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Press release



Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup>

Ready, steady, go!



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The biggest nordic ski event in France, La Transju' celebrates its 40th anniversary, on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 February, 2019. With over 4,000 athletes on the traditional 68 kilometres long route between Lamoura (Jura) and Mouthe (Doubs), the event will surely be a huge festivity.

### Key information

- . Return to traditional course between Lamoura and Mouthe
- . The Saturday will be reserved to classic style and Sunday to skating
- . The Transju' is a stage of the Worldloppet, the world circuit of long distance cross-country skiing
- . Roxana Maracineanu, French Minister of Sports, will be attending on Sunday, and several sports celebrities will be at the start
- . The Salon International du Nordique et de l'Outdoor keeps expanding

The party will be huge! To celebrate its 40th anniversary the Transju' will go back to its original course between Lamoura and Mouthe, as the snow conditions have enabled the organisers to draw a

course that made the history of the Transju back in 1979. With a start in the Jura and a finish 68 kilometres away in the Doubs, the route is sprinkled with postcard views and a unique atmosphere in each and every visited village, for an everlasting souvenir. Everyone will feel to be part of an event that has been included in the historical heritage of a region able to make the Transju' the biggest nordic skiing event in France, the one every skier is looking forward to. With its seven races, from 20 to 68 kilometres long in classic or free style, the programme offers each athlete the right format for his level and experience. The most courageous ones will also have the chance to test their skills in the UltraTrans, with a combined result of the accumulated times in the Transju' 68 km and the Transju'Classic 56 km, that is 124 km in two days and in two different styles.

Saturday February 9 is dedicated to the classic style, and the first starting signal toward the Rousses will be fired at 9am for the Transju'Classic (56 km), while at 13 the village of Chapelle-des-Bois will welcome the participants to the Trans 25CT (25 km) and the Transju'Expérience (20 km).

On Sunday February 10, the skiers will start for the 68 kilometres long Transju', raced in skating style and, like the previous day, the Trans 25FT, the Transju' Marathon 48FT and the Transju'Expérience will enable the less combative to be part of the fete too.

### **A top line-up**

If the Transju' is above all a race for all enthusiasts, it is also a top event and a stage of the Worldloppet, the circuit that includes the world's most prestigious long distance races. In the elite class there will be several serious contestants to the title of reigning champions Ivan Perrillat-Boiteux and Aurélie Dabudyk. The French contingent includes some strong competitors, namely Gérard Agnellet, who finished second last year and is the current Worldloppet leader who will have to fend off the attacks from his direct adversaries in the world circuit like Loic Guignonnet and Bastien Poirrier. Past winners Jérémie Millereau, 2015 champion and Benoît Chauvet, winner in 2013, will also be on the starting line as will be Adrien Mougel. Several Norwegian athletes like Petter Soleng Skinstad will also compete for the title.

Among the women Sweden's Maria Graefnings, who finished second last year but won the event in 2017 and is current Wordloppet leader, will surely have to stay in the leading group and keep an eye on Estonia's Tatjana Mannima, while France will count mainly on Anouk Faivre-Picon.

### **The French Minister of Sports and many personalities at the start**

On Sunday the Transju' will welcome the French Minister of Sport Roxana Maracineanu. The former swimming world champion (in 1998 in the 200 metres backstroke) will be at the start to support "Skier pour Elles", the association that promotes physical activity to fight cancer and its relapses. The Minister will also take part to the 20 kilometres long Transju'Expérience. Besides Roxana Maracineanu, several well-known celebrities from the sport will also gather in the Jura. Fabrice Guy (Olympic champion of nordic combined at the Albertville Games in 1992), Sylvain Guillaume (nordic combined silver medallist at the 1992 Albertville Games), Sébastien Lacroix (member of the French nordic combined team), Isabelle Delobel (2008 figure skating world champion in 2008, together with Olivier Schoenfelder), Vincent Gauthier Manuel (Paralympic champion of giant slalom in 2014 in Sochi), Xavier Thévenard (three-times winner of the Mont Blanc Ultra Trail) and the Formula 1 pilot Romain Grosjean will be on the starting line. Because the Transju' cannot be missed by anyone.

### **An ever-expanding Exhibition**

In the heart of the village of Les Rousses, the Salon International du Nordique et de l'Outdoor opened its doors on Friday. Partners (Craft, Julbo, Salomon...) suppliers and key local actors will gather in the 1500 square metres' area, that is 500 more metres than last year. The participants will get their bib number distribution in the area and in the nearby Omnibus square many other animations and festivities, including an area reserved for kids, are in store.

All the information on <http://latransju.com/>

Detailed information with traffic restrictions, shuttle stops and times: <http://latransju.com/faq-transju/>

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