

Media information

Date 14 September 2026

Topic Carpathian Calling: The BMW Motorrad Int. GS Trophy 2026 Romania begins.

Page 1

Media information

14 September 2026

Carpathian Calling: The BMW Motorrad Int. GS Trophy 2026 Romania begins.

13 Teams. Six Days. One epic GS adventure.



P90655153

Colțești, Romania. The tenth BMW Motorrad International GS Trophy got underway yesterday. Camped on the edge of the village of Coltesti, overlooked by a 13th century clifftop fortress, deep in the Transylvanian region, the competitors are surrounded by a natural wilderness landscape. Encircled by the Carpathian mountains and some of Europe's few great undisturbed natural forests – home to apex predators such as grey wolves and brown bears, in their thousands – this is a rare European wilderness.

Rugged terrain in the form of dense forests, gravel roads, river crossings, and mountainous ascents and descents will challenge the riders in the coming days. A perfect tableau on which to showcase the

Media information

Date 14 September 2026

Topic Carpathian Calling: The BMW Motorrad Int. GS Trophy 2026 Romania begins.

Page 2

impressive on- and off-road capabilities of the latest GS Trophy Competition Bike, the BMW R 12 G/S.

The BMW Motorrad International GS Trophy is emphatically not a race: outright speed, fastest times and individual victory are not what define success. Instead, it is a shared adventure that rewards precise riding, sound judgement, endurance and, above all, the ability to work as a team. Participants support one another, solve practical and intellectual challenges together and demonstrate the camaraderie, resilience and mutual respect at the heart of the international GS community. While teams collect points during special tests, these challenges are designed to showcase well-rounded adventure-riding skills rather than racing performance.

Over the weekend, participants completed registration and medical checks, as well as the individual fitting of their protective and riding equipment. After the SENA communication systems had been integrated, they took delivery of their personalised BMW R 12 G/S motorcycles. A welcome dinner and team introductions on Saturday set the stage for the start on Sunday morning.

This year, eight national or regional qualifiers have produced 13 international teams, eight of which are three-person male teams and five two-person female teams – all together 30 riders from 13 nations. Some 30 individuals who will need all their riding skills, their inner strength and outgoing team working capability to succeed in this ever-testing adventure motorcycling competition.

Martin Schleypen, Event Director and Head of Brand Management, BMW Motorrad, speaking from base camp:

“The GS Trophy brings together people from all around the world who share a common passion: adventure, adventure riding, and the BMW GS.

It is far more than a competition. It is about team spirit, international

Media information

Date 14 September 2026

Topic Carpathian Calling: The BMW Motorrad Int. GS Trophy 2026 Romania begins.

Page 3

friendships, and shared experiences that continue to resonate long after the event has ended.

For me, this unique sense of community is what truly defines the magic of the GS Trophy."

Adventure riding without limits.

The participants face six days and around 1,500 challenging kilometres through the Carpathians. Roughly half of the route runs off paved roads, taking in steep sections, rugged mountain trails and dense forest tracks. The winding asphalt roads also demand maximum concentration due to the challenging topography.

Daily competition challenges test riding, practical and mental skills – essential qualities for adventure riders operating in remote regions. The tenth edition is held under the motto "Back to Basics": demanding rides through mountain and forest terrain, teamwork and the certainty that the unexpected is always just around the corner.

Host country Romania captivates with its rich traditions, fascinating history and warm hospitality – a far more authentic experience than the fantasy imagery shaped by Bram Stoker's Dracula.

The teams.

It's time to meet the GS riders. Below is a full list of the teams, the participants, with a little background on each about their lives as GS riders and the excitement of attending the most prestigious GS event in the world:

Team Germany

No. 900

Rider: Fabi Fenner

Nationality: German

Media information

Date 14 September 2026

Topic Carpathian Calling: The BMW Motorrad Int. GS Trophy 2026 Romania begins.

Page 4

Age: 27

Occupation: Automotive mechatronics technician

Background:

Introduced to trials riding by his father, this sparked his interest in motorcycles. Fabi brings practical know-how and a grounded enthusiasm for riding to the GS Trophy stage.

No. 901

Rider: Norman Pleissner

Nationality: German

Age: 33

Occupation: Full-time traveler-explorer

Background:

Norman is an adventurer currently traveling through North and South America on his BMW F 800 GS, having been introduced to motorcycling by his wife. Inspired by photography, wildlife and the spirit of exploration, he sees the GS Trophy as a chance to deepen his off-road skills and live the true spirit of GS.

No. 902

Rider: Flo Thomann (KOL)

Nationality: German

Age: 31

Occupation: Service advisor / motorcycle mechanic

Backgournd:

Flo is a service advisor and motorcycle mechanic from a family with generations of BMW riders. Family, craftsmanship and lifelong motorcycle roots define his path into the GS community.

