

Acropolis Rally Greece: Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 drivers well-prepared for gravel and soaring heat

- › The eighth round of the FIA World Rally Championship presents one of the toughest challenges for the competitors in the WRC2 category
- › Former WRC2 Champion Andreas Mikkelsen from Norway and Robert Virves from Estonia take to the wheel of team Toksport WRT's two Škoda Fabia RS Rally2
- › Italian Roberto Daprà of Delta Rally Team and Spaniard Jan Solans of team PH.Ph are two more Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 drivers aiming for top positions

Mladá Boleslav, 24 June 2026 – With the Acropolis Rally Greece (25-28 June 2026), the FIA World Rally Championship enters a string of seven gravel events in a row. The Greek stages feature rugged paths in the Peloponnese mountains and the more technical backroads in the Corinthian Isthmus area. Eleven crews compete with a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2.

For the 2026 edition, the Acropolis Rally Greece returns to the Gulf of Corinth and the service park in Loutraki for the first time in over a decade. Bringing the eighth round of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) closer to the capital city of Athens, the route combines heritage and demanding modern stages. However, the challenges of Europe's roughest WRC gravel event remain as unforgiving as ever.

And when the going gets tough, only the tough get going. Škoda rally cars have proven in the past that they are reliable and fast, even under the most demanding road conditions. It is no surprise that more than a third of WRC2 competitors have chosen a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 for the "Rally of the Gods", as the Greek WRC round is also known.

In 2023, Andreas Mikkelsen drove a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 to WRC2 victory at the Acropolis Rally Greece en route to winning his second WRC2 title. This year, the Norwegian is back with team Toksport WRT and co-driver Jørn Listerud. "I would like to repeat that victory, but the competition is very strong. It will be important to strike the right balance between speed and avoiding damage to the car or punctures. Fortunately, the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 has proven to be rock solid even under the toughest conditions," said Andreas Mikkelsen.

Toksport WRT's second Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 will be in the hands of Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo. The Estonians are hungry for success, particularly following their victory in the WRC2 category at the extremely challenging Safari Rally Kenya.

The currently best-placed Škoda crew in the WRC2 overall standings is Roberto Daprà and co-driver Luca Guglielmetti. Competing for Delta Rally Team, the Italians are sitting in

seventh position in their respective classification. Roberto Daprà demonstrated his speed on loose surfaces with a WRC2 victory at last year's Rally Italia Sardegna. Jan Solans and co-driver Rodrigo Sanjuán narrowly missed WRC2 victory at Rally de Portugal a couple of weeks ago. Now, the Spaniards are back for revenge with the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of Team PH.Ph. Other Škoda crews with hopes for a top position are reigning Junior WRC Champions Mille Johansson/Johan Grönvall from Sweden (MS Munaretto), French pairing Mattéo Chatillon/Maxence Cornuau (BATIRACE), as well as Martin Prokop and co-driver Michal Ernst. The Jipo Car crew finished last year's Acropolis Rally Greece sixth in WRC2.

The Acropolis Rally Greece will start on Thursday (25 June) at 7.05 pm local time in Athens with a 1.86-kilometre short show stage on tarmac at the Ellinikon Sports Park. Afterwards, competitors head to Loutraki, where the service park is located. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 16 gravel stages follow for a total distance to 323.31 kilometres. The winners will be celebrated on the podium at 2.35 pm in Loutraki.

Did you know, that...

...the location for the overnight regrouping from Thursday to Friday will be a ferry? The rally cars will be collected at Korinthos and then unloaded at Itea after a transfer of some 40 nautical miles.

...the "Acropolis" was part of the inaugural season of the FIA World Rally Championship in 1973, but was not included in the calendar from 2014 to 2020?

...due to the relatively low speeds and the high ambient temperatures, the rally is considered the season's most challenging event for the rally cars' cooling systems?

Standings WRC2/Drivers (after 7 of 14 events)

- 1 Nikolay Gryazin (BUL), Lancia, 56 points
- 2 Yohan Rossel (FRA), Lancia, 52 points
- 3 Roope Korhonen (FIN), Toyota, 52 points
- 4 Léo Rossel (FRA), Citroën, 52 points
- 5 Alejandro Cachón (ESP), Toyota, 46 points
- 6 Teemu Suninen (FIN), Toyota, 42 points
- 7 Roberto Daprà (ITA), Škoda, 37 points**

Standings WRC2/Teams (after 7 of 14 events)

1 Lancia Corse HF, Lancia, 163 Points

2 Toksport WRT, Škoda, 126 points

3 M-Sport Ford World Rally Team, Ford, 45 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 crews at Acropolis Rally Greece
Jan Solans and co-driver Rodrigo Sanjuán (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of Team PH.Ph) chase their first WRC2 podium position of the season.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Acropolis Rally Greece
Andreas Mikkelsen is a former WRC2 winner at the Greek championship round. This season, he shares the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team Toksport WRT with fellow Norwegian co-driver Jørn Listerud.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Acropolis Rally Greece
Italians Roberto Daprà and Luca Guglielmetti (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of Delta Rally Team) aim to improve their respective seventh-place positions in the WRC2 drivers' and co-drivers' standings.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Acropolis Rally Greece
Not alone due to their WRC2 victory at the Safari Rally Kenya, Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo from Estonia (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team Toksport WRT) should be a force to reckon at Europe's roughest gravel rally.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Acropolis Rally Greece
Czech duo Martin Prokop/Michael Ernst (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team Jipo Car) finished sixth in WRC2 at last year's Acropolis Rally Greece.

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) und 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 13 passenger car model ranges: Fabia, Scala, Octavia, Superb, Kamiq, Karoq, Kodiaq, Epiq, 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 Spain, 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.