

Drawing his own line by Mathéo Jacquemoud. The Alpine Traverse March 2026

Mathéo Jacquemoud, 35, is setting out to achieve one of his lifelong goals: to ski mountaineer across the full Alpine arc, surrounded by his closest friends. To draw the most beautiful line, as fast as possible.



Wildly regarded as one of the most talented ski alpinists of his generation, Mathéo has earned respect not only for his impressive list of achievements, but also for his discreet, steady, humble and fiercely loyal demeanour. A quiet champion. A high performer who never seeks the spotlight. Versatile across every mountain discipline, relentlessly hardworking, he rarely gives up. His exceptionally impressive training volume has majorly shaped his image.

The project

- ◆ From Vienna to Nice
- ◆ Start window: March 10-15 (weather dependent)
- ◆ Finish: under 30 days
- ◆ 1900 km across the Alpine arc
 - 1000 km on skis, 80.000 m of elevation gain
 - 950 km by bike, 20.000 m of elevation gain
- ◆ 100.000 m total elevation gain
- ◆ 28 planned stages
- ◆ 4 countries: Austria, Italy, Switzerland, France

A certified high mountain guide, instructor at Ecole Nationale de Ski et d'Alpinisme (ENSA) and coach of the French national ski mountaineering team, he embodies commitment, precision and passion.

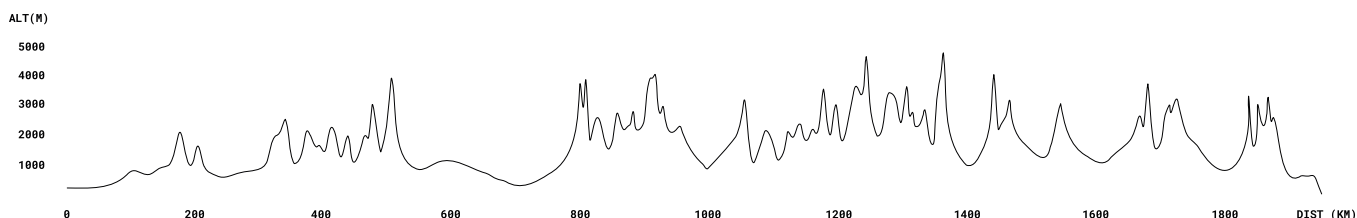
With this winter Alpine Traverse, Mathéo is not only fulfilling a teenage dream, but he is also taking on a major athletic challenge: to carve out a route across the most iconic peaks of the Alps, setting benchmark time and blending performance, exploration and shared adventure.

9 major mountain ranges crossed

- ◆ Dachstein -Tyrol (Vienna, Schladming, Grosslockner)
- ◆ Eastern Dolomites - Ortles (Bolzano, Bormio)
- ◆ Bernina - Graubünden (Saint Moritz)
- ◆ Gothard - Lepontines Alps (between Bernina et Mount Rosa, Ticino, Simplon)
- ◆ Wallis
- ◆ Mont-Blanc
- ◆ Grand Paradiso - Grées Alps (Aosta Valley, Haute Maurienne)
- ◆ Thabor - Queyras (Briançon- Viso)
- ◆ Mercantour Argentera (High Ubaye, then Alpes Maritimes)



Elevation profile





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In 2018, an international team completed the traverse from Nice to Vienna in 36 days. There will be no motorized assistance for Mathéo, he will link up the ranges by bike. At the heart of the project: the ascent of around twenty major summits, including the highest and most iconic peaks in each country: Grossglockner 3798 m (AUT), Piz Bernina 4049 m (CH), pointe Dufour in Mont-Rosa 4634 m (CH), Mont Blanc 4806 m (FR), Grand Paradiso 4061 m (ITA), Viso 3841 m (ITA).

"This project has been on my mind for a long time. I've only explored a part of the Alps and I can't wait to discover the rest. I've talked it through with my friends... So the people I usually head out in the mountains with are part of the adventure too."

It's a winter journey at the heart of the Alps which combines my two passions: the mountains, and skiing. Speed is super important, obviously. My first challenge is to move fast and push myself, but that's not the only focus here. The line we've chosen puts aesthetics first, linking the most beautiful and highest peaks in each country, even if that means losing time, depending on the conditions. After months of preparation, logistics and dedicated physical training, I feel ready. I'm doing everything I can to succeed!"

