

Rallye Monte-Carlo: Škoda Motorsport celebrates 125 year anniversary at WRC season opener

- › On Saturday, 24 January, a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 will give VIP guests a ride on parts of the famous Monaco Grand Prix Formula One racetrack
- › All-electric concept Škoda Enyaq RS Race will entertain the spectators with demo drives on closed roads of the Principality
- › Ten Škoda crews compete for WRC2 points at the first round of the 2026 FIA World Rally Championship

Mladá Boleslav, 21 January 2026 – Škoda Motorsport is set to kick off the 2026 FIA World Rally Championship season in style: The celebrations marking 125 years of the brand's racing activities will form part of the Rallye Monte-Carlo (22-25 January). Prior to the Super Special Stage on Saturday evening, former WRC2 champion Andreas Mikkelsen will give VIP passengers a first-hand experience of the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2. Multiple Czech rally champion and former WRC2 champion Jan Kopecký will join the demo runs on part of the Formula One circuit at the wheel of the electric concept Škoda Enyaq RS Race. During the rally itself, ten private Škoda crews will compete for WRC2 honours.

Jan Kopecký and Andreas Mikkelsen have a lot in common. For example, they both won the WRC2 category at Rallye Monte-Carlo on their way to becoming world champions in the WRC's main support category. However, neither the Czech nor the Norwegian will be travelling to the Principality to compete in the traditional season opener this January. Instead, both will play a major role in the first stage of the "125 Years Škoda Motorsport" celebrations.

The former Škoda factory drivers will hit the roads around the famous casino for demo drives just ahead of the Super Special Stage "Monaco Circuit" on Saturday evening (24 January, 6h35 pm). Andreas Mikkelsen will give VIP passengers a spin at the wheel of a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 while Jan Kopecký will entertain the spectators with the Škoda Enyaq RS Race, a fully electric concept car developed by Škoda Motorsport.

By the time the competitors arrive in Monte-Carlo for the Super Special Stage, they will already have most of the event behind them. The first round of the 2026 FIA World Rally Championship starts on Thursday (22 January) at 2:30 pm in the harbour area of the Principality. On the way to the overnight stop in the French Alps town of Gap, the crews must complete three special stages, mostly in the dark. Friday features six stages. Saturday's leg comprises four stages, including the Super Special on part of the famous

Formula One racetrack, which will be broadcast live. The final leg on Sunday features another four stages. In total, the teams have to tackle a competitive distance of 339.15 kilometres.

Ten Škoda crews have entered into WRC2. "Last year, we finished fifth. A WRC2 podium position would be a dream result, but the competition is really strong," says Roberto Daprà. The 24-year-old Italian shares a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 with co-driver Luca Guglielmetti. Among their brand colleagues are French pairing Eric Camilli/Thibault de La Haye, Czech driver Filip Kohn, who listens to the pace notes of British navigator Ross Whittock, and Jarosław Kołtun/Ireneusz Pleskot from Poland.

All the Škoda crews and their competitors are facing a Rallye Monte-Carlo-specific question: tyre choice. While the start and finish are located on the mostly sunny Mediterranean coast, the majority of the stages are held on wintry roads in the French Alps. The unpredictable mountain weather usually brings a mixture of snow-covered, icy and dry roads, sometimes all within the same stage.

In addition, crews must complete up to three special stages without a service break, relying on the four tyres fitted to the car plus a maximum of two spares. They must strike a balance between winter grip and tarmac traction. Therefore, the tyre choice is usually a compromise, making the task for the drivers even more difficult. Available are four different types of tyres: two compounds of slicks as well as winter tyres with and without studs.

More information about the history of Škoda Motorsport can be found [here](#).

Did you know, that...

...the Rallye Monte-Carlo was first held in 1911 and is the oldest event on the current FIA World Rally Championship calendar?

...the rally was originally conceived to boost tourism in Monaco even in the less attractive winter months?

...up to and including 1998, crews had to drive thousands of kilometres from starting points across Europe and even North Africa to a central meeting point in Monte-Carlo or the south of France, where the real competition began?

