



Press release - Chamonix (France), Tuesday 9 July 2024

## Grit and glory at UTMB World Series European Major, HOKA Val d'Aran by UTMB

- Luke Grenfell-Shaw dedicates 100K win to his brother, while Allison Baca dominates women's race from start to finish
- More than 550 volunteers help create unforgettable event, plus over 300 future stars get a taste of trail running at fun-filled Trail Festival Baqueira Beret
- Thousands tune in to watch exhilarating live footage - from the start line atmosphere, stunning views and nail-biting finish chute sprints

Over **5,400 runners from 80 countries** took part in the **fourth edition** of HOKA Val d'Aran by UTMB® in the Central Pyrenees on July 3-7. As a **UTMB® World Series Major**, the event also attracted an impressive elite field and a **HOKA prize purse of 73,500 euros** to match.

With the **100M Torn dera Val d'Aran - VDA** suspended due to adverse weather conditions, affected runners were invited to race the 50K EXP, while also obtaining Running Stones and prizes relative to their position on the course at the time the race was neutralised.

All eyes turned to the **100K Camins d'Hér - CDH** race, and an unforgettable and courageous day for **Luke Grenfell-Shaw** (GBR, [UTMB Index 849](#)) who crossed the line first in 12:05:03, ahead of **Andreu Simón Aymerich** (ESP, [UTMB Index 897](#)) and **Goar Lopetegui Nieto** (ESP, [UTMB Index 831](#)).

Running on the anniversary of his brother's death, the British runner Luke Grenfell-Shaw made an emotional tribute, *"My brother passed away 5 years ago. No matter how bad it was up there, in my mind I only thought about John. He has given me strength to continue. If I have learned anything from my brother, it is that no matter how much pain you have to endure, it is worth it to live."*

**Allison Baca** (USA, [UTMB Index 732](#)) was in a class of her own in the women's race, dominating from start to finish to win with **a gap of 45 minutes**, finishing eleventh overall in the process. **Silvia Puigarnau** (ESP, [UTMB Index 689](#)) and **Maite Maiora Elizondo** (ESP, [UTMB Index 754](#)) rounded out the podium.



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With 1,707 runners taking to the start in the **50K Peades d'Aigua - PDA** race, it was **Víctor del Águila** (ESP, [UTMB Index 865](#)) who was the first to ring the iconic finish line bell in Vielha, just nine seconds ahead of **André Rodrigues** (POR, [UTMB Index 880](#)) in second. **Daniel Castillo** (ESP, [UTMB Index 866](#)) rounded out the podium in third.

In the women's race, **Inés Astrain** (ESP, [UTMB Index 706](#)) crushed her first UTMB World Series race, finishing first ahead of **Gisela Carrión Bertran** (ESP, [UTMB Index 723](#)) and **Marta Pérez Maroto** (ESP, [UTMB Index 698](#)).

**Astrain** said, *"I have dreamed of a race like this, my first ever UTMB race. I set the pace for myself, and I enjoyed it a lot, until the last descent when I was told that Gisela was just three minutes away."*



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In the **50K Experiència d'Aran - EXP**, **Pablo Bautista Rovira** (ESP, [UTMB Index 849](#)) managed to back-up his race win from the previous edition and **retain his title** in a location that he has fallen in love with. Just over three minutes behind, **Josep Miret** (ESP, [UTMB Index 831](#)) and **Yoel de Paz Baeza** (ESP, [UTMB Index 887](#)) **crossed the line together**.

**Mireia Pons** (ESP, [UTMB Index 733](#)) improved on her third place from 2023, taking the top spot ahead of **Maeva Danois** (FRA, [UTMB Index 655](#)) and **Moana Lilly Kehres** (ESP, [UTMB Index 705](#)).

In the **EXP VDA 50K**, **Sebastien Soulans** (FRA, [UTMB Index 715](#)), **Alban Becker-Tonneller** (FRA, [UTMB Index 629](#)) and **Arthur Caffier** (FRA, [UTMB Index 726](#)) secured the podium in the men's race, alongside **Marija Pipiraite-Grumbine** (LT, [UTMB Index 582](#)), **Angélique Thiou** (FRA, [UTMB Index 551](#)) and **Fleur Mountjoy** (GBR, [UTMB Index 528](#)) in the women's race.

In the **20K Sky Races**, it was the 16-21-year-olds in the **SKY Promesas** category that set the benchmark over the course, with **Guillaume Lherisson** (FRA, [UTMB Index 714](#)) winning the men's race in 01:18:20 and **Judith Soriano Sánchez** (ESP, [UTMB Index 566](#)) winning the women's race in 01:42:13.



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Setting off thirty minutes after, the **SKY Master** race was won by **Jan Torrella Oller** (ESP, [UTMB Index 861](#)) in the men's race with a time of 01:11:57 and **Núria Tarragó Clop** (ESP, [UTMB Index 660](#)) in the women's race in 01:26:26.

Alongside the elites racing for glory in a prestigious UTMB World Series Major, Hoka Val d'Aran celebrated and encouraged the future stars of the sport. At the **Trail Festival Baqueira Beret**, an outdoor festival dedicated to families and friends, **70 young trail runners** aged 8-16 years participated in a fun 5km race while **more than 300 future stars** between 4-12 years olds enjoyed the shorter children's race. The **550 volunteers** also got their opportunity to race, taking part in a race dedicated to them - the **TR2**.

