

Croatia Rally: Strong line up of Škoda crews sets sight on WRC2 podium positions

- › Former WRC2 champions Andreas Mikkelsen and Emil Lindholm reunite as teammates and favourites for the win with Škoda Fabia RS Rally2
- › Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 drivers Eric Camilli from France and Roberto Daprà from Italy are also among the top contenders in the WRC2 field
- › Following the rounds in Monte-Carlo, Sweden and Kenya, Croatia Rally is the first proper tarmac event of the 2026 FIA World Rally Championship

Mladá Boleslav, 8 April 2026 – As the fourth round of the season, Croatia Rally (9-12 April 2026) once again features a new line-up of podium contenders in the WRC2 category. Rallye Monte-Carlo WRC2 winner Léo Rossel and Roope Korhonen, who earned 25 points for finishing first in the WRC2 category at Rally Sweden, will be back in action. In their effort to win another WRC2 event, both will have to contend with four Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 drivers: former WRC2 champions Andreas Mikkelsen and Emil Lindholm, as well as Roberto Daprà and Eric Camilli. Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 driver Robert Virves, who recently won the WRC2 category at Safari Rally Kenya, will not be competing.

After a one-year break, Croatia Rally is back in the World Rally Championship. This time, the event will be based in the Mediterranean port city of Rijeka instead of Zagreb. Consequently, the route has changed from small tracks through farmlands to high-grip coastal roads and mountain passes in the Kvarner Gulf and Istria regions but the rally remains as an all-tarmac event. With the service park now located at the historic Automotodrom Grobnik, crews will have to tackle 20 stages covering 300.28 kilometres.

Andreas Mikkelsen, who shares a Toksport WRT-run Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 with fellow Norwegian Jørn Listerud, has not competed Rally Croatia with a Rally2 car since 2021. After finishing WRC2 fourth at the Safari Rally Kenya, he is aiming to score big points. "I love Croatia's challenging tarmac roads," the WRC2 champion of 2021 and 2023 looks ahead.

As with the upcoming Croatia Rally, Andreas Mikkelsen was already a teammate of Emil Lindholm at Toksport in 2022 and 2023. Emil Lindholm, who will be competing with Brazilian co-driver Gabriel Morales for the first time, already finished third twice in WRC2 at Rally Croatia. This year's event marks the start of his 2026 campaign. "Therefore, it is essential to score a good result," says the Finn, who won the WRC2 title in 2022 driving a Škoda Fabia Rally2 evo run by Toksport WRT.

Two years ago, Roberto Daprà and co-driver Luca Guglielmetti achieved a seventh place in WRC2 at Croatia Rally. This season, the Italians drove their Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of Delta

Rally Team to second place in the category at the Rallye Monte-Carlo. Since then, however, they have skipped the rounds in Sweden and Kenya. With a good result, proven asphalt specialist Roberto Daprà could take the lead in the WRC2 drivers' standings.

Also strong on tarmac is Eric Camilli. Together with co-driver Thibault De La Haye, the French duo led WRC2 at Rallye Monte-Carlo at one point, eventually finishing fourth in the category. Competing with a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team Orsák Rally Sport, they are among the favourites for a WRC2 podium finish. Also entered into WRC2 are Škoda crews Viliam Prodan/Marko Stiperski from Croatia and Uğur Soylu/Onur Vatansever from Turkey.

Croatia Rally begins on Thursday, 9 April at 6:30 pm local time with the ceremonial start in Rijeka. The action kicks off properly on Friday, when eight special stages totalling 126.86 kilometres are waiting for the drivers. Saturday features another eight stages covering 115.96 kilometres. The final leg on Sunday comprises four more stages, totalling 57.46 kilometres. The winners will be celebrated on the podium in Opatija at 4 pm.

Did you know, that...

...the Croatia Rally was held for the first time in 1974 in the former Yugoslavia under the name of INA Delta TLX Rally?

...the event was part of the FIA World Rally Championship already from 2021 to 2024? Last year the rally was counting towards the FIA European Rally Championship.

...the stages are run on a mix of fast and winding asphalt tracks with different surfaces, ranging from rough to smooth?

Standings WRC2/Drivers (after 3 of 14 events)

- 1 Robert Virves (EST), Škoda, 25 points**
- 2 Roope Korhonen (FIN), Toyota, 25 points
- 3 Léo Rossel (FRA), Citroën, 25 points
- 4 Roberto Daprà (ITA), Škoda, 17 points**
- 5 Gus Greensmith (GBR), Toyota, 17 points
- 6 Teemu Suninen (FIN), Toyota, 17 points

Standings WRC2/Teams (after 3 of 14 events)

- 1 Toksport WRT, Škoda, 42 points**
- 2 Lancia Corse HF, Lancia, 42 Points
- 3 M-Sport Ford World Rally Team, Ford, 25 Points

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 Bio Bío	10-13 September
Rally Italia Sardegna	1-4 October
Rally Saudi Arabia	11-14 November

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Škoda Motorsport at Croatia Rally

French crew Eric Camilli/Thibault De La Haye (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team Orsák Rally Sport) proved their tarmac speed during Rallye Monte-Carlo.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda Motorsport at Croatia Rally

Emil Lindholm from Finland, WRC2 champion of 2022, returns to team Toksport WRT. He shares the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 with Brazilian co-driver Gabriel Morales for the first time.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda Motorsport at Croatia Rally

Italians Roberto Daprà and co-driver Luca Guglielmetti (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of Delta Rally Team) could take over the WRC2 overall lead in their respective classifications.

Source: Škoda Auto

Škoda Motorsport

- › Škoda celebrates 125 years of Motorsport since the first efforts in 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 become 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 Slovakia, Kazakhstan 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.