



Press release - Chamonix (France), Tuesday 22 October 2024

## Spotlight on Malaysia, Hong Kong and Australia as UTMB World Series celebrates debut events, iconic locations and remarkable athletes

UTMB® World Series is set for an exhilarating November, as the spotlight turns to the Asia-Pacific region. From the rugged beauty of Hong Kong's largest island at TransLantau by UTMB®, to the highly-anticipated debut of Malaysia Ultra-Trail™ by UTMB® and inspiring stories of bravery and resilience ahead of Ultra-Trail Kosciuszko™ by UTMB®, this action-packed month will showcase trail running and its community at its best.

### UTMB World Series returns to Hong Kong's largest island for TransLantau by UTMB

**Over 2,500** runners will head to the wild and rugged beauty of **Lantau Island, Hong Kong** on **8-10 November** as they prepare to take on TransLantau by UTMB.

TRANSANTAU™ BY UTMB® HONG KONG, CHINA, ASIA

With the trail running scene continuing to grow in Hong Kong, the event allows runners to experience the UTMB World Series close to home, with over 60% of entrants coming from the local area.

RACE	START DATE	END DATE	START TIME	END TIME	UTMB INDEX
1000M	08/11/2024	09/11/2024	08:00	18:00	836
500M	08/11/2024	09/11/2024	08:00	18:00	677
200M	08/11/2024	09/11/2024	08:00	18:00	720
100M	08/11/2024	09/11/2024	08:00	18:00	683

[Download race information](#)

#### Elite runners

**Min Qi** (CHN, [UTMB Index 836](#)) is looking to end the season on a high in the **1000M** after struggling over the longer distances this year. He will line-up alongside top talent, including **Terunobu Kurokawa** (JPN, [UTMB Index 823](#)) and **Zhaoying Liu** (CHN, [UTMB Index 803](#)). In the women's race, **Lin Chen** (CHN, [UTMB Index 741](#)) comes into the race off the back of an impressive fourth place finish at UTMB®. **Ki Chun Wong** (CHN, [UTMB Index 683](#)) is also amongst the favorites, and has experience on her side having finished second in the 100K race in 2023.

The **top-ranked female athlete in Hong Kong, Man Yee Cheung** (HKG, [UTMB Index 677](#)) is seizing the opportunity to race on home soil, taking on the **100K** race. She will face strong international competition, including **Natalia Mastrato** (ITA, [UTMB Index 676](#)) and **Aurora Dacier** (FRA, [UTMB Index 676](#)). The men's race also features a talent of international athletes, with local favorite **Ho Chung Wong** (HKG, [UTMB Index 788](#)) looking to challenge for a podium spot ahead of top-ranked **Anders Kjaerevik** (NOR, [UTMB Index 887](#)) and **Disi Liang** (CHN, [UTMB Index 793](#)).

In the **500K**, a close battle is expected between athletes such as **Claudio Diaz-Castán** (ESP, [UTMB Index 857](#)) and **Yutaro Yokouchi** (JPN, [UTMB Index 821](#)). In the women's race, top athletes include **Yuri Yoshizumi** (JPN, [UTMB Index 746](#)) and **Marta Perez Maroto** (ESP, [UTMB Index 701](#)).

The spotlight is also on Hong-Kong based athlete, **Veronika Leng** (SVK, [UTMB Index 720](#)). After a tough DNF at the 2022 HOKA UTMB® MontBlanc - CCC® due to an unknown pregnancy, she made an incredible comeback to the race in 2024 as a new mum, securing 11<sup>th</sup> place.

She said, *"It feels amazing being back to racing and feeling strong physically and mentally after having a baby just over a year ago. It didn't happen overnight for me, and it took many months to feel ready for it again. Beside hours of consistent training, it also takes an incredible amount of mental strength and sacrifice to compete at an elite level, especially as a new mother. If you are not 100% in it, there is no chance of getting on top again. I feel so lucky to have the needed support here in Hong Kong and be able to get back to training and racing this year."*

Another exceptional athlete to look out for on the start list is **Miao Yao** (CHN, [UTMB Index 796](#)), who will be looking for a win in the women's category of the **20K** race. The talented athlete has secured a victory at the HOKA UTMB MontBlanc - OCC this year, alongside the CCC in 2018. In the men's race, **Riccardo Scalet** (ITA, [UTMB Index 838](#)) heads into the race as the top-ranked.

Follow all the action from TransLantau by UTMB [here](#).



### Malaysia Ultra-Trail by UTMB makes its debuts on the UTMB World Series circuit

Celebrating its **150<sup>th</sup> anniversary** this year, the **historic town of Taiping** in Perak, Malaysia has plenty to celebrate in 2024. Between **15-17 November**, it will also take centre stage as it makes its **debut on the UTMB World Series circuit**, hosting **Malaysia Ultra-Trail by UTMB**.

MALAYSIA ULTRA-TRAIL BY UTMB® MALAYSIA, ASIA

With **3,000** athletes signed up to the event, and **over 75% deriving from Malaysia**, this marks a significant milestone for the growing trail running community. In 2024, more than 100 Malaysian runners entered the UTMB World Series lottery, despite the absence of a UTMB World Series race on home soil. This new event will further enhance accessibility and allow runners to chase their dreams.

