

Opening: Spectacular mountain bike trail on the Swiss Ice Giants

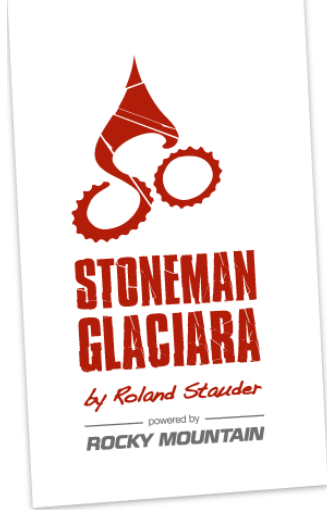
The Stoneman Glaciara in Switzerland's Aletsch-Goms/Valais region – the overwhelming 5-star mountain bike experience by MTB pro Roland Stauder

The Stoneman Glaciara is 127 kilometers long, with a tremendous altitude gain of 4,700 meters between the Alps' largest glaciers and an impressive 4,000 years of fascinating mysticism.

An overwhelming experience for mountain bikers, initiated by the former overall World Cup champion Roland Stauder. A mammoth project that was set up in record time thanks to the cooperation of twelve Upper Valais municipalities and four tourist destinations: Aletsch Arena, Bellwald, Binntal and Obergoms Tourism. The Stoneman Glaciara will officially open on July 29.

An unbelievable 27 billion metric tons of ice form the 23-kilometer-long Aletsch Glacier, the Alps' most powerful ice flow. The view from the Moosfluh spans the vast sea of ice, turquoise crevasses and glaciers formed over the centuries, and travels over the vegetation zones to some of Europe's highest peaks: Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau rise majestically from the glacial sea beside the Aletschhorn. In the midst of more than 40 four-thousand-meter peaks rises the landmark of Switzerland: the unmistakable Matterhorn.

The overwhelming experience of nature and its incomparable local commitment have seen Valais Wallis surpass Müntertal in Graubünden, St. Moritz, Davos Klosters and Verbier as the exclusive Stoneman venue in Switzerland. An outstanding effort ensured that the planning and implementation of the Stoneman Glaciara was carried out in a record time of only six months. That result was guaranteed by the special commitment of initiators René and Robert Diezig as well as Romeo Volken. Their preparatory work was completed by the four responsible tourist destinations Aletsch Arena, Bellwald, Landschaftspark Binntal and Obergoms Tourism. The strong cooperation and coordination with the 12 involved Upper Valais municipalities as well as the regional and cantonal authorities of Valais canton was vital for the success of this mammoth project.



Stoneman Glaciara – 127 km pure mountainbike emotion

The Stoneman route leads up to the Aletsch area and back to Mörel over three well-balanced stages. The descent into the Binntal, a treasure trove of mountain crystals and over 200 other minerals, leads up to the Stoneman Glaciara's Alpe d'Huez: an ascent of 1.450 m in elevation gain up the 2,451-meter-high Breithorn pass. The tour then follows the Rhone towards Obergoms, past ancient villages, historical monuments and cozy cafes. Bellwald, on the sunny roof of Goms, is one of the oldest and best-preserved mountain villages in Switzerland.

“We are incredibly proud to have this unique 5-star mountain bike experience in Switzerland here with us,” says David Wyssen, President of the Stoneman Glaciara e. V. (registered association). “The Stoneman Glaciara is a huge success for the Aletsch-Goms region. It is our flagship product, and will bring summer tourism to Valais Wallis for years to come.”

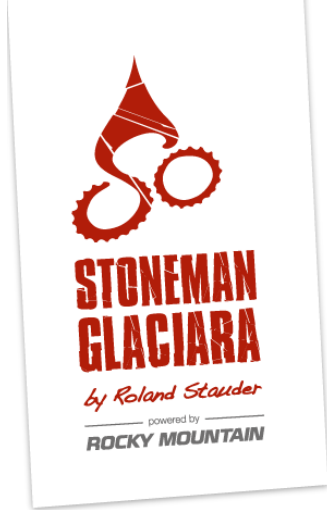
Third Stoneman exclusively in Switzerland

The Stoneman Glaciara offers an unparalleled mountain bike experience – physically demanding climbs, intoxicating trails and a revered natural spectacle in the form of the great Aletsch glacier. An impressive addition to the Stoneman family: the Stoneman Glaciara complements the popular Stoneman experiences of the Stoneman Dolomiti (South Tyrol, Italy) and the Stoneman Miriquidi (Ore Mountains, Germany).

