



# WENGER PATAGONIAN EXPEDITION RACE®

## 2004-2010

The adventure at the end of the world

## SWITZERLAND LEADS THE FIRST DAY OF THE WENGER PATAGONIAN EXPEDITION RACE

Tierra del Fuego, Patagonia Chilena. - At quarter past noon of Tuesday, February 10, began the 8<sup>th</sup> version of the Wenger Patagonian Expedition Race, the most demanding adventure race in the world, and that this year will cross Tierra del Fuego and end in Puerto Williams, the world's southernmost city.

Yesterday's journey was marked by strong winds in the Chilean Patagonia, which prevented competition depart with the Kayak crossing of the Strait of Magellan, as planned. The weather conditions that included winds of 45 knots, forced the cancellation of the test, a decision that was supported by competitors.

The 14 teams were transferred by ferry to Tierra del Fuego, where they were greeted by the director of WPER, Stjepan Pavicic, and afterwards, began a trek of 16 kilometers, along the beaches of the island. Participants then began the first 110 kilometers of bicycle, which crossed the breathtaking scenery of Tierra del Fuego, while facing winds over 100 mph.

As this note, the Swiss team was leading the race, followed by last year's champion team, led by British Nicola MacLeod, from the team Helly Hansen-Prunesco. Further back were the teams from Air Europa - Bimont (Spain), Herbertz (Germany), Untamed New England (Canada) and GearJunkie.com (USA). Meanwhile, Terra Mundi Lontra (Brazil) was in eighth position. The representatives of Chile had a difficult start, with Almas Patagonia in eleventh place and the BOE Chilean Army team coming in last.

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### ABOUT WENGER PATAGONIAN EXPEDITION RACE

The Wenger Patagonian Expedition Race is an annual adventure race which takes place in the southern-most region of the world. Top-ranked international teams compete in spectacularly rugged and climatically diverse terrain in the Chilean Patagonia region located between southern latitudes 49° and 56°. Extremely physically and mentally challenging, the event tests competitors to the limit on bike, kayak and foot as they traverse plains, mountains, glaciers, native forests, swampland, rivers, lakes and channels, guided only by their mind and spirit and driven on by their physical stamina and experience. Past routes have incorporated the Southern Continental Ice Field, the Torres del Paine National Park, the Strait of Magellan, Tierra del Fuego, the Darwin Range, and the Beagle Channel.

### ABOUT CONSERVATION SUPPORT

The Wenger Patagonian Expedition Race aims to raise awareness of the need to preserve the fragile terrain of Southern Patagonia. The focus is on educating the global community about the environmental issues facing these isolated and virgin territories, developing sustainable tourism and working to avoid the exploitation of natural resources by non-sustainable industrial activities. The 2010 race passes through a 300,000ha Wildlife Conservation Society conservation area called "Karukinka", the largest terrain of this kind and one with the very last protected sub-Antarctic forest reserves on earth.

### ABOUT WENGER

Wenger was founded in 1893, in the famous Swiss Jura region. It has developed around a passion for innovation, precision and expert craftsmanship and is best known as the maker of the genuine Swiss Army Knife. Today, the company produces approximately 250 styles of their famous pocketknives, as well as butcher's and professional catering knives known the world over. In 1997, Wenger Watch SA was founded in the hotbed for Swiss watches, Biel/Bienne, Switzerland. In just 12 short years Wenger Swiss watches have developed a reputation for reliability, multi-functionality and performance. Within the last eight years, Wenger established relationships with a small number of industry leaders who began manufacturing Wenger-branded products that embody the characteristics of the world famous Swiss Army Knife in the footwear, tent, backpack, sleeping bag, computer mobility and travel gear categories.

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Patagonia  
Chile





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For more information:

[www.patagonianexpeditionrace.com](http://www.patagonianexpeditionrace.com)

[www.wengerna.com](http://www.wengerna.com)

**During Race:**

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**For video footage:**

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