

Press release - Chamonix, Tuesday 13 February 2024

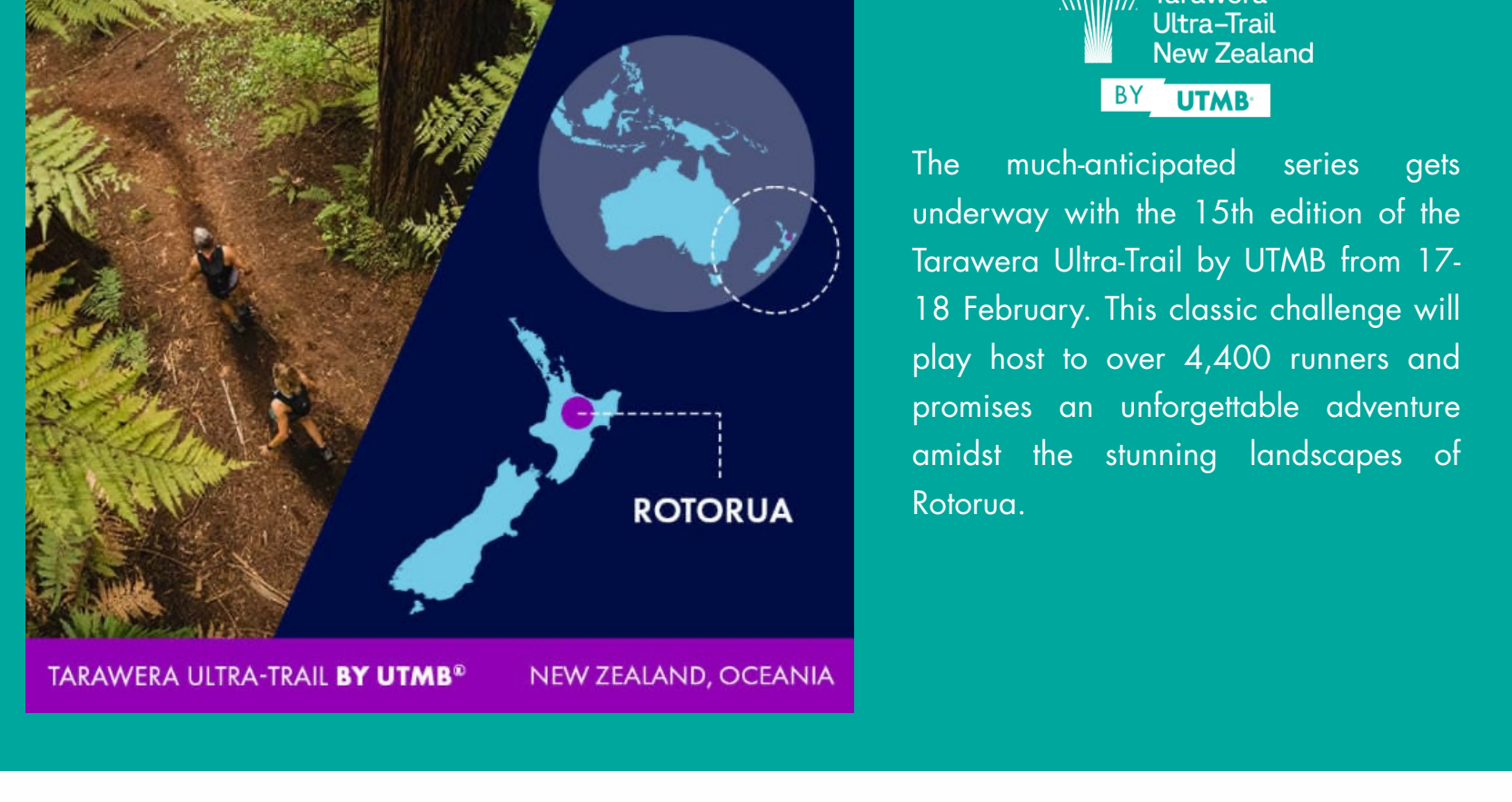
The UTMB World Series returns for 2024, featuring the Tarawera Ultra-Trail by UTMB as the season-opener

- UTMB World Series 2024 kicks off in Rotorua, New Zealand, with the Tarawera Ultra-Trail by UTMB on 17 - 18 February.
- Over 4,400 trail runners are expected as the event celebrates its 15th anniversary and marks the first of 41 events that make up the UTMB World Series 2024.
- The 2024 edition, proudly boasts an impressive 50:50 gender split, promising an inclusive and diverse event experience.

Passionate trail runners are gearing up for the start of the 2024 UTMB World Series, which features a thrilling line-up of 41 events, offering a diverse and inclusive platform for runners worldwide.

