrovat won second place in her home race that year.





## Anja Oplotnik

It's always nice to compete at home. We have many local fans who come to Kranjska Gora to support us and they always make sure the mood is good. On the one hand, a home race can be an advantage, because I've skied over the terrain many times and know it well. I made my World Cup debut in Kranjska Gora and would therefore like to win my first World Cup points at home in Kranjska Gora. Hopefully I can achieve this already this year.



## Lila Lapanja

I am happy that Slovenia has a home race, as it is very important for Slovenian skiing. I have competed twice before in Maribor and look forward to the races in Kranjska Gora, because the venue is very close to me. My family and friends will come to watch and cheer me on. Hopefully the race will be top-notch. The course itself is very dear to my heart and I really look forward to it. I know I can deliver a good run, but only if I am in good form. I can't wait to face this challenge and make a connection with Slovenian fans.

## Nika Tomšič

I know the Kranjska Gora venue quite well, because I took part in many races there in the children's categories. On the one hand, I can feel very relaxed in this race because I know every turn and every hump on the course very well. But on the other hand, this is the only home race or race in Slovenia and my loved ones come to encourage me.

This is why I also feel some more pressure. I want to try even harder for them and don't want to let them down. In general, I love competing in Kranjska Gora, because I like the terrain. It might not be the easiest, but I like it because it's more varied.

It's always nice to compete in front of your home crowd because you know that a lot of fans came to cheer you on and encourage you.





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# Welcome to Kranjska Gora

Alpine skiing is and always will be the white soul of Kranjska Gora. Kranjska Gora is special because it offers a wide variety of terrain, ensuring a quality skiing experience for beginners and professional skiers alike. There are more than 30 km of running trails for anyone who loves a genuine contact with nature. In fact, the entire Upper Sava Valley is a cross-country skiing paradise. There are cross-country skiing trails in Gozd Martuljek, Mojstrana, Radovna Valley and Kranjska Gora, where you can also enjoy night cross-country skiing on a floodlit track.

The winter wonderland of Kranjska Gora offers a wide range of activities to experience. A special experience is to climb frozen waterfalls. You can try your hand at a frozen waterfall or the artificial ice climbing wall at the Mlačka gorge in Mojstrana.

Night sledging is organised on well-maintained and floodlit sledging slopes. In the evening, off-road vehicles take you up to the sledging area so that you can enjoy the “sweet part” of the adventure – sledging down to the valley.

But that's not the end of the winter fun at our destination: snow-shoeing, torchlight hikes, ice skating, walking through the Alpine Village in the centre of Kranjska Gora. In winter, you will be greeted by richly decorated streets and squares as well as enjoy the many delicacies on offer.

♥  
Kolekcija  
Lencia Bubbly



Nika Križnar

prva slovenska dobitnica  
Velikega kristalnega globusa v smučarskih skokih

  
ZLATARNA CELJE

1844



# Kranjska Gora in all seasons

Alpine skiing and ski jumping/flying in Planica have made Kranjska Gora famous beyond Slovenia's borders, but hiking and cycling activities keep the resort vibrant all year round.

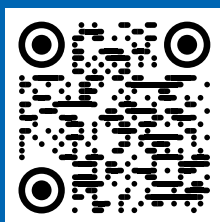
Kranjska Gora is a paradise for cyclists: the three countries' long-distance cycling trail follows the route of the former railway from Mojstrana across the border to Italy and Austria. In summer, Kranjska Gora offers many hiking tours in the Karawanks and Julian Alps, from easy hikes to climbing the highest peaks. For adrenaline-seekers, we have four via ferrata routes of varying difficulty.

Whatever the season, Kranjska Gora always offers unforgettable experiences. Join us in the winter months for some fun in the snow and in the summer for active leisure activities.



