



Press release - Chamonix (France), Thursday 1 August 2024

## Kaga Spa Trail Endurance 100 by UTMB will Bring the Trail Running World to the Japanese Ancient Mountains and Heritage Hot Springs

Kaga Spa Trail Endurance 100 by UTMB®, formerly known as OSJ Yamanaka Onsen Trail Running Race, is set to become **the first UTMB® World Series event to be held in Japan**, welcoming runners from around the world to the Japanese ancient mountains and heritage Hot Springs, or Onsens, in the central district of Japan. The 2025 event will take place from **19-22 June**, with entries opening for UTMB Index holders on 27 September while general registrations open to all runners on 29 September.

The event was founded in 2015 by Jiro Takikawa, who will continue as Race Director for Kaga Spa Trail Endurance 100 by UTMB. Trail runners heading to Japan for the 19-22 June 2025 event will have the opportunity to take part in three races, with a **100k, 50k and 20k** on offer.



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Jiro Takikawa said he was looking forward to welcoming trail runners from around the world for the first UTMB World Series event to be held in the country.

*"The Yamanaka Onsen Trail Race began in 2015, for two years before the first event we received consultations from local tourism companies about revitalizing outdoor sports, visited the site and spent a week running around the mountains of Kaga City,"* said Takikawa. *"With vast mountain fields, 360-degree views from ridgelines, primeval rhododendron and beech forests, the week-long trail run trip was like a dream. Since the first race many runners from all over Japan have enjoyed it until now.*

*"Our plans for being a part of the UTMB World Series have been underway since last year, but we thought about abandoning the event due to the January 1 earthquake, but we received many voices from home and abroad expecting the event to be held in Ishikawa Prefecture, and in order to meet everyone's expectations, we decided to host it **for the reconstruction of Ishikawa Prefecture in order to revitalize Kaga City's mountain field,**"* he said. *"In June 2025, I would like to team up with people from Ishikawa Prefecture, Kaga City, and Yamanaka Onsen to welcome runners from Japan and overseas, and make Japan's first UTMB World Series a success."*



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The course consists of a series of small mountains at an altitude of between 500 meters and 1,400 meters, with runners taking on 100km course to cover over 6,100 meters in elevation. **Runners from all over the world will experience courses unique to Japan**, including a spectacular ridgeline trail with a 360-degree view, a steep climb while overlooking a beautiful virgin beech forest, a single track along a flowing mountain stream, long forest paths and a solemn walking path with a sense of history.

The **100k event will start at 7am on 21 June 2025**, at Yamanakaza in the center of Yamanaka Hot Springs, and finishes at the same location, with a total distance of 105km and a cumulative elevation of 6,100 meters. Runners taking part will experience various single track, fields, mountain streams and forest trails, with a time limit of 26 hours.

The **50k begins an hour after the 100km, at 8am on 21 June 2025**, again starting and finishing at Yamanakaza, with a total distance of 54km. Runners start on the forest road, crossing the first mountain on single track, while the second half of the course includes repeated small ups and downs, with a course cutoff of 13 hours.

The **20k course starts at the Kenmin no Mori**, about 20km from Yamanaka Onsen, and finishes alongside the 100k and 50k at Yamanakaza. It provides a **perfect course for those new to the sport**, with just the right amount of climbs, and a time limit of six hours.

The venue, Kaga City, Ishikawa Prefecture, is **an area rich in nature surrounded by beautiful coastlines and mountains**. Also, it is **an area rich in history and culture** since ancient times, and many historic buildings, shrines and temples remain. It is also **famous as one of Japan's leading hot springs**, and Kaga Onsen Gorge of Yamanaka Onsen, Yamashiro Onsen, and Katoyamazuru Onsen are widely known.

On January 1 this year in the historic region, Ishikawa Prefecture, which is rich in nature, was struck by an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.6, causing significant damage.

The number of tourists in Kaga City, which had relatively little damage, drastically decreased after the Noto Peninsula earthquake, but with the opening of the bullet train at Kaga Onsen Station this spring, access has improved excellently, and there is convenience from Komatsu Airport, and the area is gradually regaining vitality.

**Kaga Spa Trail Endurance 100 by UTMB will allow runners to experience Kaga City's wonderful mountain fields, enjoy the history, culture, hot springs, and food of Ishikawa Prefecture.**

For more information visit <https://kagaspas.utm.world/>.



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### UTMB® World Series 2024-2025 calendar (as of August 1, 2024)

- Tarawera Ultra-Trail™ by UTMB®, New Zealand (17-18 February 2024)
- Chianti 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)
- HOKA Canyons Endurance Runs™ by UTMB®, UTMB World Series Americas Major, USA (26-27 April 2024)
- Amazon Jungle Thailand by UTMB®, Thailand (3-5 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 (16-19 May 2024)
- Mountain Ultra Trail™ by UTMB®, South Africa (24-26 May 2024)
- mozarit 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® Laveredo Ultra Trail™ by UTMB®, Italy (26-30 June 2024)
- Western States™ 100 Endurance Run, USA (29 June 2024)
- HOKA Val d'Aran by UTMB®, UTMB World Series European Major, 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)
- Speedgoat™ Mountain Races by UTMB®, USA (19-20 July 2024)
- KAT100™ by UTMB®, Austria (1-3 August 2024)
- Quito Trail by UTMB®, Ecuador (2-4 August 2024)
- HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc, France, Italy, Switzerland (26 August-1 September 2024), UTMB World Series Finals
- Wildstrubel by UTMB®, Switzerland (12-15 September 2024)
- Paraty Brazil by UTMB®, Brazil (19-22 September 2024)
- Grindstone Trail Running Festival™ by UTMB®, USA (20-22 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 (11-12 October 2024)
- Transjelu by UTMB®, South Korea (12-13 October 2024)
- Ultra-Trail Ninghai by UTMB®, China (17-20 October 2024)
- Kullamannen™ by UTMB®, Sweden (1-2 November 2024)
- Mallorca by UTMB®, Spain (1-3 November 2024)
- Puerto Vallarta México by UTMB®, Mexico (7-9 November 2024)
- Translantau by UTMB®, Hong Kong (8-10 November 2024)
- Malaysia Ultra-Trail™ by UTMB®, Malaysia (15-17 November 2024)
- Ultra-Trail Kosciuszko™ by UTMB®, Australia (28-30 November 2024)
- HOKA Chiang Mai Thailand by UTMB®, UTMB World Series Asia-Pacific Major, Thailand (5-8 December 2024)
- Arc of Attrition by UTMB®, United Kingdom (24-26 January 2025)
- Kaga Spa Trail Endurance 100 by UTMB®, Japan (19-22 June 2025)
- Monte Rosa Walser Waeg by UTMB®, Italy (18-20 July 2025)

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

### 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://umb.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://umb.world>.

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