



Invitation

Ballongruppe Zürich and Freiballonclub Salzach-Inn e.V.

invite you to the **9th International Competition** for the

«Silver Balloon of Zurich 2025»

on **Thursday, 19 June 2025 (Day of Corpus Christi)**

to **DE-Burgkirchen a.d. Alz.**

First a little history

Ballongruppe Zürich (BGZ) would like to revive an old tradition: The organization of the competition for the «Silver Balloon of Zurich». The last, 8th competition took place on the 100th anniversary of BGZ on 17/18 June 2011 from the Letzigrund stadium in Zurich¹:

The tradition of competition flights from the Letzigrund stadium dates back to 1958, when BGZ was allowed to open the new stadium with a competition flight. Just one year later, the second competition was held from Letzigrund². The next competition flights no longer launched in the stadium, but elsewhere in Zurich: on the Landiwiese, the Blatterwiese and the Zürichhorn. The 7th competition was then held at Dübendorf airfield.

A new approach

In future, we would like to rotate the launch of the «Silver Balloon of Zurich» on the existing launch sites in Europe. Maybe annually, maybe biennially, we'll see. We started in 2024 with Burgkirchen a.d. Alz, where the **Freiballonclub Salzach-Inn e.V.** hosted us. Unfortunately, the weather did not allow us to hold the event in 2024. This year we will be lucky.

The connection to the city of Zurich and to BGZ is maintained with the competition goal: The team that reaches the maximum (or minimum, depending on weather conditions) distance from Zurich during the scoring window is declared the winner of the competition. We want to

The airspace restrictions are not the only reason why competitions with gas balloons in the greater Zurich area are no longer realistic. The hydrogen supply and safety aspects also call for new approaches to get the «Silver Balloon of Zurich» flying again. Until 1976, Zurich's gas balloonists were based at the Schlieren gas plant where town gas was available to fill the balloons.

Since gas production in Schlieren was discontinued, BGZ balloonists launched from the filling stations in At-tisholz, Bronschhofen and Bad Zurzach, all of which are now history. With the current approach, we would like to strengthen our ties with the clubs we are friends with and plan to use alternative launch sites in the future.

enable sporty, strategically interesting gas balloon flights and define the scoring window as lasting between 24 and 48 hours. The competition task will be announced in detail at the General Briefing.

The evaluation of the flight will take place on the basis of GPS tracking to be provided by the participating team no later than five days after launch in electronic form, published during a joint online meeting.

The winning team will be invited to participate at the **BGZ annual closing dinner (Epilogium) on Friday, 7 November 2025 in Zurich**. The trophée will be presented by the Club Chairman of BGZ.

¹ <https://www.srf.ch/play/tv/schweiz-aktuell/video/ballon-nachtflug-ueber-zuerich?urn=urn:srf:video:72db3dcd-2835-4207-9411-6c60a1a5d895>

² https://memobase.ch/it/object/bar-001-SFW_1033-6



Program

Tuesday 17.06.2025 (or earlier if possible)

Until 12.00 LT Final decision as to whether the competition can be held due to weather conditions or whether a postponement is necessary (notification via e-mail and WhatsApp group).

Donnerstag 19.06.2025 (Day of Corpus Christi)

from 09.00 to 15.00 LT Check-in, document check and start of balloon rigging at the launch site of the Freiballonclub Salzach-Inn e.V. in DE-Burgkirchen a.d. Alz³. The filling sequence and expected arrival schedule of the teams on site will be coordinated with the teams before the event.

17.00 LT General Briefing

18.00 LT Joint traditional Bavarian Brotzeit and welcome by the President of BGZ (Andreas Zweifel) and the President of the Freiballonclub Salzach Inn e.V. (Axel Strobel)

From 19.30 LT Launch briefing (if still required), followed by the launch of the balloons

If the weather does not permit a flight on Thursday, the launch might be postponed until Saturday morning in consultation with the teams.

Conditions and Organizational Matters

Conditions and Operational

- Competition:** Performance flight with scoring task.
- Scoring:** Maximum or minimum distance (defined in detail at the General Briefing) reached during the flight (calculated as great circle) to the center of Zurich (47°22.0130'N 008°32.5886'E).
- Scoring period:** The scoring window is between 24-48 hours from the official start time and will be announced at the General Briefing.
- Approved balloons:** Up to 1050 m³ with and without net.
- Safety, meteo and air law compliance:** Sole responsibility of the respective PIC (including flight plan and ATC).
- Preparations:** The balloons are to be set up by the teams from 0900h and prepared for filling supported by members of the team of Freiballonclub Salzach-Inn. Launch aids, launch ballast or ground anchor straps and launch ballast bags are to be brought by the teams and all ballast bags are to be filled by the teams themselves.
- Further requirements:**
 - In addition to the PIC, there must be a second pilot on board who has at least a valid BPL for hot-air balloons.
 - Each balloon must have a GPS that remains switched on during the entire flight and allows the track to be recorded in .gpx format during the entire flight (maximum 1 minute recording interval, WGS84).
- Communication:** A WhatsApp group will be set up between all pilots.
- Catering:** Traditional Brotzeit on the launch day on the field in Burgkirchen (4 persons per team included, without alcoholic drinks).
- Alternative date:**
Alternative date 1: Fr 04.07.2025 – Su 06.07.2025
Alternative date 2: Fr 11.07.2025 – Su 13.07.2025

Organizational Matters

- Registration by Thu 01.05.2025 via the online form:** <https://forms.office.com/e/TmQPzLRIWd>.
- Documents:** At check-in the following documents will be verified:
 - PIC: License (BPL for GB, incl. night flying extension), Medical Certificate; recency according to BFCL.160(a)/(b);
 - Balloon: CoR, CoA, ARC, CRS and proof of insurance.
- Confirmation of registration:** Will be sent by e-mail by BGZ. The number of teams is limited to a maximum of 10. No entitlement to participate. Preference will be given to teams participating in GB25.
- Entry fee:** CHF 350 per team (to be paid by bank transfer within 10 days of receipt of confirmation of registration - account details will be sent by e-mail). Will be refunded if the competition is not held, but not if the team cancels or does not participate.
- Award ceremony:** At an online meeting (date to be agreed at the General Briefing). The winning team will be invited to the award ceremony at the BGZ Epilogium (Fr 07.11.2025 in Zurich; invitation to dinner for 4 people; travel and accommodation at the expense of the participants).

³ <https://maps.app.goo.gl/9xChTAuAp2Qf8WAY7>



Disclaimer and Consent

Ballongruppe Zürich and Freiballonclub Salzach-Inn e.V. accept **no liability whatsoever**.

All participating teams expressly agree to the use and publication (on websites, social media, etc.) of all image, video and sound recordings, as well as the tracker recordings of their ride by the organizers and by the other teams, also on behalf of their entire crews.

Contact Persons

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Registration

Online form for the registration of the teams **by 1 May 2025**: <https://forms.office.com/e/TmQPzLRiWd> (in German only)



We look forward to a large number of participants, a sporty competition flight and wish you all the best!

Good luck and safe landings!

Ballongruppe Zürich & Freiballonclub Salzach-Inn e.V.

XX January 2025