KRANJSKA  GORA

*Rezerviraj nastanitev v Kranjski Gori.  
Book your accommodation in Kranjska Gora.*



[www.kranjska-gora.si](http://www.kranjska-gora.si)



## Interview

# Andrej Šporn

## Chief of competition

**A new role for you – you have stepped into some big shoes. How do you feel in your role as the head of the Women's World Cup competition in Kranjska Gora?**

It's a great honour for me to be entrusted with this responsible job and for people to want me in this position. I would have liked to have had a year or so more experience, but that's the way it went. I have a very experienced team behind me – all the seasoned veterans have promised to help. All in all, I am very happy to have finally taken over this position and am confident that, together, we will deliver a great competition.

**As a local, you know the terrain in Kranjska Gora inside out, and as a former competitor you have a lot of experience with World Cup races. In your opinion, is there anything that should be done differently or could be done better from the get-go?**

Not this year. In previous years, when I was more involved with the Vitranc Cup, we already made some improvements at the site. This is what suits me best – working on the terrain. It's where you can best see where the problems lie.

**Which part of the course in Kranjska Gora is the most difficult to prepare?**

Perhaps the upper slope. You need to be very careful not to slip somewhere, especially when pouring. That's also where the slope is the steepest, so you have to be very precise. When putting up safety nets, we need to make sure that they don't slide down to the valley and so on.

**Do you also receive many requests from national teams who want to train on the Podkoren training ground?**

I am in constant contact with the Slovenian coaches of the World Cup teams, because the training ground is primarily intended for them. There were many wishes for December, so I had to coordinate everything according to the preparedness of the base and agreement with the ski lift operators. As soon as conditions allow it, we let them know that training is possible. The weather, of course, always has the main say.

**Last year, the weather really did not co-operate, so we experienced many issues with making the competition happen. Were the representatives of the International Ski and Snowboard Federation (FIS) any more demanding this summer when you discussed the preparation of the course with them?**

We have certainly learnt from last year's experience. It is no secret that FIS representatives stressed that we should do everything in our power to make sure that the race is not cancelled. They placed particular importance on the need to make the most of every cold day to make snow and to always make sure we have sufficient backup in case of a thaw. We are also aware that we cannot afford to make any mistakes, as there are many venues in line that want to be included on the World Cup calendar. What is new compared to last year is that we have been in constant contact with FIS representatives since autumn and regularly keep them updated with regard to state of the course.



**Is there anything new with regard to the preparation of the course?**

We have several new snow cannons. At first we thought about mobile cannons, but the ski lift operators set up stationary ones instead. So we have more snow-making options on hand than last year.

**The best alpine skiers in the world have become regular guests in Kranjska Gora in recent years. Do you think that it's not unique any more?**

It's true, Kranjska Gora has been hosting Women's World Cup races for quite a few years now and we've all got used to it. It's too bad that there are no more races in Maribor to keep the tradition alive, but these changes in the weather are already making it difficult to prepare the course even in Kranjska Gora, let alone in Maribor. The timing of the competition may be a problem for the locals due to the New Year holidays and winter break. However, I would like to highlight how great it is to have a competition on this level in Kranjska Gora.

**You already mentioned that you have an experienced team working with you to prepare the course. Who are the people you rely on the most?**

First and foremost Janez Šmitek – the man with the most experience and who we all rely on. Gorazd

Bregant is the course manager – I am in constant coordination with him and we make joint decisions on what needs to be done and how. Then there are also members of the Competition Committee, members of ASK Kranjska Gora whom we work with to find the best solutions. Course preparation is a very dynamic job, as you have to adapt quickly to the changing weather conditions.

**Considering all your experience as a competing athlete – do you agree with the assessment that the most difficult course on the Women's World Cup calendar is in Kranjska Gora?**

Based on my familiarity with the slopes, I would say yes. But I think the girls have got more used to the terrain in the last few years. At first they were even more shy and seemed surprised. The race might not be as challenging now as it used to be, but it's still very beautiful. I would like to add that the organisers are trying very hard to prepare the course and make it suitable for the Women's World Cup.

