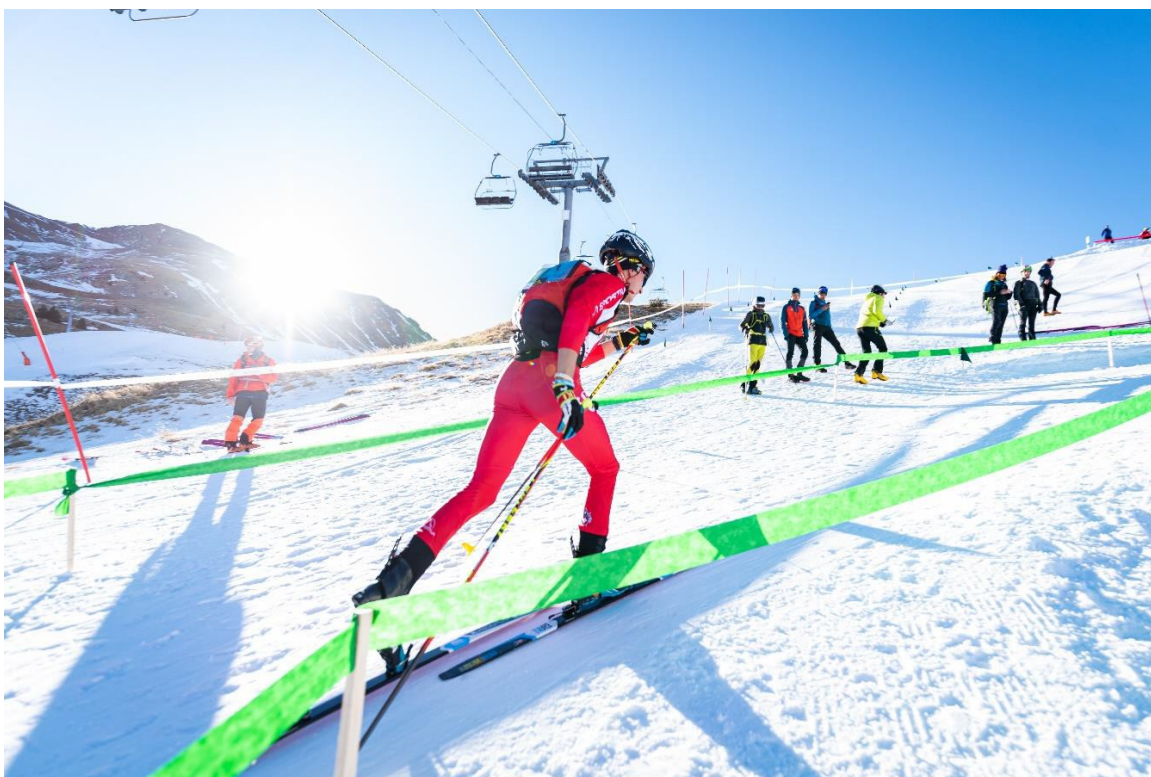


## Boí Taüll will host the 2023 World Championships of Ski Mountaineering

- After the organizational success of the European Championships of Ski Mountaineering held in February 2022, the International Ski Mountaineering Federation (ISMF) has renewed its confidence in the resort managed by FGC
- The World Championships of Ski Mountaineering will visit the Ribagorça resort from 26 February to 4 March 2023
- With this arrangement, Ferrocarrils de la Generalitat de Catalunya demonstrates, once again, its commitment to the promotion of competitive sport and, at the same time, its desire to promote new disciplines at the resorts such as ski mountaineering



**A participant in the sprint during the European Championships held at the Boí Taüll resort in February 2022.**

The International Federation (ISMF) has selected Boí Taüll's candidacy to hold the 2023 World Championships of Ski Mountaineering, which will take place from 26 February to 4 March. As such, the Ribagorça resort will once again position itself at the epicentre of the international ski mountaineering calendar and is expected to far surpass the 20 participating countries in the 2022 European Championships.

The candidacy has the support of the Spanish Federation of Mountain Sports and Climbing (FEDME) and the Superior Sports Council (CSD), as well as the Federation of Excursionist Organizations of Catalonia (FEEC), the Catalan Sports Council and the Provincial Council of Lleida, among other institutions.

