



CAPOLIVERI READY FOR THE MEGA CHALLENGE: THE HERO UCI CROSS-COUNTRY MARATHON WORLD CUP IS BACK ON ELBA

On Saturday, 9 May, Elba's Capoliveri will host the Capoliveri Legend Cup, the 2026 HERO UCI Cross-country Marathon World Cup's second round. The best marathon specialists from around the world will compete across 73 km and 2,600 hm, facing technical trails and unique views. The weekend starts on Friday with the HERO Race Talk, and the race will be broadcast live across five continents. This is a key event of the season, cementing Capoliveri as a go-to race of European mountain biking.

Hashtag: #HERO #HEROUCIMarathonWorldCup #HEROWorldCup #GripyourDestiny

Only a few days to go until the **2026 HERO UCI Cross-country Marathon World Cup's** second round which on **Saturday, 9 May** will alight on the **island of Elba** for the **Capoliveri Legend Cup**, one of the most iconic and awaited events of the international marathon scene.

The qualifying route for the UCI World Cup boasts **73 km and 2,600 hm and** circles the entire Capoliveri bluff. A **challenging, intense, and unrelenting** experience: the track alternates fast and slow moments with highly technical stretches. Athletes will face several types of soil: from the **red and ferrous soil, typical of the old mining grounds** boasting a unique but treacherous grip, to the **more compact soil found on the single tracks surrounded by the Mediterranean bush** where concentration and precision will be key.

THE PROGRAMME

The weekend will start on **Friday, 8 May at 16:00** with the **HERO Race Talk**. This open event invites some of the cyclists in the leading positions of the World Cup ranking to share their training routines, sacrifices, and life on the road as well as their expectations on the upcoming race. An event to discover what makes these athletes the pros they are. Speaking at the event will be **Anna Weinbeer**, from Team KTM Spada powered by Brenta Brakes, 2025 UCI XCM World Vice-Champion, and **Maria Zarantonello**, representing the Metallurgica Veneta MTB Pro Team.

Alongside them, **Samuele Porro** of the Klimatiza Orbea Team, 2025 UCI XCM World Vice-Champion, and **Dario Cherchi** from the Leecougan Basso Factory Racing Team will also take part.

Saturday, 9 May – race day. The **Elite Men** will start at **8:30 from Viale Italia**, followed by the **Elite Women**, the **Master** category, and the **amateurs**. There are two available routes: the marathon option boasting **73 km and 2,600 hm** for Elite athletes which goes towards the UCI ranking qualifying points, while the alternative comes in at **45km and 1,600 hm** which is just as demanding and exciting as the first route.

The first among the men to cross the finish line in Viale Italia will do so **around 11:45**, followed by the Elite Women and Master **approximately 45 minutes later**. The **prize-giving ceremony will start at 12:45** to celebrate the winners of the Capoliveri Legend Cup and mark the official conclusion of the **2026 HERO UCI Cross-country Marathon World Cup's second round**.

THE ATHLETES

The line-up features a who's who of the best. The leaders of the overall World Cup ranking will race in Capoliveri: **Wout Alleman**, from Belgium, winner of the first round and leading the UCI ranking, and **Anna Weinbeer**, from Switzerland, representing KTM Spada powered by Brenta Brakes, runner-up champion of the 2025 XCM World and winner of the 2026 HERO Costa Blanca. Her main rivals will be **Adelheid Morath** (Leecougan Basso Factory Racing), **Sandra Mairhofer** (Leecougan Basso Factory Racing), **Paula Gorycka-Kürmann**, **Lejla Njemčević**, **Claudia Peretti**, and **Natalia Fischer** (Extremadura Ecopilas Team). In the Men's category, all eyes will be on **Andres Seewald**, currently second in the UCI ranking, **Samuele Porro** (Klimatiza Orbea Team), **Gioele De Cosmo** and **Leonardo Páez** (Leecougan Basso Factory Racing).

LIVE ON TV

The Capoliveri Legend Cup cements its role as main event of the season, with a pull factor attracting cyclists and teams from all Europe, and delivering all the conditions for a highly technical, professional race.

The race will enjoy broad international reach, as it will be shown by the main sport broadcasters and digital platforms in **five continents**. The **live broadcast** will run between **10:30 and 13:00 (CEST)** on **Raiplay**, the **official UCI Youtube channel**, and on www.heroucimathonworldcup.com, the **HERO UCI Cross-country Marathon World Cup** website. The latter will also feature live timings and tracking of the best Elite athletes.

Organising Committee

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