



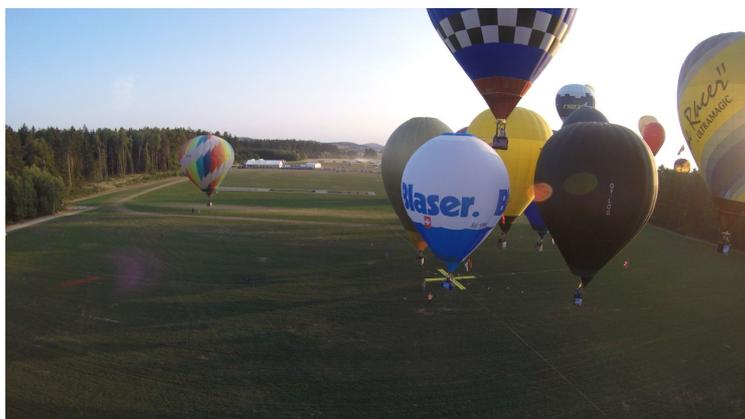
24TH FAI WORLD
HOT AIR BALLOON CHAMPIONSHIP
MURSKA SOBOTA 2020



PRESS RELEASE

The largest balloon spectacle in Slovenia: this year, Murska Sobota will hold the Slovenian Open National Championship and next year the World Hot Air Balloon Championship

Murska Sobota, 23 July 2019 - From 27 August to 1 September, the Slovenian Open National Championship Murska Sobota 2019 will be held at the Rakičan Castle and Murska Sobota Airport, with 40 teams from 17 countries registered. This year's competition is a preliminary competition announcing the forthcoming World Hot Air Balloon Championship, which will be hosted by Slovenia from 19 to 26 September 2020, at the same location. The organizer of the World Hot Air Balloon Championship in Murska Sobota is the Balloon Club Roto, together with the City of Murska Sobota, the Aeronautical Association of Slovenia, and Aero Club Murska Sobota. See you in Pomurje!



The World Hot Air Balloon Championship is a biannual event, held since 1973. In 2014, it was held in Brazil, in Japan in 2016, in Austria in 2018, and the next World Hot Air Balloon Championship will take place in Slovenia from 19 to 26 September 2020. The main part of the event will be held at the Rakičan Castle and Murska Sobota Airport, and preparations are already under way. As an introduction or a kind of a rehearsal to the 2020 World Championship, the **Slovenian Open Hot Air Balloon National Championship Murska Sobota 2019** will be held from 27 August to 1 September 2019, and teams from abroad can join. The fact that the quota of 40 teams for this year's championship has been filled in the first month after the opening of applications shows a great interest for this event, so we can expect a large number of pilots who will train and fly over Pomurje this year.

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Get to know this year's applicants: <https://www.hotairballoons2020.com/en/Pre-world-2019/Team-presentation>

The organizer of the World Hot Air Balloon Championship in Murska Sobota is the Balloon Club Roto, together with the City of Murska Sobota, the Aeronautical Association of Slovenia, and Aero Club Murska Sobota. The Balloon Club Roto was founded in 1993 and has three active pilots (Matjaž Pavlinjek, Goran Grgič, Radoš Švagelj), who regularly participate in regional, national, and international competitions. The best result of the Club is the 3rd place of Radoš Švagelj at the national championships in 2015 and 2017. The organizing team can boast with the organization of Slovenian national championships between 2013-2017, FAI competition in 2017, and more than 10 years of experience in various fields of this sport (as pilots, official persons at competitions, team members...) in national, European, and World FAI competitions. A very demanding task awaits in 2020, as 105 international competition teams will participate in the world championship, 40 participants of the festival, we expect a total of 145 balloons, which, including teams, competitors, organizers, and volunteers, means over 800 participants.

"We are proud that, 26 years after the last European Championship in Slovenia, we have been entrusted with the organization of the World Hot Air Balloon Championship 2020 in Murska Sobota, which will be the largest balloon spectacle in our country so far. This is a great recognition for the Slovenian ballooning and a great responsibility for the organizational team. We are delighted that this year we will host 40 teams of home and foreign pilots at the Slovenian Open Hot Air Balloon National Championship Murska Sobota 2019, where we will witness the new generation of young, ambitious, and motivated pilots moving the boundaries of ballooning to a higher level," commented the event the General Director Matjaž Pavlinjek.

As early as 1994, Slovenia hosted the European Hot Air Balloon Championship. Teams, competing at that competition, still remember its excellent organization, beautiful landscape, perfect for ballooning, and the kindness of the locals. The Pomurska region is ideal for ballooning due to its plains, suitable temperatures, and winds.

Download photo: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1in-M1jOkzHWr5ef0jO85HIErcmqH2bYJ>

More information:

Website: www.hotairballoons2020.com

Facebook in Instagram profiles: [hotairballoons2020](#)

Tag: #hab2020

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