### The keys to the awarding of the Championships

The organizational success of the European Championships of Ski Mountaineering held in February 2022 has been decisive in designating the Ribagorça resort as host for the next World Championships. Last season, Boí Taüll demonstrated its great abilities in undertaking an international race of such scope thanks to the commitment of a great organizational team and the effort and motivation of all the people involved. The work carried out by the territory, by the FEEC, the FEDME and the Boí Taüll resort itself with the full support of Ferrocarrils, made it possible to make a dream come true.

A great event that grows in importance and magnitude for the coming season. The good work done in both the Spanish Championships and several races in the Spanish Cup in recent years, which brought experience and knowhow to an already consolidated organizational team, was also key in the race to hold the World Championships.

After the experience of the European Championships in 2022, the awarding of the World Championships to Boí Taüll was determined by the infrastructure facilities for television production, which was used to broadcast internationally last year. The diversity of the terrain was also key, around a single base with all the services in Pla de Vaques, with the wide possibilities this allows for the layouts of the five events that are on the calendar.

Boí Taüll has all the necessary services to house such a large event. In this regard, then, it becomes a stage with all the **necessary resources**, with services and centralized operational centres, which facilitate the dynamics and organizational success in these types of events. To these features can be added the hotel and restaurant capacity of the Vall de Boí, located very close to the base of the competitions,

of great benefit for the athletes and minimizing the environmental impact of travel.

The awarding of the World Championships is of vital importance, especially if you take into account that ski mountaineering will be incorporated as a new discipline in the upcoming **Winter Olympics in Milano Cortina in 2026**. Ski mountaineering was already a sporting speciality in the Youth Olympic Games in Lausanne 2020, where, thanks to the extraordinary role of Catalan athletes Maria Costa, Ares Torra, Ot Ferrer and Marc Radua, four medals were won (one gold and three bronze).

The World Championships of Ski Mountaineering will have a positive impact on the economy of the territory, as this sporting event will once again put Boí Taüll and, consequently, the Vall de Boí and the Pyrenees of Lleida, on the international map as a first-class winter sports and tourism destination. Boí Taüll has a decided orientation towards ski mountaineering and is set up as a very versatile and advanced resort.

### Five events in competition, three in Olympic format

For 2023, the format of the European Championships will be maintained while adding the team race. Three of the five types of competition, the sprint, the individual and the relays, will be Olympic events for the first time at the Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Games. The difference between the format chosen for the Championships and the traditional mountaineering races is based on the adaptation of the routes in order to make the competition more attractive and accessible to the spectators present and at the same time facilitate the television production. Both the ISMF and the majority of technicians and athletes who went to Boí Taüll in 2022 assessed the layouts positively stating that the resort offers an ideal playing field.

With regards to the events, there will be a **Sprint** race, which lasts around 3 minutes, over an 80 m positive gradient and which can be seen from the base of the resort. The **Individual** race has a positive gradient between 1,600 m and 1,900 m, depending on the category, and takes place on different routes around the summit of Puig Falcó (2,750 m). The **Vertical** race will cover the same route as in 2022 with 500 m of altitude gain for all categories starting at Pla de Vaques and arriving at Coll de Roies. As for the **Relay** races, the route that was so well liked is also being repeated with participants in mixed pairs made up of a woman and a man, each doing two laps in the area of the black Slalom course. The new race for 2023 will be the **Team** event for two people. We are working on the route to make it as attractive, demanding and technical as possible, as there will be between 2,100 m and 2,600 m of positive altitude gain.

## **Committed to high-level sport**

Once again, Ferrocarrils de la Generalitat de Catalunya demonstrates its constant commitment to high-level sport. This makes it possible to position not only Boí Taüll as a tourist facility on the international map, but also the Vall de Boí and the Catalan Pyrenees as specialized destinations.

But FGC's commitment goes even further, since for years it has been committed to offering and expanding its wide range of proposals in mountain resorts. In fact, for years, it has made available to users a specialized season pass for ski mountaineering, a sport that fans can practice in Boí Taüll on its four routes specifically designed for different difficulty, level and length.

**9 June 2022**