Staged in spectacular settings in some of the world's most beautiful and iconic landscapes, UTMB World Series events offer athletes of all abilities the opportunity to immerse themselves in local cultures while tackling challenging and scenic courses.

Spanning 23 countries across Asia, Oceania, Africa, Europe, and the Americas, this circuit also provides those who wish to embark on the ultimate running quest the chance to do so by challenging themselves at the UTMB World Series Finals during the Dacia UTMB MontBlanc.



The Tarawera Ultra-Trail by UTMB began with a belief in the unique potential of the local trails, the cultural richness of Rotorua and the Bay of Plenty, and the supportive Māori community. From its humble beginnings, the event has grown into New Zealand's premier trail running festival, earning its place on the global trail running circuit while staying true to its roots.

With four race distances on offer, amateur and elite runners alike will get the chance to discover the unique and natural landscapes via point-to-point courses, while earning prestigious Running Stones to enter the lottery for the UTMB World Series Finals: UTMB, CCC and OCC.

Edwina O'Brien, the Aid Stations and Logistics Manager for the Tarawera Ultra-Trail by UTMB's East section, has been a pivotal figure since the event's inception in 2009. An integral part of the Kawerau community, Edwina and her team of dedicated volunteers work tirelessly to support runners through the challenging terrain of the Tarawera Forest.

Reflecting on her role, Edwina emphasises the importance of teamwork and community spirit, features that underpin the organisation of all UTMB World Series events. "My role is to coordinate everybody, work together as a team, and do the best we possibly can to give the competitors a taste of our backyard as we see it - an absolutely beautiful place to be," she said.



Edwina O'Brien (l) and Sue Walker (r) clearing tracks in the Tarawera Forest - high-res photo

Race Director, Mitch Murcott said, "While the event has grown, Tarawera was and still is all about the land, people, and connections. The warm energy of the land connects the community, bringing people in from all walks of life to experience trails full of manaaki [hospitality]."



Mich Murcott, Race Director

The 100-mile race has once again attracted a world-class elite field, including 2024 runner-up Hajime Mamba (JPN, UTMB Index 824). He will line-up alongside Adrian MacDonald (USA, UTMB Index 881), Mike Carroll (AUS, UTMB Index 833) and Beth McKenzie (NZL, UTMB Index 827) as they look to test their early season form and fight to finish on the podium, earning an automatic spot in the UTMB World Series Finals.

In the 100K race, Sam McCutcheon (NZL, UTMB Index 841) will have his eyes firmly set on the podium, having just missed out in 2023. With both experience and home support on his side, it will be his race to lose as he tries to hold off the likes of Michael Dimuantes (AUS, UTMB Index 869), Robert Rorich (RSA, UTMB Index 829), Roberto Mastrotto (ITA, UTMB Index 826) and Longfei Yan (CHN, UTMB Index 820).

In the Women's race, a strong American contingent could feature at the front of the race in Aude Hofleitner (UTMB Index 693), Rachel Drake (UTMB Index 767) and Beth McKenzie (UTMB Index 718). Ruth Croft (NZL, UTMB Index 791) heads into the race as the highest ranked, however, it will have home glory on her mind, alongside fellow compatriot Juliette Soule (NZL, UTMB Index 719).



© Graeme Murray | Tarawera Ultra-Trail by UTMB - high-res photo

In the 50K race, all eyes will be on the Women Elite field as the two podium finishers from 2023 - Caitlin Fielder (NZL, UTMB Index 778) and Kate Avery (GBR, UTMB Index 724) - prepare to battle it out for the title that alluded the pair in the last edition. Fielder comes to Tarawera off the back of an incredible 2023 season, including 4th place at OCC, but will she carry that form into 2024? With both runners yet to secure a UTMB World Series win, it is all to play for next weekend.

