



Press release - Chamonix, Tuesday 2 April 2024

The UTMB World Series race calendar ramps up, with season opener in North America

Where the desert meets the mountains, surreal adventure awaits at Desert RATS Trail Running Festival by UTMB



Desert RATSTM Trail Running FestivalTM by UTMB® will kickstart the UTMB® World Series calendar in America on April 12-14, in the high desert of southwestern Colorado. Over 1,500 runners will take on one of the four distances on offer (100K, 50K, 21K, 10K), discovering the flowy singletracks that twist up the mesa, vast desert views and cliff-top trails overlooking the Colorado river.

Over 100 of the athletes registered derive from the host town of Fruita and its surrounding areas, giving them the opportunity to live the UTMB adventure on their doorstep. An impressive 66% of runners taking to the startline also live in Colorado, as they prepare to experience the best of their backyard, share the trails with international runners and look towards qualifying for the UTMB World Series Finals.

RACE	DISTANCE	START DATE	START TIME
100K	100KM	12th April 2024	07:00
50K	50KM	13th April 2024	07:00
21K	21KM	13th April 2024	08:00
10K	10KM	14th April 2024	07:00

[Download race information](#)

"Fruita has some of the best running in Colorado and we love sharing the trails with visitors. We are fortunate to have epic views and unique trail systems that runners of all ages can enjoy. We're excited to welcome the Desert RATS Trail Running Festival by UTMB to share our town and the trails with us again this April!" Joel Kincaid, Fruita Mayor and avid trail runner.



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Elite Preview

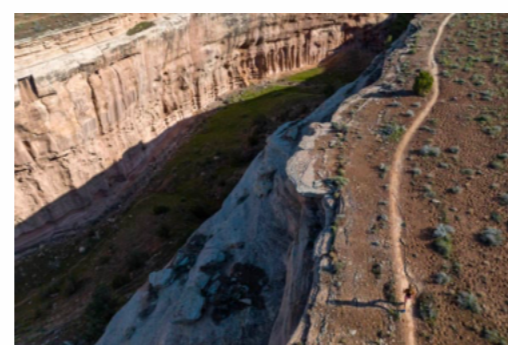
Canadian runner, Valeria Arsenault (CAN, [UTMB Index 730](#)) could be one to watch in the Women's race, despite only taking up running a few years ago. Finishing fourth at the 2023 Speedgoat by UTMB® 50K, she joins Oana Mihalcea (ROU, [UTMB Index 706](#)) in the hunt for their first UTMB World Series victory.

Jonathan Rea (USA, [UTMB Index 892](#)) looks to be the one to beat in the 100K, having finished second at the Alternative 50K in the last edition of the race, alongside a fourth-place finish at the 2023 CCC®.

The 50K looks set to be fast and furious, with Justin Grunewald (USA, [UTMB Index 861](#)) and Helen Mino Faulkner (USA, [UTMB Index 762](#)) amongst the home favourites.

As a UTMB World Series Event, finishers in each of the UTMB race categories will collect Running Stones in order to enter the UTMB World Series Finals Lottery. The top 3 male and female finishers in the 50K, 100K and 100M categories automatically win their place at the Finals.

Follow the event LIVE [here](#).



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Images

2024 UTMB World Series images:

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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® Mont-Blanc, France, where the prestigious UTMB® World Series Finals will be held. Launched in May 2021 through the collaboration between the UTMB Group and The IRONMAN Group, the UTMB World Series circuit brings together many of the best international trail-running events on the planet. For more information, visit utmb.world.

About UTMB Group

Since the creation of Dacia UTMB® Mont-Blanc in 2003 by a group of passionate friends, UTMB Group has been the driving force behind the development of trail running. The Dacia UTMB® Mont-Blanc 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. Revered 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® Mont-Blanc. The UTMB® World Series is built on the founding principles of Dacia UTMB® Mont-Blanc: surpassing oneself; fair-play; respect for people and the environment; and solidarity. Find out more at <https://utmb.world/>.

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