Team Europe

No: 910

Rider: Marcin Rak

Media information

Date 14 September 2026

Topic Carpathian Calling: The BMW Motorrad Int. GS Trophy 2026 Romania begins.

Page 5

Nationality: Polish

Age: 41

Occupation: Soldier

Background:

Marcin is a soldier and adventure rider. Drawn to sport, discipline and the legendary GS, he brings a strong team mindset and a love of ADV riding to Team Europe.

No: 911

Rider: Thomas Evrard

Nationality: Belgian

Age: 39

Occupation: On-road motorcycle instructor

Background:

Thomas is an on-road motorcycle instructor whose life revolves around riding. With experience around world-level enduro and a long connection to BMW road bikes, he brings professional skill and broad sporting curiosity to the GS Trophy.

No: 912

Rider: Remy Zwemmer (KOL)

Nationality: Dutch

Age: 31

Occupation: Technical management

Background:

Remy combines technical management, filming, travel and adventure. From early two-wheel fascination to training on a 2005 GS, his story is built around exploration, creativity and loyalty to GS riding (having participated in the 2022 Int GS Trophy in Albania).

Team Ukraine

Media information

Date 14 September 2026

Topic Carpathian Calling: The BMW Motorrad Int. GS Trophy 2026 Romania begins.

Page 6

No: 920

Rider: Ed Pozniak

Age: 32

Nationality: Ukrainian

Occupation: Motorcycle mechanic

Background:

Eduard is a motorcycle mechanic with a love for travel and adventure. His passion began through family and grew through friendships that opened the door to the BMW Motorrad community.

No: 921

Rider: Vasyl Onyshchenko

Nationality: Ukrainian

Age: 45

Occupation: works in the metallurgical industry

Background:

Vasyl works on the metallurgical industry and enjoys family travel and skiing. Taught to ride by his father at age 13, he brings lifelong motorcycle roots and a steady adventurous spirit.

No: 922

Rider: Artem Cherepenko

Nationality: Ukrainian

Age: 32

Occupation: BMW Motorrad professional in Ukraine

Background:

Artem is a BMW Motorrad professional and KOL with a deep passion for sport, travel and community building. From childhood motorcycles to helping develop GS riding culture in Ukraine, his story is one of dedication, growth and leadership.

Team International

Media information

Date 14 September 2026

Topic Carpathian Calling: The BMW Motorrad Int. GS Trophy 2026 Romania begins.

Page 7

No: 930

Rider: Jordan Wiley

Nationality: American

Age: 42

Occupation: Firefighter and paramedic captain.

Background:

Jordan is a firefighter and paramedic captain, family man and lifelong dirt-bike enthusiast. Big motorcycle journeys introduced him to BMW adventure riding, and he now sees the GS Trophy as his greatest adventure yet.

No: 931

Rider: Ivan Morozov

Nationality: Uzbekistani

Age: 35

Occupation: CEO of a regenerative medicine company

Background:

Ivan is an entrepreneur leading an international regenerative medicine company. A childhood dream of motorcycling grew into a passion for freedom, travel and the global adventure spirit of the GS – and after seeing the GS Trophy in 2014 the BMW GS Trophy too.

No: 932

Rider: Aloisio Frazão (KOL)

Nationality: Brazilian

Age: 52

Occupation: Manager of courses, expeditions and events for BMW Motorrad Brazil

Background:

Aloisio's GS Trophy experience, as a finalist in the 2012 Int GS Trophy reshaped his career. After years in branding and advertising, he now works with BMW Motorrad Brazil, sharing riding courses, expeditions

Media information

Date 14 September 2026

Topic Carpathian Calling: The BMW Motorrad Int. GS Trophy 2026 Romania begins.

Page 8

and the GS spirit with others.

Team South Korea

No: 940

Rider: Chanju Jeong

Nationality: South Korean

Age: 37

Occupation: Rider with National Petition Police

Background:

Chanju is a rider from the National Petition Police. Captivated by the R1250GS at first sight, he comes to the GS Trophy ready to take on a major life challenge.

No: 941

Rider: Yoonsoon Choi

Nationality: South Korean

Age: 39

Occupation: Locksmith

Background

Yoonsoon is a locksmith and problem-solver with a strong off-road mindset. For him, motorcycles represent freedom, resilience and constant learning, while the BMW GS stands for global adventure and shared spirit.

No: 942

Rider: Hongjun Choi (KOL)

Nationality: South Korean

Age: 49

Occupation: Freelance journalist

Background

Hongjun is a freelance journalist with a love for the ocean and the

Media information

Date 14 September 2026

Topic Carpathian Calling: The BMW Motorrad Int. GS Trophy 2026 Romania begins.