_ MATHÉO JACQUEMOUD



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**5 x World champion (individual & team):
2013, 2014, 2022**



**2 x winner of Pierra Menta: 2013 with
William Bon Mardion and 2016
with Kilian Jornet**



**2024: round-trip speed record on Ama
Dablam (6,812m, Nepal) in 6h23**



Meticulous preparation

In order to move as fast as possible, preparation is key. The route has to be dialed in with precision, gear refined down to the smallest detail, and every bike transition carefully planned. On top of that comes constant monitoring of weather and snow conditions across four countries and every section of the traverse. This kind of project relies as much on anticipation and adaptability as it does on physical strength.

Mathéo and his team are already working closely with local guides and trusted friends in each region to gather the latest information on the ground. Some of the athletes joining along the way already know sections of the route well, including Vivian Bruchez, who has climbed several peaks in Austria and the Mercantour.

A key part of the operation is Quentin Champagnac, guide, friend, and Mathéo's second set of eyes: ***"He'll always be 24 hours ahead of me and he'll never be very far!"***

Mathéo's gear

Mathéo has fine-tuned every piece of gear to squeeze out maximum efficiency. In the mountains, the rule is simple: go as light as possible, without ever compromising reliability.

Together with Simond, the process has become a true hands-on co-development. A good example is the Sprint Tour backpack, a prototype designed in Chamonix alongside the brand's engineers and product developers. Currently in its final testing phase ahead of release, it weighs just 260 grams for 17 liters, making it one of the lightest packs in its category.

Every feature has been stripped back to what truly matters in action. The crampon pocket, for instance, was completely redesigned with Mathéo. Instead of a single compartment, it now separates crampons and rope, making storage safer and access faster, even in technical terrain.

His race suit, trousers and jacket have been designed to sustain high-output effort over 100,000 meters of elevation gain. One key detail: internal soft-flask pockets integrated inside the jacket to prevent water from freezing during the coldest high-altitude days.

He'll also be using Simond's next generation ultra-light crampons, a full-aluminium model weighing under 10 grams per crampon, and a hybrid automatic version weighing under 200 grams per crampon.

A strong rope team

Support, solidarity and shared experience are core mountain values. Around 10 close friends, men and women, professional skiers and alpinists united by the same passion, will join him on selected stages. Others will follow closely from afar, offering advice and encouragement throughout the journey.

“Everyone joins the sections that truly inspire them. It has to resonate with them. They’re 100% self-sufficient,” says Mathéo

Media

Noa Barrau and Thibaut Marot will document his expedition and co-produce a 52-minute film scheduled for release in late 2026. Photos and video content will be available for social media and media outlets throughout the project.

This project is supported by:
Therm-1c and Mont Blanc Natural Resort

Simon - title partner

“At Simond, the pioneering spirit sits at the heart of our brand. So when Mathéo Jacquemoud, now part of our Simond Avant-Garde Team, told us about his ambition to cross the Alps by ski mountaineering and bike, we didn’t hesitate for a second to get behind him.

The traverse reflects a vision of the mountains we deeply share: alpine style and performance by fair means. Moving light and fast along a clean, aesthetic line and linking the highest peaks, powered solely by his own legs from Vienna to Nice, surrounded by guides, athletes, and above all, his friends. To us, that’s the very essence of alpinism.

It’s a new chapter for Simond and a real challenge for our design teams: to stand alongside Mathéo with our most advanced gear, support him throughout this traverse, and help tell a powerful story together”.

_ NATHALIE JACQUIER MARKETING LEADER



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About Simond

Founded in Chamonix in 1860, Simond has been designing mountain gear for over 160 years. The brand specializes in mountaineering, climbing, trekking and backcountry skiing with deep-rooted expertise in metal craftsmanship. Since joining the Decathlon group in 2008, Simond has continued to design and manufacture all of its metal products such as ice axes, crampons and carabiners in its Chamonix factory. Today, Simond's design teams focus on durability, safety and long-term performance, creating technical gear for committed mountain use.



[SIMOND.COM](https://www.simond.com)

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