19 official lodging partners, two central meeting points and twelve service partners guarantee that Switzerland's exclusive Stoneman will be a highlight in the career of every mountain biker – at any time during the Stoneman season. On the Stoneman Glaciara, you are not racing the clock. Your own performance is the benchmark. Anyone who defeats the course in one day has earned the Stoneman trophy in gold. Mastering the Stoneman in two or three-day stages earns the trophy in silver or bronze respectively.

“Glaciers are such impressive natural wonders. It has always been my dream to create a mountain bike experience along the glaciers,” says Roland Stauder, founder of the Stoneman and MTB Marathon World Series Champion. “It is a great honor to be able to open the Stoneman Glaciara here – in the land of the 4,000-meter peaks, with such rich landscapes and nature.”

Starter packs including starter cards are already available starting at CHF 29 from central offices and lodging partners along the route (www.stoneman-glaciara.com). These are fully



equipped for bike guests and have a bike wash, a bike garage and a mini workshop. They allow any entry and exit along the route and present the coveted Stoneman Trophy. Bookings can be made from June to November.

Official opening of the Stoneman Glaciara

The Stoneman Glaciara will officially open in Bellwald on Saturday, July 29, 2017. Nearly 100 riders from Switzerland, Italy, France, Austria and Germany have registered to start. An entire delegation from the Stoneman Miriquidi will also make the trip from the Ore Mountain area in Germany.

After the ceremonial opening of the route with riders setting out at 6 am, the Stoneman Glaciara will be opened to all Stoneman adventurers. Starting at 11 am, a wide selection of culinary, musical and biking experiences will be on offer at the athletic facilities in Bellwald and will last throughout the day. Valais specialties, live music, pump track action, a bike expo and the Harlequin Circus promise a colorful festival for the whole family.

Information and contact:

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More information: <https://www.stoneman-glaciara.com/> (German though, English from mid-August)

Please find photo material for free publication here: <http://mediapool.absolut-gps.com/#55>.

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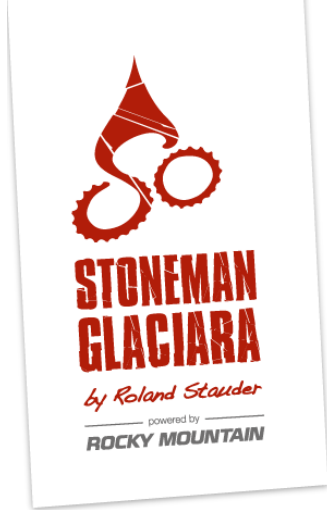
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Stoneman Glaciara facts at a glance: 127 km of pure mountain bike emotion

- Distance: 127 km
- Altitude gain: 4.700 m
- Highest point: Breithornpass (2.451 m)
- Mountain bike skills necessary: good skills necessary
- Fitness level necessary: good fitness necessary
- Season: from June to beginning of November (weather permitting)
- Start/Finish:
 - possible from any of the 19 official Logis-Partners and the two central meeting points (cf. online and on the map provided in the starter package)
 - Checkpoints (Bellwald, Märjela, Moosfluh, Binn, Reckingen) recommended
- Direction: solely anti-clockwise
- Surface:
 - tarmac: 33 %
 - paved track: 37 %
 - unpaved path: 13 %
 - Single Trail: 17 %
- Signage:
 - completely signed
 - print map provided in the official starter package
 - GPS-Track: www.stoneman-glaciara.com
- Food along the route: 19 official Logis- and 12 Service-Partners; numerous restaurants, pubs, cafes along the route
- Six Checkpoints:
 - Bellwald
 - Märjela
 - Moosfluh
 - Breithorn
 - Binn
 - Reckingen
- View Points:
 - unique view on the Great Aletsch Glacier at Märjela and Moosfluh
 - Breithorn – Edelweisswiesen
 - Unners Tälli with impressive views of Fiescher glacier
 - View of Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau