



THE 2021 MTB MARATHON WORLD CHAMPION AND THE STRONGEST WORLD MARATHON BIKERS AT THE 2021 HERO DUBAI HATTA'S STARTING BLOCKS.

RACE RETURNS FOR THE SECOND TIME TO HATTA WADI HUB BY DUBAI HOLDING.

Just a few weeks to go until the 2021 HERO Dubai Hatta, hosted by Dubai Holding at its flagship centre; Hatta Wadi Hub! We can already reveal some of the star-studded participants: newly crowned 2021 UCI MTB Marathon World Champion, Andreas Seewald, and Diego Alfonso Arias Cuervo, who came second during the 2021 World Championships. They will have to face Martin Stosek – the second cyclist in the UCI Marathon world ranking, Kristian Hynek, and Urs Huber. Among the women one name to look out for is that of Ramona Forchini from Switzerland, 2020 UCI MTB Marathon World Champion. Forchini will have to race for the title against Katazina Sosna from Lithuania – who won the 2021 HERO Dolomites and is the current UCI world ranking leader – and Ariane Lüthi, second in the UCI world ranking. Leonardo Paez will not be competing due to an injury he recently sustained.

Hashtag: #heroworldseries, #herodubaihatta #herodolomites #herothailand #Dubai

Just a few weeks to go until the 2021 **HERO Dubai Hatta** kicks off. This stage of the international HERO Series mountain bike circuit also happens to be the only UCI (Union Cycliste Internationale) mountain bike race in the Arabian Peninsula. **Participants from over 40 countries** will find everything they need upon arrival – the event was organised in line with local health and safety measures to protect participants, staff and volunteers, and spectators.



The show goes down on **Friday, 29 October 2021**. The crème de la crème of off-road cycling will push off at 9 'o clock sharp and fight for the HERO title on a **60-km route boasting 1,600 hm** up and down sandy dunes and the steep tracks of the Hatta MTB Trail Centre. Cyclists

can also opt for the **30-km route with 800 hm**, which is just as exciting a challenge for whoever wants to test their skill across the desert.

FACING THE WORLD CHAMPION – ON YOUR MARKS, GET SET, GO!

The 2021 HERO Dubai Hatta is set to go down in history for its star-studded starting list. Among the many names, true international MTB legends stand out. Take the newly crowned **UCI Marathon World Champion, Andreas Seewald**, for example, who will have to race against **Diego Alfonso Arias Cuervo** who ranked second during the World Championships.

All eyes will be on the **2020 UCI MTB Marathon World Champion Ramona Forchini from Switzerland**, representing the JB Brunex Superior Factory Racing Team.



Gerhard Vanzi, Organiser of the HERO Series international circuit, said that *"after the event was postponed last March, we are over the moon that the 2021 HERO Dubai Hatta will take place. Andreas Seewald and Ramona Forchini, two champions in their own right, will also honour us with their presence at this much-awaited event. They are two outstanding athletes and will give us a show to remember – especially because they will have to race against many other outstanding world athletes!"*

There is no stopping Andreas Seewald, who is ready to face a further challenge after his recent victory at the UCI World Championships, at the top of the UCI world ranking and the UCI Marathon Series. This will be Forchini's first opportunity to cut her teeth on the routes of one of the HERO Series stages.

Leonardo Paez is conspicuous by his absence. The Colombian athlete representing the Team Giant Polimedical and winner of the 2020 HERO Dubai Hatta had to pull out from the race due to a recent injury. Vanzi says *"Leonardo is a top-notch athlete as well as a dear friend, a bond which developed after his six amazing victories at the HERO Dolomites. We wish him a speedy recovery!"*

THE CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Many elite athletes have already confirmed their presence at the 2021 HERO Dubai Hatta. Among the men we will see **Diego Alfonso Arias Cuervo**, who placed second at the recent World Championships, and **Martin Stosek** from the Czech Republic. The cyclist of the Canyon Northwave MTB Team is currently placed second in the UCI Marathon world ranking and a bronze medallist at last year's UCI MTB Marathon World Championship. His team member and fellow countryman **Kristian Hynek**, who placed second at the 2019 World Championships, will also race. **Urs Huber**, from Switzerland and winner of the 2021 Andalusia Bike Race will also be at the starting line.

The women's race will see Ramona Forchini from Switzerland race against **Katazina Sosna**. The Lithuanian represents Torpado Südtirol International MTB Pro Team and is the current UCI Marathon world ranking leader and the UCI MTB Marathon Series leader. After winning the 2021 BMW HERO Südtirol Dolomites, we are sure she has her eyes on the top spot of the podium after missing out by a hair's breadth in 2020 and arriving second. The expectations

are high for **Ariane Lüthi**, also from Switzerland, second in the UCI Marathon world ranking and second place at the 2021 BMW HERO Südtirol Dolomites.



HERO DUBAI HATTA KIDS: THE HEROES OF THE FUTURE

The unmissable **HERO Dubai Hatta Kids** has also been confirmed! This race is meant for children between the ages of 4 and 14, who will get to experience the emotions of the race on their own skin. Get ready for them to hop on their mountain bikes and pedal across the desert on a child-friendly route within the Hatta Mountain Bike Trail Centre.

The HERO Dubai Hatta Title Sponsor: Dubai Holding

As part of its commitment to Dubai Fitness Challenge 2021, this year's Title Sponsor of HERO Dubai Hatta is Dubai Holding, a diversified global investment company with a strong footprint in community wellness and wellbeing. Dubai Holding has been playing a key role in building Hatta's tourism and investment potential, showcasing the beautiful mountain destination and its dynamic offering to the world as prime regional destination for eco-tourism, integrating hospitality and retail to offer a diverse leisure experience through Hatta Wadi Hub and Hatta Resorts among many other initiatives and projects throughout Hatta.

For further information visit www.heroworldseries.com

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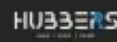
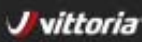
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