



Salzburg Marathon

Lauffestspiele in der Mozartstadt

6. Mai 2018

Salzburg Marathon celebrates 15th anniversary

The "Running Festival in Mozart's Hometown" features Austrian national championships and international competition. The event attracts 7,000 participants from 80 countries by offering a sports programme with plenty of variety.

Salzburg Marathon celebrates its 15th anniversary with about 7,000 runners from 80 nations this weekend. The stage is set for an atmospheric "Running Festival in Mozart's Hometown" that includes Austrian national marathon championships and offers eight different running events with plenty of variety. Among other races, a marathon with about 1,100 participants and a half marathon start on Sunday, 6 May, 9:00 am. Runners enjoy a fabulous city environment with a course that leads through the centre of Salzburg, which is part of the UNESCO list of World Cultural Heritage sites, as well as it touches the green surroundings outside of town. Start and finish area is located at picturesque "Mirabellplatz".

Edwin Kemboi favourite at national championships

Some of the best Austrian marathon runners and a group of international athletes will go for victory in Salzburg. Edwin Kipchirchir Kemboi, a native Kenyan who gained Austrian citizenship in 2014, will lead the charge in the quest for championship glory. The 33-year-old with a PB of 2:12:58 from Rotterdam 2013 represented Austria at the World Championships in Beijing 2015 where he finished on 32th place. If Kemboi prevails against Austrian opponents like Endris Seid, Robert Gruber and debutant Isaac Toroitich Kosgei (a Kenyan eligible for Austrian championships) he will celebrate his third national marathon title following wins in 2014 and 2015. His personal target is to attack the national qualification standard of 2:17:00 for the European Championships in Berlin.

Exciting race with Kenyan athletes is on the cards

A group of Kenyan runners could fit very well to his ambition. Peter Chege Wangari (PB 2:13:48), Wesley Kiprono Kemboi (PB 2:16:32) and William Koskei (PB 2:16:41) are ready for a strong performance despite expected temperatures of over 20°C in the closing stages of the race. While it would be a surprise if the course record of 2:14:16 set by Eliud Kiplagat in 2013 comes under threat, an attractive race of good quality is on the cards. Two of these Kenyan runners already made good experiences at races in Austria. Wangari set his personal best in Vienna 2016 to finish seventh place and made the podium at the "Drei Länder Marathon" in Bregenz in 2015 with

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third place in a time of 2:16:39. William Koskei ran his international debut at Graz Marathon in October 2017 and clocked 2:16:41 for third place. A 2:17:17 marathon performance at high altitude in Nairobi 2016 indicates that he may well be capable of producing a faster time on a course like Salzburg. Wesley Kiprono Kemboi is a relatively new name on the scene. His only known race is from Treviso Marathon in March 2017. He ran 2:16:32 to finish second. Marathon debutant Amos Kimeli Kipruto could be in with a surprise. He will go with his training mate Edwin Kemboi in the beginning stages but is prepared to chase glory for himself.

Omosa leads the women's race

Teresiah Omosa comes as the clear favourite in the women's race. The 23-year-old Kenyan set her half marathon best of 73:09 in Cardiff 2016 (4th place) and has half marathon victories in Bristol 2015 (73:48) and Peterborough 2016 (75:07) to her credit. In 2018 she ran a 74:17 half marathon in Tanzania. Omosa started to compete in marathons only in 2017 and made the podium in both of her appearances. She clocked 2:46:56 in Moshi, Tanzania, at second place in February and 2:46:22 in Mombasa, Kenya, at third place in September 2017. This sort of times could well be reviewed in Salzburg on Sunday. Course record stands at 2:35:05 by Risper Kimayo in 2011.

Karin Freitag goes for fifth national marathon title

While in normal conditions Omosa should be in the front, one should not rule out Austrian Karin Freitag. The four-time national marathon champion has run below 2:45 frequently with best performances of 2:42:00 in Lucca 2016 and 2:42:26 in Frankfurt 2015. After the silver medal in 2016 and the bronze medal in 2017 the 38-year-old Freitag has her eyes set on a fifth national gold on Sunday. Given a more structured approach in marathon training in the run-up to Salzburg than in previous years she may well challenge her personal best.

Running programme with plenty of variety

The diverse programme of running events at Salzburg Marathon starts on Friday, 4 May, with the Salzburger Nachrichten AfterWorkRun&Walk in the evening. A break-fast run, city walk, Junior-Marathon will be staged on Saturday, also the "Coca-Cola

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Integration Run" going with the motto of "One Mile for a Smile" for the benefit of eight different charity organisations. Exceptionally high interest was registered at the races for young runners with almost 1,900 entries. A "Day of Sports" at the start and finish area in co-operation with Salzburg sports council and 14 different sports federations calls for active participation in sports and welcomes especially young people with try-out stations. On Sunday the marathon, half marathon, relay marathon and a 10k race get underway.

"Green" marathon event

Salzburg Marathon is certified as an ecologically sustainable event by Austrian control authorities. Runners enjoy high quality organic food made of local products at the marathon village. The use of renewable materials and an integrated programme for the reduction of transports and natural resources is in force. Public transport to and from the race is available free of charge to all participants within the city of Salzburg on their day of running.

A race report and pictures will be available on Sunday afternoon.

For more information please visit www.salzburg-marathon.at/en/ or contact Thomas Kofler (Press Officer) thomas.kofler@sportimpuls.at

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