Page 9

outdoors. A childhood comic book sparked his motorcycle dream, and BMW's safety, technology and heritage match the lifestyle he wants to live.

Team Japan

No: 950

Rider: Tsuyoshi Sugimoto

Nationality: Japanese

Age: 51

Occupation: Automotive professional

Background:

Tsuyoshi is an automotive professional with motorcycles woven into his family history. For him, a rider since the age of 16, the GS is the ultimate travel motorcycle and a gateway to a worldwide community built on respect, exploration and growth.

No: 951

Rider: Yoshihiro Kon

Nationality: Japanese

Age: 43

Occupation: Medical device sales manager

Background:

Yoshihiro is a medical device sales manager who loves camping, trekking and fishing with his family. Introduced to motorcycles as a child, he found the F800GS ideal for long touring and off-road exploration with his wife.

No: 952

Rider: Hiroshi Maruyama

Nationality: Japanese

Age: 62

Occupation: Journalist

Media information

Date 14 September 2026

Topic Carpathian Calling: The BMW Motorrad Int. GS Trophy 2026 Romania begins.

Page 10

Background:

Hiroshi Maruyama is a former racer, now a journalist and head of an automotive and motorcycle tuning/event company. Introduced to motorcycles by a friend and to BMW by BMW Japan, he brings a media perspective and seasoned curiosity to the GS Trophy community.

Team China

No: 960

Rider: Wanzi Chen

Nationality: Chinese

Age: 43

Occupation: Businessman

Background:

Wanzi is a businessman who values fitness, safety and adventure. Drawn to BMW for its confidence-inspiring character, he brings energy and a personal sense of freedom to Team China.

No: 961

Rider: Jihao Zhang

Nationality: Chinese

Age: 46

Occupation: Motorcycle specialist

Background

Jihao is a motorcycle specialist, event planner and ECU tuning expert. After decades of riding, GS dealer events and qualifier experiences turned BMW into a source of confidence, community and lasting friendships.

No: 962

Rider: Chi Zhang (KOL)

Media information

Date 14 September 2026

Topic Carpathian Calling: The BMW Motorrad Int. GS Trophy 2026 Romania begins.

Page 11

Nationality: Chinese

Age: 47

Occupation: Motorcycle media specialist

Background:

Chi is a motorcycle media professional, enjoying reading history books when not riding. A secret childhood ride gave him the feeling of flight, and BMW Motorrad's dedication and positive spirit continue to inspire him.

Team Australia

No: 970

Rider: Darcy Edgar

Nationality: Australian

Age: 29

Occupation: Carpenter

Background:

Darcy is a travelling carpenter, musician, surfer and explorer. Motorcycles have been part of his life since childhood, and a friend's encouragement brought him into the GS Trophy adventure.

No: 971

Rider: Lach Haskins

Nationality: Australian

Age: 37

Occupation: Civil construction

Background:

Lachlan is a civil construction business owner and lifelong bike enthusiast. From childhood motocross to adventure riding, he brings family values, practical drive and Australian GS Safari inspiration to the Trophy.

Media information

Date 14 September 2026

Topic Carpathian Calling: The BMW Motorrad Int. GS Trophy 2026 Romania begins.

Page 12

No: 972

Rider: Rob Hamilton (KOL)

Nationality: Australian

Age: 39

Occupation: Motorcycle/car salesman

Background:

Robert is a YouTuber and KOL with a strong interest in cars, motorcycles and sim racing. Drawn in by BMW Motorrad Australia, he sees the R 12 G/S as the adventure bike that fits his future.

Team Germany Women

No: 801

Rider: Jasmin Habegger

Nationality: German

Age: 40

Occupation: Talent acquisition leader

Background:

Jasmin is a talent acquisition leader and long-distance triathlete. Motorcycling was a childhood dream that became real in 2020, and her BMW journey is now shaped by off-road parks, adventure camps and European trails.

No: 802

Rider: Katrin Blümel

Nationality: German

Age: 50

Occupation: Orthopaedic technician

Background:

Katrin is an orthopaedic technician, beekeeper and mother of three. After 20 years with BMW and a later move into off-road riding, she brings patience, curiosity and deep brand loyalty to Team Germany.

Media information

Date 14 September 2026

Topic Carpathian Calling: The BMW Motorrad Int. GS Trophy 2026 Romania begins.

Page 13

Team Europe Women

No: 811

Rider: Anja Flak

Nationality: Dutch

Age: 40

Occupation: IT application administrator

Background:

Anna is an IT application administrator whose motorcycle dream began in childhood. A personal turning point shifted her path from choppers toward adventure riding, where she found a new direction step by step on a GS.