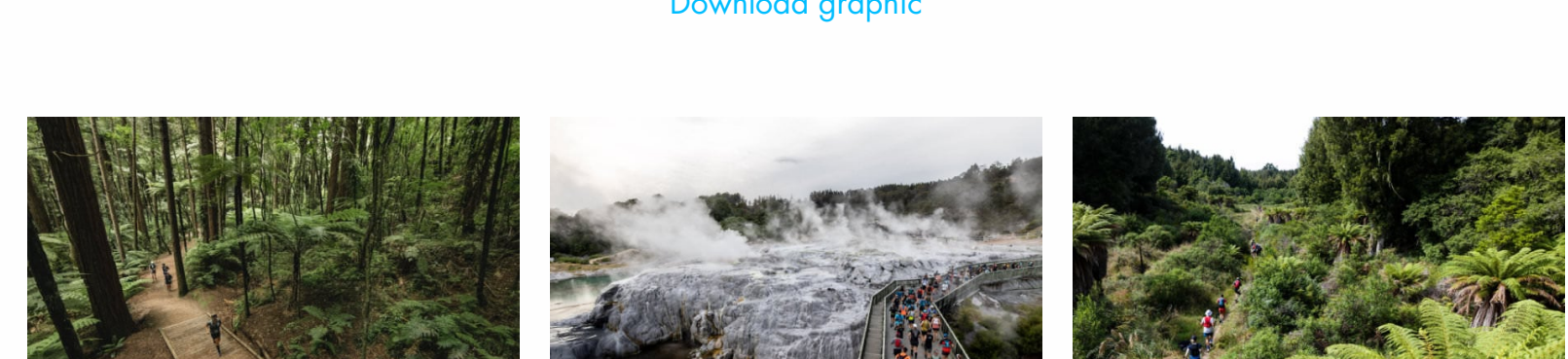
The Finnish runner Tuomas Kari (UTMB Index 847) will be one to watch in the Men's field, having shown his strength and speed over the distance at Ultra-Trail Kosciuszko by UTMB last year when taking the win. Ronnie Sparke (GBR, UTMB Index 857) and Scott Hawker (NZL, UTMB Index 853) also feature amongst the favourites to make the podium.

The 2024 edition promises to be bigger and better than ever, with the event also celebrating a 50:50 gender split alongside its 15th anniversary. With the local primary school hosting their own version of the event, and the entire community volunteering and helping clear the trails ahead of the weekend, this will truly be a heart full of trails.

Follow the live tracking at <https://live.umb.world/>.

RACE	DISTANCE & ELEVATION	UTMB WORLD SERIES RACE CATEGORY	RUNNING POINTS	UTMB WORLD SERIES ELITE TRIANGLE
TMALER	305.5 KM 3832m D+	100M M	4	100M
T102	104.6 KM 2680m D+	100K M	3	100K
T50	52.7 KM 1366m D+	50K M	2	50K
T21	23.1 KM 326m D+	20K M	1	20K

Download graphic



© Cameron Mackenzie | Tarawera Ultra-Trail by UTMB - high-res photo | © Graeme Murray | Tarawera Ultra-Trail by UTMB - high-res photo | © Graeme Murray | Tarawera Ultra-Trail by UTMB - high-res photo

UTMB® World Series 2024 calendar (as of 13 February 2024)

- Tarawera Ultra-Trail by UTMB®, New Zealand (17-18 February 2024)
- Chiante Ultra Trail by UTMB®, Italy (22-24 March 2024)
- Istria 100™ by UTMB®, Croatia (4-7 April 2024)
- Desert RATS Trail Running Festival™ by UTMB®, USA (13-14 April 2024)
- Ultra Trail Mount Yun by UTMB®, China (19-21 April 2024)
- The Canyons Endurance Runs™ by UTMB®, USA (26-27 April 2024)
- Amazean Jungle Thailand by UTMB®, Thailand (2-5 May 2024)
- Valhäll Argentina by UTMB®, Argentina (9-12 May 2024)
- Ultra-Trail Snowdonia by UTMB®, UK (10-12 May 2024)
- Trail Alsace Grand-Est by UTMB®, France (17-20 May 2024)
- Ultra-Trail Australia by UTMB®, Australia (18-19 May 2024)
- Mountain Ultra Trail™ by UTMB®, South Africa (24-26 May 2024)
- moztart 100™ by UTMB®, Austria (1 June 2024)
- Tenerife Bluetrail by UTMB®, Spain (6-8 June 2024)
- Trail du Saint-Jacques by UTMB®, France (14-16 June 2024)
- Trail 100 Andorra™ by UTMB®, Andorra (14-16 June 2024)
- Mauritius by UTMB®, Mauritius (22-23 June 2024)
- La Sportiva™ Lavaredo Ultra Trail™ by UTMB®, Italy (26-30 June 2024)
- Western States™ 100 Endurance Run, USA (29 June 2024)
- Val d'Aran by UTMB®, Spain (3-7 July 2024)
- Restonica Trail by UTMB®, France (4-6 July 2024)
- Trail Verbier St Bernard by UTMB®, Switzerland (5-7 July 2024)
- Eiger Ultra-Trail™ by UTMB®, Switzerland (17-21 July 2024)
- Speedgait™ Mountain Races by UTMB®, USA (19-20 July 2024)
- KATI100™ by UTMB®, Austria (1-3 August 2024)
- Quito Trail by UTMB®, Ecuador (2-4 August 2024)
- Dacia UTMB® MontBlanc, France, Italy, Switzerland (26 August-1 September 2024)
- Wildatrubel by UTMB®, Switzerland (12-15 September 2024)
- Paraty Brazil by UTMB®, Brazil (19-22 September 2024)
- Grindstone Trail Running Festival™ by UTMB®, USA (20-21 September 2024)
- Julian Alps Trail Run by UTMB®, Slovenia (20-22 September 2024)
- Ultra Trail Whistler™ by UTMB®, Canada (28-29 September 2024)
- Nice Côte d'Azur by UTMB®, France (3-6 October 2024)
- Kodiak Ultra Marathons™ by UTMB®, USA (10-11 October 2024)
- Kradjeju by UTMB®, South Korea (12-13 October 2024)
- Ultra-Trail Ninghai by UTMB®, China (17-20 October 2024)
- Kullamanning™ by UTMB®, Sweden (1-2 November 2024)
- Puerto Vallarta México by UTMB®, Mexico (7-9 November 2024)
- Translantau by UTMB®, Hong Kong (November 2024)
- Doi Inthanon Thailand by UTMB®, Thailand (6-8 December 2024)
- Ultra-Trail Kosciuszko™ by UTMB®, Australia (December 2024)