**What was the biggest challenge for you before holding the women's races in Kranjska Gora this year?**

For a long time, the biggest challenge was to ensure that we have enough snow, to properly prepare and harden it as needed.



Photo: GEPA



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**ROGASKA**

The 60<sup>th</sup> jubilee edition of the Golden Fox was marked by Petra Vlhova's third overall victory in the special score. On her win, Petra shared: "I love coming back to Kranjska Gora time and again. I like the piste, many fans cheer for me and you can feel the good mood in the air."

We enjoyed today's race immensely. The weather was better than yesterday and Petra won the top step of the podium.

**A fan of Petra Vlhova**







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The Podkoren ski slope is very challenging and requires a solid technique. Kranjska Gora is like a second home to me, I have trained a lot here and put my abilities to the test in all kinds of weather conditions. The terrain is challenging, of course, but I think its difficulty is adequate for the level at which the women compete here.

**Mateja Svet**



My boyfriend and I were considering where to go on a trip today and we ended up in Kranjska Gora. We don't regret it one bit, as it was a great race and we saw Mateja Svet. I remember her from the times when I used to watch these races in Maribor with my family.

**Anja Parkelj, visitor**



I happened to be in Kranjska Gora on holiday with my family. Since we were on holiday skiing, we decided to watch the race, as our girls are in great shape this year.

**A fan of Zrinka Ljutić**

The atmosphere is fantastic, the race was exciting and the musical programme a perfect fit for us.

**A fan**



## Interview

# Peter Gerdol

## Director of the FIS Ski World Cup Women

**Mr. Gerdol, the races in Kranjska Gora probably hold a special place in your heart as well. You have worked for a long time at the ski resort in Tarvisio, including as chief of competition for the World Cup races. Only some kilometres away is Kranjska Gora, where your home races are held.**

The race in Slovenia, even when it was previously held in Maribor, feels almost like a home race. I am really happy to be returning to Kranjska Gora, to Slovenia. On the other hand, I must admit that this makes me even more strict and demanding. I have higher standards and expectations, because I want the race to be held at the highest possible level. That is why I am perhaps even “annoying” at times, but I am striving to make everything perfect.

**What are you the most strict about? What areas are the hardest for you to be persuaded about or to ease up about?**

My main focus is on the competition. It has to work 110 per cent. From the beginning, when the snow and base preparations start, to the actual execution of the race – including all the staff: from the “sliders”, the people who take care of the poles, to the jury and the timekeepers. The success of a race is always measured by the quality of the sport. Other aspects such as logistics, accommodation, parking spaces, the media centre and ski preparation facilities are very important, but the sport itself always remains the main priority.

**What is your biggest motivation in the role as Women's World Cup Director?**

This job is really something special. There are only two people in the world of Alpine skiing who do this – me and my colleague who runs the Men's World Cup. I am motivated by the contacts with organisers and the constant efforts to raise the organisation level of the competitions. We want to enhance the experience for our main “users” – the female competitors – while at the same time increasing the satisfaction of television viewers and venue visitors.

**In fact, you have a really unique mission, as you already mentioned.**

Whenever I am asked about my work, about some forms or documents, I do not even know what to say to that, to tell you the truth. It is not easy to describe my job with one word! (laughs)

**What challenges does the venue in Kranjska Gora pose? Are these any different from other venues around the world?**

Given the slot of the competition, the biggest challenge is to prepare the course in time. In the past years we had some issues because of the temperatures and snow-making system failures, but we managed to solve them. This year, we have agreed on improvements with the organiser and ski resort manager. It was already clear a month before the event that the preparations were going really well and we were therefore much more optimistic about the conditions on the piste in December.





**Podkoren is considered one of the most challenging ski pistes on the women's calendar. Has it become any less challenging now that the skiers have become more experienced on it?**

It's a very challenging course. A few years ago we decided to start the giant slalom at a lower point, but it is still a big challenge for competitors. This decision has proven to be the right one – the length and the difference in altitude are optimal. The slalom remains very challenging, especially the last slope, where the best ones shine. The course allows the competitors to really demonstrate their abilities.

