



WANDERBIRD CUP RIO 2024
PRESS RELEASE EN

First WANDERBIRD Cup in Rio de Janeiro



Perfect weather- despite a bad forecast- and happy faces at the first WANDERBIRD Cup in Rio de Janeiro, Brasil.

On Saturday, 10th of January 2024, the first WANDERBIRD Cup in São Conrado, Rio de Janeiro took place. 'Compared to the central Alps area, where WANDERBIRD Hike & Fly has its origin, the community in Brazil is still small, but I think the core of it came together at our event and enjoyed the WANDERBIRD spirit. That makes me very happy!' says WANDERBIRD co-founder Paul Guschlbauer.

At 08:30 in the morning, with the summer temperatures of Rio de Janeiro already up at around 35 degrees celsius, the competition started right next to São Conrado's white beach under blue skies.

The challenge for the Hero Category: Climb infamous Gavea mountain- a challenging 10km hike, with almost 844m of vertical ascent, including steep jungle trails and a demanding rock climbing section close to the top. Aaron Durogati, co-founder of Wanderbird, describes his arrival at the top as follows: 'I was involved in the organization of the event, but it was my first time arriving at the top of Gavea during the race and I have to say, I was very impressed! From this point, Rio lies at your feet. Taking a paraglider out of your bag and take off from the cliff, with this view, is unforgettable...'

Aaron- out of the ranking- was leading the race at this point, but Gabriel Rabello was right on his feet and launched first into the rest of the race, a small but technical thermal flight along the coast and another climb to Rio's infamous Rampa de Voo Livre, before another flight back to goal. The first three of the gaggle managed to land close to the second ,selfie turnpoint' on top of the mountain, which gave them a big lead to the rest of the competitors. At this point the race also mixed with the FUN category of the event, which also saw a separate Womens category, who 'only' had to climb 600m vertical to the Take off Ramp (second TP of the Hero category) and then fly to Goal via one Turnpoint.

'At the prize giving ceremony you could feel and see the Wanderbird vibe to it's full extendhappy and motivated faces all around and people telling stories of adventures they had on this amazing day' says Gui Padua, local Wanderbird partner and base jumping legend. On the second day of the event Aaron Durogati and Paul Guschlbauer gave some insights into their careers and Red Bull X-Alps experiences.

Paul Guschlbauer sums up the weekend like this: 'The athletes expressed their happiness about Wanderbird coming to Rio and we received invitations to do more of this here and spread the Wanderbird Vision of our Sport. We have invested a lot into making this happen, but we truly believe it's worth it and this kind of feedback is what motivates us even more! Thank you to all of these amazing and welcoming humans here in Brazil!'

Wanderbird aims to define the sport of hike&fly- which is hiking with your paraglider to then fly- in a safe, fun and professional way and creates events globally to re-connect more people with nature.



**The complete results and more informations are available on the website
at wanderbird.io**