Runners can view the full calendar of events and choose their adventures [here](#).

Images

UTMB World Series images can be downloaded [here](#).

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Note to editors

About UTMB® World Series

UTMB® World Series is the world's ultimate trail-running circuit that unites the sport's biggest stars and passionate runners through the best, leading international events in the most stunning locations. Built on a passion for the mountains with sustainability at its heart, UTMB® World Series gives all trail runners the chance to experience the UTMB® adventure across the world, with events taking place across Asia, Oceania, Europe, Africa and the Americas. It is the only place where runners can begin their quest to Dacia UTMB® MontBlanc, France, where the prestigious UTMB® World Series Finals will be held. Launched in May 2021, UTMB Group partnered with The IRONMAN Group to launch the UTMB® World Series, which brings together many of the best international events on the planet to provide exclusive access to the sport's pinnacle event, Dacia UTMB® MontBlanc. The UTMB® World Series is built on the founding principles of Dacia UTMB® MontBlanc: surpassing oneself; fair-play; respect for people and the environment; and solidarity. Find out more at <https://umb.world/>.

About UTMB Group

Since the creation of Dacia UTMB® MontBlanc in 2003 by a group of passionate friends, UTMB Group has been the driving force behind the development of trail running. The Dacia UTMB® MontBlanc is the sports pinnacle event, and every year, 10,000 runners earn their place on the start line. UTMB Group also pioneered the LiveTrail® technology, an innovative digital service that supports the management of endurance races. Runned by hundreds of thousands of athletes, UTMB® has become a global, premium, and leading brand. In May 2021, UTMB Group partnered with The IRONMAN Group to launch the UTMB® World Series, which brings together many of the best international events on the planet to provide exclusive access to the sport's pinnacle event, Dacia UTMB® MontBlanc. The UTMB® World Series is built on the founding principles of Dacia UTMB® MontBlanc: surpassing oneself; fair-play; respect for people and the environment; and solidarity. Find out more at <https://umb.world/>.

About The IRONMAN Group

The IRONMAN Group operates a global portfolio of events that includes the IRONMAN® Triathlon Series, the IRONMAN® 70.3® Triathlon Series, 5150™ Triathlon Series, the Rock 'n' Roll® Running Series, IRONKIDS®, World Triathlon Championship Series, premier triathlon events including the Standard Chartered Singapore Marathon™ and City2Surf®, UTMB® World Series triathlon events including the Canyons Endurance Run™ by UTMB®, Tarawera Ultra by UTMB® and Ultra-Trail Australia™ by UTMB®, Epic Series™ mountain bike races including the Absco Cape Epic®, road cycling events including Haute Route®, and other multisport races. The IRONMAN Group is the largest operator of mass participation sports in the world and provides more than a million participants annually the benefits of endurance sports through the company's vast offerings. Catering to the full athlete experience, the company portfolio also includes FulGaz® virtual cycling, the most realistic indoor riding experience connected fitness application aimed at preparing athletes for real-world events. Since the inception of the iconic IRONMAN® brand and its first event in 1978, athletes have proven that ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE® by crossing finish lines around the world. Beginning as a single race, The IRONMAN Group has grown to become a global sensation with hundreds of events across 55+ countries. The IRONMAN Group is owned by Adnanco, a private, family-owned business, and OkHilo Capital, a growth equity firm focused on building great brands. For more information, visit <http://www.ironman.com/aboutironmangroup>.

UTMB World Series international

presse@umb.world
Sabina Mollart Rogerson - International press Officer
T. +44 7922 140148

UTMB World Series

presse@umb.world
Marie Royer - UTMB World Series PR and Media Manager

The IRONMAN Group

press@ironman.com
T. +44 7922 140148



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