No: 812

Rider: Chrissie Harcourt

Nationality: British

Age: 37

Occupation: Arborist

Background:

Chrissie is an arborist and adventurous mother. After starting riding enduro in 2023 she came to adventure bikes full of drive, entering the GS Trophy qualifier after encouragement from fellow riders and found lasting friendships along the way.

BMW Motorrad note:

Chrissie met Fionn Griffiths on a road trip to the International Qualifier in Germany. They became friends. Fionn originally made place 1 at the qualifier and was supposed to come to Romania. Only Fionn, with previous experience of international competition in mountain biking gave her place up so Chrissie could take the place instead and experience what it's like to be in an exciting international event.

Media information

Date 14 September 2026

Topic Carpathian Calling: The BMW Motorrad Int. GS Trophy 2026 Romania begins.

Page 14

Team International Women

No: 821

Rider: Stephanie Townsend

Nationality: American

Age: 54

Occupation: Accountant

Background:

Stephanie is a certified public accountant and business owner. Her late husband sparked her motorcycle interest, and a 2006 R 1200 GS became her first adventure bike after Long Way Round inspired the leap.

No: 822

Rider: Eduarda Mikulski

Nationality: Brazilian

Age: 35

Occupation: Civil engineer

Background:

Eduarda is a civil engineer whose life has always been connected to the sound of motorcycles. Travel led her to big trail bikes, and discovering the BMW Motorrad International GS Trophy influenced her first BMW choice.

Team China Women

No: 831

Rider: Weizhu Kong

Nationality: Chinese

Age: 50

Occupation: Works in advertising

Media information

Date 14 September 2026

Topic Carpathian Calling: The BMW Motorrad Int. GS Trophy 2026 Romania begins.

Page 15

Background:

Weizhu works in advertising and also enjoys reading and travel. A lifelong love of motorcycles and off-road riding connects her with BMW's strong brand presence and adventure identity.

No: 832

Rider: Yue Qiu

Nationality: Chinese

Age: 31

Occupation: Off-road motorcycle marketing

Background:

Yue an off-road marketing and content professional whose life revolves around bikes. From childhood rides with her father to creating events and social media content, she brings authentic off-road energy and deep GS enthusiasm.

Team Australia Women

No: 841

Rider: Rikki Dryden

Nationality: Australian

Age: 42

Occupation: Business services manager

Background:

Rikki is a business services manager. Growing up in the country she was into riding dirt bikes by her teens, adventure bikes came later and a BMW GS launch led her into a decade of GS riding, her journey is defined by gratitude, community and a lifetime commitment to riding.

No: 842

Rider: Lisa Porter

Nationality: Australian

Media information

Date 14 September 2026

Topic Carpathian Calling: The BMW Motorrad Int. GS Trophy 2026 Romania begins.

Page 16

Age: 60

Occupation: Manages a commercial law firm

Background:

Lisa Ann is a commercial law firm manager who loves working on bikes, camping and gardening. Seeking skill, challenge and remote exploration, she moved from road to off-road riding and has stayed loyal to GS ever since.

Find all information about the BMW Motorrad International GS Trophy 2026 Romania at the dedicated website www.gstrophy.com.

Immediately following the BMW Motorrad International GS Trophy 2026 Romania, BMW Motorrad will once again be offering "Follow the Trails" tours: these allow customers to follow in the footsteps of the competition on the original GS Trophy motorcycles.

You will find press material on BMW motorcycles and BMW Motorrad rider equipment in the BMW Group PressClub at www.press.bmwgroup.com.

In case of queries please contact:

Damien Cagnart, Communications BMW Motorrad
Tel.: +49-151-601-95806, Damien.Cagnart@bmw.com

Steven Wörns, Head of Communications BMW Motorrad
Tel.: +49-151-601-16992, Steven.Woerns@bmw.com

Internet: www.press.bmw.de

E-mail: presse@bmw.de

Media information

Date 14 September 2026

Topic Carpathian Calling: The BMW Motorrad Int. GS Trophy 2026 Romania begins.

Page 17

You may find press material on BMW Motorrad in the BMW Group PressClub at www.press.bmwgroup.com.

The BMW Group

With its four brands, BMW, MINI, Rolls-Royce and BMW Motorrad, the BMW Group is the world's leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial services. The BMW Group production network comprises over 30 production sites worldwide; the company has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2025, the BMW Group sold 2.46 million passenger vehicles and more than 202,500 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax in the financial year 2025 was € 10.2 billion on revenues amounting to € 133,5 billion. As of 31 December 2025, the BMW Group had a workforce of 154,540 employees.

The economic success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. Sustainability is a key element of the BMW Group's corporate strategy and covers all products – from the supply chain through production to the end of their useful life.

www.bmwgroup.com

LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/company/bmw-group/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/bmwgroup>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/bmwgroup>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bmwgroup>