

Tempo rush on the Manaslu

Both of the Munich natives **Benedikt Böhm (30)** and **Sebastian Haag (29)** wish to jointly speed climb the 8163-metre-high Manaslu in Nepal with the Frenchman **Nicolas Bonnet (23)**.

“The world needs people who take risks. They inspire, challenge and provide courage.”
Maria Coffey in *Extreme*

For both of the extreme athletes Benedikt Böhm and Sebastian Haag, mountain climbing on skis is more than just a sport. They are realising their dreams. They are pioneers who are transforming their visions into an adventure they are then experiencing. They are accepting the challenge.

Mountain speed climbing as new variants of high-altitude mountain climbing

Speed climbs have developed in recent years into a firmly established variant upon the Earth's high mountains. That means to get to the summit as fast as possible and without any third-party assistance. Benedikt Böhm and Sebastian Haag have taken on this challenge upon this Earth's highest mountains. What particularly distinguishes their races is the subsequent downhill portion of the speed climb on skis because movement via skis is the most beautiful and elegant way of climbing the mountains for the two ski mountaineers. From the base camp to the summit and back again in only one day. Normal expeditions require five to seven days for the ascent and descent of an eight-thousand-foot mountain as well as at least two high-altitude encampments.

Pushing the limits on the Gasherbrum II (8035m) and Mustagh Ata (7546m)

The extreme mountain climbers set a milestone with their successful speed climb and downhill descent on skis on the 7546-metre-high Mustagh Ata. They managed to reach the summit of the icy giant mountain in China in only 9:25 hours. After 10:41 hours, they were back at the base camp again. The following year, they required only 17 hours in order to climb from the base camp to the summit of the 8035-metre-high Gasherbrum II in Pakistan and to return back to the base camp.

Manaslu-the mountain of the soul

Always on the search for intensive experiences and driven by the need to learn the boundaries of the body's physical capabilities, the Himalayas once again beckon to the Munich natives. They are accompanied by the Frenchman **Nicolas Bonnet**, the reigning Junior World Champion in ski mountaineering. The Austrian **Hubert Rieger** is likewise with the group. The experienced expedition cameraman from Vienna will record the experiences of the mountain climbers and stage them professionally.

The name Manaslu originates from Sanskrit and, in translated form, means approximately "Soul of the Himalayas." At 8163 metres, it is the eighth-highest mountain in the world, located in the Gurka-Himal region of the Himalayas. At the beginning of September, the small expedition team will embark on climbing the mountain in record time. Then their unique adventure begins because there has never been a speed climb upon this mountain. In less than 24 hours, they intend to reach the summit from and return to base camp.

Minimal equipment

Speed climbs require the perfect combination of physical fitness and high-tech products. During the climb, equipment weight is of the utmost importance and only the lightest materials are used. "Our sponsors GORE-TEX® Products and the ski excursion outfitter DYNAFIT support us with specially-manufactured products for the expedition. The development of energy-saving materials which are innovative and reliable as well as optimal logistics on-site make such undertakings possible at all", says Benedikt Böhm. The German Alpine Association is the official sponsor and partner of the young mountain climbers.





Benedikt Böhm

Age: 30 years old

Occupation: International Sales Director/Dynafit

- Speed climb of Gasherbrum II (8,035m)
3/08/2006 in 17h 03min (start 5,900m - summit 8,035m - destination 5,900m)
- Speed climb of Mustagh Ata (7,546m)
23/08/2005 in 10h 41min (start 4,400m - summit 7,546m - destination 4,400m)
- German national ski climbing team 2003-2006



Sebastian Haag

Age: 29 years old

Occupation: Veterinarian

- Speed climb of Gasherbrum II (8,035m)
3/08/2006 in 17h 03min (start 5,900m - summit 8,035m - destination 5,900m)
- Speed climb of Mustagh Ata (7,546m)
23/08/2005 in 10h 41min (start 4,400m - summit 7,546m - destination 4,400m)



Nicolas Bonnet

Age: 23 years old

Occupation: Mountain guide, racer, national coach

- Six-time French Ski Mountain Climbing Masters Champion
- Ski Mountain Climbing Junior World Masters Champion in the 2006 vertical race
- 1st place, 2006 Junior Pierra Menta
- Speed record at Pelvoux (3,946m) 12/04/2007 in 3h 18min (start 1,500m - summit 3,946m - destination 1,500m)

Professionals for professionals

The organisation of and logistics for the expedition are handled by DAV Summit Club, which has already optimally supported the mountain climbers with its experience and competence since 2005. They depart for Nepal on September 6th and will return on October 14th. We will be glad to keep you informed of how the expedition proceeds, the ascent to the summit and the return descent of the three athletes. Please visit our website www.manaslu.baiern.net

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