



PRESS RELEASE

Eight countries and two women make up the Atacama Crossing 2017 Top 10; Zandy Mangold from the United States and Angela Zaeh from Germany were the overall champions.

[8 OCTOBER 2017 SAN PEDRO, CHILE]. After seven gruelling days in the world's driest desert, runners from across the globe completed the Atacama Crossing. Zandy Mangold (United States) and Angela Zaeh (Germany) won every stage and were unstoppable throughout the race. They claimed the crowns with a comfortable margin. Six countries were represented by the six podium finishers - a truly international race. There were also three British runners in the top ten, including Ben Fox who came third.

The atmosphere was electric in San Pedro Square when competitors crossed the final finish line after completing the last stage of 8kms / 5 miles.

The Top 5 for the Atacama Crossing (Chile) 2017:

MEN	WOMEN
1. Zandy Mangold (USA) – 28 hrs 52 mins	1. Angela Zaeh (Germany) – 31 hrs 9 mins
2. Danny Switzynck (Belgium) – 30 hrs 35 mins	2. Kathia Rached (Lebanon) – 34 hrs 7 mins
3. Ben Fox (UK) - 30 hrs 41 mins	3. Ita Marzotto (Italy) – 36 hrs 6 mins
4. Douglas Costa (Brazil) – 30 hrs 50 mins	4. Linda Wilson (Canada) – 40 hrs 27 mins
5. Ian Malcolm (UK) - 33 hrs 27 mins	5. Heather Jablonowski (Canada) – 40 hrs 44 min

Vladmi dos Santos – the **blind competitor from Brazil** finished an impressive 42nd place in 48 hours and 34 minutes.

Overall champion Zandy Mangold from the United States said: “I feel a great sense of relief, joy and gratitude all at the same time. I couldn’t have done it on my own -- there are so many people who have helped me. The number one thing was the training. Also intelligent pacing, not going out too hard, knowing my body, knowing my limits and knowing when I could push. And when it gets tough, just look around, it’s so beautiful, it gives you a natural energy, like a natural high.”

Angela Zaeh, the women’s champion from Germany said: “It was a tough week but I feel I amazing now, we’re done! The Long March was the hardest – I have never run over 70kms without stopping, it was my longest run. It was an interesting, challenging and beautiful but tiring week.”

Top ten finisher Ben Fox remarked: “It’s been an unforgettable week. Really, really hard every single day and these competitors are the best I’ve ever competed against so I am really happy with 3rd place.”

At the Awards Banquet, competitors, staff and friends all celebrated a tough but amazing week in the most beautiful desert in South America. Awards were presented to the overall Top 3, team category winner who was Xiamen University from China and the Age Group winners. **Special awards** for Spirit and Sportsmanship were presented to Kim & Jerry Bueno from the United and Aniceto de Almeida – the guide of blind competitor Vladmi dos Santos, respectively.

Seven people joined the 4 Deserts Club when they crossed the final finish line in San Pedro. This means they have now completed all the 4 Deserts Races – and were also awarded their 4 Deserts medal. This includes Kathia Rached who is the **first Arab woman** to complete all 4 Deserts.

Invitations to [The Last Desert \(Antarctica\)](#) were also presented to those who are now qualified for this prestigious race having completed two of the 4 Deserts.

FINAL RESULTS: <https://www.4deserts.com/atacamacrossing/results>

PHOTOS: <https://www.4deserts.com/atacamacrossing/photos>

VIDEOS: <https://www.4deserts.com/atacamacrossing/photos>

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