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Adventure Racing World Championship Estoril Portugal XPD Race started

SAMPLING WHAT IS TO COME

Estoril Portugal XPD Race's official timer was started this morning and it will only stop after 127 hours of racing. During this first stage, teams have used 13 different means of progression and visited some of the most important spots in the Sintra-Cascais Natural Park, having a glimpse of the roughness to come!

A pack of 59 teams from 25 countries and a total 236 athletes set out this morning for the Adventure Racing World Championship at the Estoril Portugal XPD Race. This 100% ecological competition places Portugal in the spotlights drawing the attention of a worldspread community of nature sports lovers. An overwhelming challenge of over 900Kms to complete in only 127 hours!

The teams gathered at the start line, colouring the gardens of the Estoril Casino this morning under gusty wind and dispersed showers, unveiling a little of the difficulties they will have to face over the next few days.

Orienteering, kayak surf, swimming, snorkelling, surf, bike dirt jumping, archery, rappel, inline skating and climbing were only some of the activities for the teams during the day, which ended in the bay of Cascais after visiting a few of the nicest spots in the Sintra-Cascais Natural Park. Teams were then transported up to Lousã, where they will restart early tomorrow on the non-stop race that shall finish only next Saturday.

Early in the race, the six Portuguese teams opted for caution. José Marques, captain of the "Extreme Challenger/IGeoE" team said **"Our goal for now is to cross the finish line. We are well aware that we're competing with the best of the world and prefer not to live on high hopes, only do our best stage by stage"**.

New Zealand's Wayne Oxenham and his team mates, who are defending their world title, said straight forward; **"We are here to win, but we know it will be a long and hard race!"**

More info at: www.arwc2009.com

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