2026 FIA World Rally Championship

Rallye Monte-Carlo	22-25 January
Rally Sweden	12-15 February
Safari Rally Kenya	12-15 March
Croatia Rally	9-12 April
Rally Islas Canarias (ESP)	23-26 April
Rally de Portugal	7-10 May
Rally Japan	28-31 May
Acropolis Rally Greece	25-28 June
Rally Estonia	16-19 July
Rally Finland	30 July-2 August
Rally del Paraguay	27-30 August
Rally Chile Bío Bío	10-13 September
Rally Italia Sardegna	1-4 October
Rally Saudi Arabia	11-14 November

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Škoda crews at Rallye Monte-Carlo

Škoda Motorsport celebrates its 125th anniversary also with special events in conjunction with the Rallye Monte-Carlo.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rallye Monte-Carlo
Italians Roberto Dapprà and co-driver Luca Guglielmetti (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of Delta Rally Team) compete for WRC2 points.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Rallye Monte-Carlo
French pairing Eric Camilli/Thibault de La Haye (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team Orsák Rally Sport) is among the favourites for WRC2 victory.

Source: Orsák Rally Sport

Škoda Motorsport

- › Škoda has been active in motorsport since 1901, garnering success in rallies as well as in circuit racing.
- › Highlights include winning the 1981 European Touring Car Championship (ETCC) with the Škoda 130 RS.
- › Since 2009, the Škoda Fabia celebrated numerous successes for the Czech manufacturer on rally stages worldwide.
- › Until 2014, the Škoda Fabia S2000 (2.0 naturally aspirated engine, four-wheel drive) secured 50 international titles and national rally championships. The Škoda Fabia S2000 also helped to win the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC) and the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC) three times each.
- › The successor model Škoda Fabia R5 (1.6 turbo engine, four-wheel drive) entered the scene in 2015. Later renamed to Škoda Fabia Rally2 and followed by the further developed Škoda Fabia Rally2 evo, the model collected nearly 2,000 victories in 68 countries until the end of the 2022 season.
- › During this period, Škoda Motorsport factory drivers Jan Kopecký (CZE), Esapekka Lappi (FIN), Pontus Tidemand (SWE) and Kalle Rovanperä (FIN) won the FIA World Rally Championship's support category WRC2/WRC2 Pro. Škoda Motorsport also took the WRC2/WRC2 Pro Manufacturers' title five times in a row from 2015 to 2019.
- › Beginning with the 2020 season, Škoda Motorsport changed its strategy to supporting private teams. The success story continued: Driving a Škoda Fabia Rally2 evo run by Toksport WRT, Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR) and Emil Lindholm (FIN) became WRC2 Champions in 2021 and 2022. Mikkelsen became WRC2 Champion again in 2023 with team Toksport WRT, when the all-new Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 entered the scene. The Škoda Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT also won the WRC2 Teams' title three times in 2020, 2022 and 2023. In 2025 Toksport WRT took another WRC2 Teams' title and Nikolay Gryazin/Konstantin Aleksandrov of Toksport WRT became WRC2 Challenger drivers' and co-drivers' champions respectively.
- › Škoda Motorsport customer teams have also won titles in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), the FIA African Rally Championship (ARC), the FIA North American and Central American Rally Championship (NACAM), the FIA South American Rally Championship (CODASUR) and the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC).

Škoda Auto

- is successfully steering through the new decade with the Next Level Škoda Strategy;
- aims to become one of the top three best-selling brands in Europe by the end of the decade by offering its customers the best of both worlds through a range of attractive BEV, hybrid & ICE products;
- effectively exploits the potential in important growth markets such as India, Vietnam and the ASEAN region;
- currently offers customers 12 passenger car model ranges: Fabia, Scala, Octavia, Superb, Kamiq, Karoq, Kodiaq, Elroq, Enyaq, Slavia, Kylaq and Kushaq;
- delivered more than 1,040,000 vehicles to customers worldwide in 2025;
- has been part of the Volkswagen Group, one of the world's most successful car manufacturers, for more than 30 years;
- is part of Brand Group CORE, an organisational merger of the Volkswagen Group's volume brands, with the aim of achieving joint growth and significantly increasing the overall efficiency of all five volume brands;
- independently develops and produces components such as MEB battery systems, engines and transmissions for other Volkswagen Group brands;
- operates three production plants in the Czech Republic; has production capacities in China, Slovakia and India, mostly through group partnerships, as well as in Vietnam and Ukraine in cooperation with a local partner;
- employs around 40,000 people worldwide and is active in almost 100 markets.