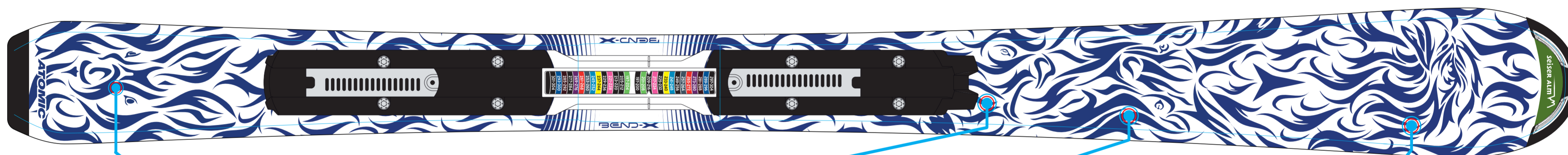


# FAUNA

The idea behind Fauna was to broaden the scope of the educational project Be Safe in the Snow with Nix the Witch. Reminiscent of ski-trails in the snow, the images depict the silhouettes of some of our fellow creatures, large and small, who inhabit the ecosystem of the Alpe di Siusi. The graphics were designed to echo the camouflage characteristics so typical of animal behaviour; the effect, evident on the skis alone, comes into its own on the slopes where the backdrop of the snow sets off the fauna in their habitat to perfection. Together with the expertise of ski instructors and safety-on-the-slopes information, this imagery can help our young (and old) skiers to acquire valuable knowledge about the mountain environment and how to behave on the slopes, all while having fun. Safety, wherever it may be, does not come from merely following the rules but from having a true understanding of the world around us.

Subalpine Level

Alpine Level



Mountain Hare

The mountain hare (also known as the Alpine hare or white hare) has adapted perfectly to life in the high mountains and extreme altitudes. A species renowned for its high degree of variability, the vastness of its distribution area is one factor which has led to the evolution of its 16 documented subspecies. The Alps are home to the *Lepus timidus varronis*, characterised by the changing hues of its coat; grey-brown during the summer months except for a completely white tail, in winter it turns to a pure white right up to the tips of its ears, which remain black year-round. Just as the hare changes its coat, mountain-goers should know how to adapt quickly to the environment and to changes in the weather and atmosphere...**not by changing their skin, but by using caution and following the rules, just as Nix the Witch teaches!**

Marmot

The Alpine marmot (shown mid-whistle, one of its distinguishing traits) lives in a burrow with numerous chambers where the animals sleep, give birth and hibernate in winter. The marmot lives by day, leaving the burrow in the morning and returning only during the hottest hours of the day and at dusk. During the day, the marmot devotes its time to **feeding**, cleaning its fur, **basking in the sun** and **spending time in company**, thus strengthening the social bonds between the various members of the group. The marmot is not a solitary creature and lives together with its family – the homestead generally consists of a pair of male and female adults and several other females. **Staying in a group is a fundamental rule in the mountains: you never set off on your own!**

Ibex

The ibex is particularly well suited to the mixed land of rocky outcrops and meadows stretching right up to the edge of the glaciers. In winter, they favour slopes exposed to the sun at 2,000 to 3,500 m and tend to avoid thick woodland. At the most, the males of the species may venture into sparse woodland, primarily larch trees interspersed with rocky terrain, but set off down to the bottom of the valley in spring when the first grass appears. The females, on the other hand, stick to the rocky slopes for most of the year. **The ibex lives mainly by day, and is on the go before sunrise. From dawn until dusk, he spends his days on grassy terraces warmed by the sun. An excellent example of how to enjoy life on the mountains!**

Golden Eagle

The golden eagle is a great predator, capable of seizing any small to medium sized animal. On the Alps, its prey consists of hares, foxes, young badgers, squirrels, rock partridge, other birds around the size of a jay, and snakes. On rare occasions, it may prey on sheep, goats, roe deer and the young of deer and chamois. Golden eagle's nests are generally found on rocky slopes at lower altitudes than their hunting ground, making it easier for them to carry their prey home. While their nests are generally built on a rocky ledge or a niche, trees can also provide sufficient support to be used as a habitat. The exceptional eyesight of the eagle is one of its greatest assets. **Likewise, when you're on the slopes, you need to keep your eyes wide open; sharp eyes and good reflexes make all the difference, whatever the situation!**