**In your years of leading the Women's World Cup, is there any challenge left you still wish to overcome?**

Nothing dramatic, but I am noticing that there is still less interest in the women's sport than in the men's. The female competitors show great athletic and technical abilities, and I wish they would be given more recognition.

**Do you have a plan on how to boost interest in Women's World Cup races?**

Of course. The key is to continuously improve the quality of the competitions. In the men's competition, there are several venues with a long tradition, which helps to enhance the level of organisation. In the women's competition, there are some new organisers who we are still working with to improve the standard. We are vigorously working on that so that both parts of the World Cup are presented in a uniform manner and receive the same attention from the media.

**2025 is on our doorstep. What do you wish for alpine skiing fans?**

I wish for the season to continue with amazing and exciting competitions. I hope the audience at the venue and in front of the television screens will respond well and that there will be next to no injuries. And of course I wish for exciting races and excellence in every competition.





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## Podkoren

# The little gem of Gorenjska

Podkoren is a charming Alpine village in the far north-west of Slovenia and a real gem in the Gorenjska region. It is located near the Sava Dolinka spring in the idyllic Zelenci Nature Reserve, surrounded by the Karawanks and Julian Alps, at the edge of the Triglav National Park. Its architectural heritage and natural beauty mesmerise visitors from near and far. Every year, the FIS Women's and Men's Alpine Ski World Cup competitions take place on the slopes of Podkoren.

The local community of Podkoren is known for organising top-level sporting & cultural events. The most visited events are the firefighters' feast under the village lime tree in the village centre, traditionally held on the first Saturday in August, the fire spectacle in November, when Krampus groups from Austria, Italy and Slovenia gather there, and the St. Nicholas Day celebration. Every year on 5 December, Miklavž (St. Nicholas) comes to the village to give presents to children and the elderly.

The Zelenci Nature Reserve has a special place in the village as one of the most beautiful natural attractions in Slovenia. The village of Podkoren is also a popular starting point for hikers heading out into heart of the Julian Alps or the Karawanks. If you prefer cycling, it offers a starting point for short or full-day cycling tours with incredible views.

Podkoren invites you to experience its charm!



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## Interview

# Miran Rudan & inDesign

**Miran, you are known as a versatile musician who performs on all kinds of stages. What is it like to perform at an outdoor winter event such as the Women's Alpine Ski World Cup race in Kranjska Gora?**

I am really a man of the people. Wherever you put me and my band inDesign, there will be a party. Performing outdoors is not the same as performing indoors, that's a fact. I greatly enjoy performing outdoors, because it always brings new challenges and new stories. We were born to entertain, and we always try very hard to deliver what people expect from us. In March, when we performed in Planica, people filled the space under the big stage within ten minutes, which is a sign that they feel good at our shows.

**You radiate such incredible energy that we can imagine you zigzagging down the slopes of Podkoren. Have you ever been on it?**

I used to ski before my head injury 25 years ago, but I don't ski any more as a precaution. I love skiing though, and I often enjoy watching it. Unfortunately, the winters have become a bit warm in recent times and one of my greatest hits, *Zapadel je prvi sneg* (The first snow has fallen), has not been as popular in the last 20 years. It's a beautiful song, but when you sing it, you have to look towards the mountains.

**The extensive, snow-covered town of Kranjska Gora really looks like a picture from a fairy tale.**

It truly is a thing of beauty. We have been to Kranjska Gora with our families a few times when it was covered in snow and I remember that we drove to the sports hall in these conditions for a performance. I like very much that the old part of Kranjska Gora is left in the snow instead of being cleared, it really looks like a fairy tale.