Please click on the event's social channel links to see the event highlight videos, photos and latest news:

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/aranbyutmb/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/aranbyutmb>

All results from the weekend are available on [the following link](#).

HOKA VALDARAN PYRENEES EUROPEAN MAJOR					
TOP 3					
100K M	COUNTRY	RUNNER	UTMB INDEX	DISTANCE & ELEVATION	TOP 10 GAIN DIRECT ENTRY TO UTMB®
TORN DERA VAL D'ARAN - VDA					
1	ARG	Santos Gabriel RUIZDA	849	163 km 10,000 m+	
FEMALE 2	POR	Bruno SOUSA	808		
3	ESP	Javier DOMÍNGUEZ LEÓN	748		
1	COL	Eliudwath WICKS	685	110 km 6,400m+	
2	FRA	Juliette BLANCHET	612		
3	GBR	Wesley VIC	607		
100K M	COUNTRY	RUNNER	UTMB INDEX	DISTANCE & ELEVATION	TOP 10 GAIN DIRECT ENTRY TO CCC*
CAMINS D'HER - CDH					
1	USA	Allison BACA	732	110 km 6,400m+	
FEMALE 2	ESP	Silvia PUIGARNAU	689		
3	ESP	Maite MAIORA ELIZONDO	754		
1	GBR	Luke GRENFELL-SHAW	849	110 km 6,400m+	
2	ESP	Andreu SIMÓN AYMERICH	897		
3	ESP	Goar LOPETEGUI NIETO	831		
50K M	COUNTRY	RUNNER	UTMB INDEX	DISTANCE & ELEVATION	TOP 10 GAIN DIRECT ENTRY TO CCC*
PEADES D'AGUA - PDA					
1	ESP	Inés ASTRAIN	-	55 km 3,300m+	
FEMALE 2	ESP	Gisela CARRIÓN BERTRAN	723		
3	ESP	Marta PÉREZ MAROTO	698		
1	ESP	Víctor DEL ÁGUILA PELLICER	863	55 km 3,300m+	
2	POR	André RODRIGUES	880		
3	ESP	Daniel CASTILLO	866		
50K M	COUNTRY	RUNNER	UTMB INDEX	DISTANCE & ELEVATION	
EXPERIÈNCIA D'ARAN - EXP					
1	ESP	Mireia PONS	733	32 km 2,100m+	
FEMALE 2	FRA	Maeva DANOIS	655		
3	ESP	Moana LILLY KEHRES	705		
1	ESP	Pablo BAUTISTA ROVIRA	849	32 km 2,100m+	
2	ESP	Yoel DE PAZ BAEZA	887		
3	ESP	José MIRET	831		
20K M	COUNTRY	RUNNER	UTMB INDEX	DISTANCE & ELEVATION	
SKY BAQUEIRA BERET					
1	ESP	Núria TARRAGÓ CLOP	660	15 km 800 m+	
FEMALE 2	ESP	Marta FUENTES	708		
3	ESP	Shirley PÉREZ CASTAÑO	746		
1	ESP	Jan TORRELLA OLLER	-	15 km 800 m+	
2	ESP	Jari MARGARIT SOLÉ	890		
3	ESP	Gerard MARGARITO ESPARZA	-		
20K M	COUNTRY	RUNNER	UTMB INDEX	DISTANCE & ELEVATION	
SKY SKY PROMESAS					
1	ESP	Juán SORIANO SÁNCHEZ	565	15 km 800 m+	
FEMALE 2	ESP	Nadine CALANFORRA SÁNCHEZ	551		
3	ESP	Olivia LÓPEZ	-		
1	FRA	Guillaume LHERISSON	714	15 km 800 m+	
2	ESP	Adrian VES PEREZ	673		
3	ESP	Adria LÓPEZ VILAZOSANA	715		

[Download results](#)

### VDA cancelled due to adverse weather conditions

Under the gaze of hundreds of spectators gathered at the Ultra-Trail® Village in Vielha, on Friday at 16:00 hours 654 brave runners took the start to face the 156 kilometres and 9,300 metres of unevenness of the alternative route of the VDA, modified due to the forecast of very adverse weather conditions.

At around 23:00 at night, a thunderstorm that dumped a lot of water over the entire Val d'Aran forced the Race Direction to cancel the race and evacuate the runners of this distance. The participants were given Running Stones depending on the point where they were neutralised.

In addition, prizes were awarded to the first five men and women in the general classification, and to the first in each category.

Next up on the UTMB World Series calendar are Eiger Ultra-Trail™ by UTMB® on 17-21 July 2024 and Speedgoat™ Mountain Races by UTMB® on 19-20 July 2024. More information can be found at the UTMB World Series [website](#).

## Images

### 2024 UTMB World Series images:

Download on the following link.

User: presse@utmb.world

Password: PressWorld2024!

### Previous editions and archives:

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

Name: utmbPress

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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 HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc, 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 <https://utmb.world>.

### About UTMB Group

Since the creation of HOKA 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 HOKA 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, HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc. The UTMB® World Series is built on the founding principles of HOKA 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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