**If you could choose from all your songs, which one would you pick as the one that fits best as a "winter song"?**

Most definitely *Zapadel je prvi sneg* (The first snow has fallen). This song is about 35 years old. We also perform it in the summer and it still takes me back to Kranjska Gora and the memory of the beautiful winter scenery.

**Do you expect many visitors to entertain soon after the start of the New Year in Kranjska Gora?**

I remember a great party we had in Ajdovščina recently, and the attendees immediately told me that they are going to see me again in January at the World Cup, where they will travel to by bus. So there is no doubt that there will be plenty of visitors!

**If Andreja Slokar came up to you and asked you to make a playlist for her to listen to before the race, what would you put on it?**

Oh where should I start... *Ko si na tleh*, *Na nebo* perhaps, or a Christmas carol, or *Medena*... There's so much to choose from, as I've been doing this for the past 40 years. I am so happy that my film *Amen* saw the light of day just during these days. The film covers my entire creative history, but right now I can't say which song I would put at the top of the list. You know, 100 people can have 100 different wishes. There's such a wide selection, from *Debela deklica* onwards.

**Do you want wish anything for all the visitors and competitors of the race in Kranjska Gora as we enter the New Year?**

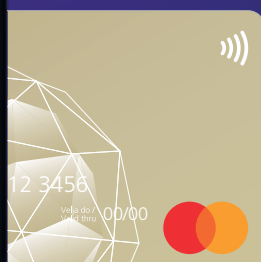
I hope to see as many of you as possible, because I know it will be a wonderful event. Our competitors will also make it even more enjoyable, as I'm sure one of them will to end up on the podium.







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## Interview

# Jože Potrebuješ, Čuki



**One can hardly imagine the biggest events in Slovenia without the band Čuki. You have often performed in Kranjska Gora and entertained audiences at World Cup races. What are your memories of this beautiful town in the Gorenjska region?**

I have particularly fond memories of Kranjska Gora. It was the very first ski resort I ever used a ski lift on. We always enjoyed skiing, but first on the surrounding hills, where we trod the snow ourselves. There were no lifts, of course. Then one day my father took me to Kranjska Gora with his company, and that was the first time I experienced riding a lift. This experience will forever remain in my memory. We have played in Kranjska Gora at a few World Cup races, most recently in the last season. I remember it was chilly, but I think we managed to warm up the audience in Podkoren quite well.

**You say you made your first real turns in Kranjska Gora. What about the very steep and icy slopes of Podkoren?**

I prefer the carving technique and moderate slopes much more, so the slopes of Podkoren and I are not best friends. I threw myself at it a couple of times to convince myself that I could, but I was not pleased. When you watch the contenders go down that slope, you think to yourself: "Yikes!" They look like they're from another time. Skiing has evolved incredibly and become a form of perfectionism. I prefer to enjoy the less steep slopes.

**If you were on top of the ski slopes of Podkoren, would you sing any of your songs to yourself before hurtling downhill?**

First of all, I would fasten my ski boots very tightly! Then I would probably remember the *Pancer Tanz* song. Attempting this slope without very hard ski boots is simply a no-go. A good pick would also be *Cik Cak*, maybe featuring Sandi Murovec. Actually, I have an idea – last year we combined *Pancer Tanz* & *Cik Cak*, so I would invite Muri (aka Sandi Murovec) to keep us safe going downhill and explain all the pitfalls of this world-famous slope. We all know that this is one of the most challenging slopes of the World Cup.

**Have you ever thought about writing an anthem for the great successes of our skiers?**

I would love to! We would also film a video with them, so that you could see up close what their skiing looks like from the front seat. But above all, we would finish filming in a mountain hut. You know, that backdrop when you relax after the competition, pick up the accordion and throw a real party.

**It's a well-known fact that many athletes warm up before a race with music in their headphones. Have you ever heard of anyone who never goes to a race without the Čuki?**

Many times! When *Pancer Tanz* came out, après-ski parties were not yet a thing in Slovenia, so people thought it was strange at first: "What kind of song is that?" But we soon learned that it became a hit in all the vans the athletes took to competitions around the world. It's been almost 20 years now! After that we wrote more of these ski-cheering songs, but I think *Pancer Tanz* remains the mother of them all.

**Who from your group Čuki would be best suited to represent you if they were placed on top of the slopes of Podkoren?**

I think I'd be the one. But I believe that Jernej would also go. We have to race once to finally solve the dilemma and see which one of us is better. He spends a lot of time on his skis, so it will definitely be an interesting challenge.



Audi FIS Alpine Ski World Cup



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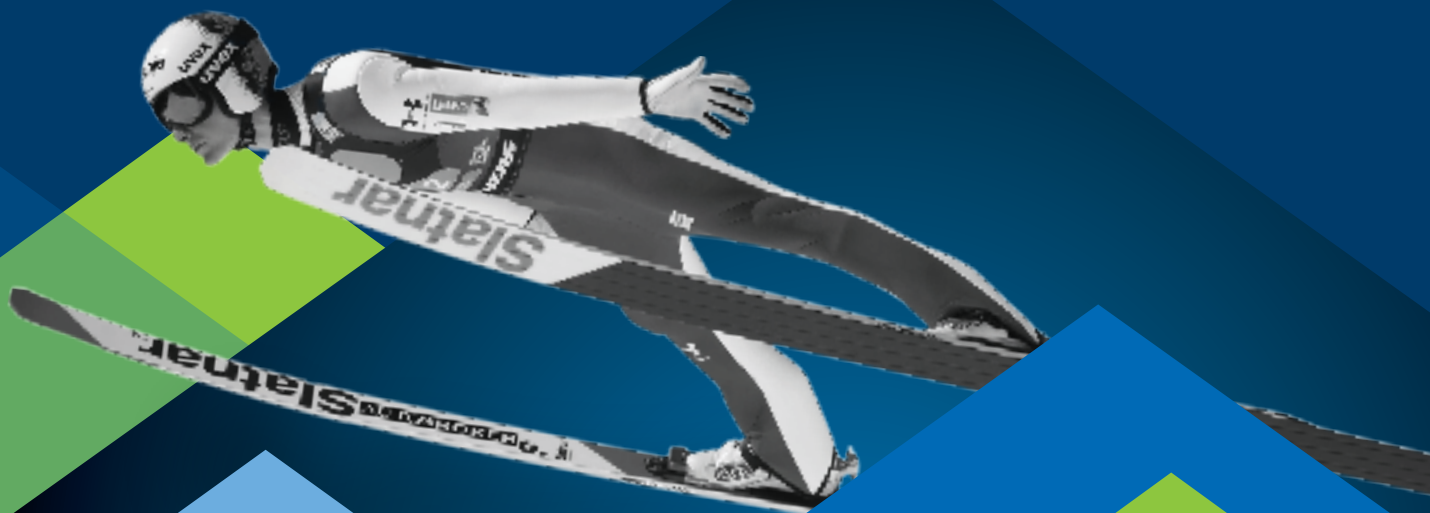
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### THURSDAY, MARCH 27<sup>th</sup>

#### Qualifications

08:00 Official training 1st round  
09:00 Official training 2nd round  
10:00 Qualifications

- Concert in Festival Arena in Planica.
- Opening Ceremony and parade of competing teams in Rateče.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 28<sup>th</sup>

#### Individual competition

14:00 Trial round  
15:00 First round  
Final round

- Concert in Festival Arena in Planica.
- Concert in Kranjska Gora (in the evening.)

### SATURDAY, MARCH 29<sup>th</sup>

#### Team competition

08:00 Trial round  
09:30 First round  
Final round

- Concert in Festival Arena in Planica.
- Starting bibs handout (First 10 athletes in WC overall) and concert in Kranjska Gora.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 30<sup>th</sup>

#### Individual competition

08:30 Trial round  
09:30 First round  
Final round

- Concert in Festival Arena in Planica.