RACE	START DATE	END DATE	START TIME	END TIME	UTMB INDEX
1000M	15/11/2024	17/11/2024	08:00	18:00	823
500M	15/11/2024	17/11/2024	08:00	18:00	676
200M	15/11/2024	17/11/2024	08:00	18:00	720
100M	15/11/2024	17/11/2024	08:00	18:00	683

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#### Elite runners

In the **100K**, a Southeast Asian podium is on the cards in the women's race, with **Hau Ha Thi** (VIE, [UTMB Index 784](#)) heading into race as the top-ranked, alongside **Siak Har Lim** (MAL, [UTMB Index 584](#)) and **Angelie Cabalo** (PHI, [UTMB Index 630](#)). In the men's race, **Ji Duo** (CHN, [UTMB Index 888](#)) heads into the race as the favorite while **Vlad Ixel** (AUS, [UTMB Index 832](#)) shifts his focus back to the longer distances.

In the **500K** race, it is all to play for in the men's race with **Tao Luo** (CHN, [UTMB Index 886](#)), **Tiago Viera** (POR, [UTMB Index 858](#)), **Gediminas Grinius** (LT, [UTMB Index 850](#)) and **Jisub Kim** (KOR, [UTMB Index 841](#)) closely matched. In the women's race, the top-ranked and ones to watch include **Sooji Park** (KOR, [UTMB Index 640](#)) and **Rashila Tamang** (NEP, [UTMB Index 615](#)).

The **20K** race is sure to put the legs and lungs to the test, with **Kana Antonio** (PHI, [UTMB Index 641](#)) and **Hiroyuki Kawachi** (JPN, [UTMB Index 706](#)) predicted to set a blistering pace in their respective categories.

Follow all the action from Malaysia Ultra-Trail by UTMB [here](#).



### A five-time Paralympian, a trailblazing mother, and a brain injury survivor among the 3,200 inspiring athletes ready to take on Ultra-Trail Kosciuszko by UTMB

From **28-30 November**, the **Snowy Mountains National Park** in New South Wales, **Australia** will come alive as **over 3,200** athletes come together for Ultra-Trail Kosciuszko by UTMB. From **brain injury survivors** to **Paralympians**, this year's lineup is nothing short of remarkable.

ULTRA-TRAIL KOSCIUSZKO™ BY UTMB® AUSTRALIA, OCEANIA

In the KosciMiller (100M), **Zachary Jones** exemplifies resilience. After a traumatic brain injury and stroke in 2011, doctors told him he would never walk or talk again. Defying all odds, he now prepares to conquer the 100-mile course.

RACE	START DATE	END DATE	START TIME	END TIME	UTMB INDEX
1000M	28/11/2024	30/11/2024	08:00	18:00	832
500M	28/11/2024	30/11/2024	08:00	18:00	677
200M	28/11/2024	30/11/2024	08:00	18:00	720
100M	28/11/2024	30/11/2024	08:00	18:00	683

[Download race information](#)

**Ruth Eagles** will also make her debut in the 100-mile distance. Eager to address the under-representation of women in the longer distance events, she hopes to inspire more women to rise to challenge and push their limits.

Meanwhile, in the Kosci100 (100K), **five-time Paralympian Michael Roeger**, fresh off his **silver medal** at the **Paris 2024 Paralympic Games** in the Men's 1,500m - T46, will test his endurance on the trails. Holding the title as the fastest Paralympian marathon runner with a time of 2:18, Roeger will excel in the 100K distance too.

He said, *"Last year I watched the Ultra-Trail Kosciuszko live stream and I thought 'these guys are crazy' and immediately wanted to be there. I never really thought I could run 100km, let alone with 3,000m elevation at altitude, so it is going to be a big challenge. When I was training before the Paralympics a few months ago in St Moritz, Switzerland, I loved running up and down hills in the mountains. I thought I would need a goal after the Paralympics, a crazy goal and Kosci fits well."*

*"It is such a different culture than track and road running. Everyone really gets behind each other and supports each other,"* he added.

#### Elite runners

The inspiration and excitement continues amongst the elite start list, including the two runners-up in the men and women race from the **100M** in 2023, **Takumi Sawayanagi** (JPN, [UTMB Index 791](#)) and **Stephanie Auston** (AUS, [UTMB Index 720](#)). Both will face tough competition however, including **Piotr Babis** (POL, [UTMB Index 840](#)) and **Mike Carroll** (AUS, [UTMB Index 836](#)) in the men's race. **Two-time top ten finisher** at UTMB, **Sabrina Stanley** (USA, [UTMB Index 705](#)) is also a top favorite in the women's race.

In the **Kosci100 (100K)**, **Abby Hall** (USA, [UTMB Index 750](#)) and **Katarzyna Solinska** (POL, [UTMB Index 748](#)) head into the women's race as the top-ranked, while the men's race looks set to be an all-Australasia podium with **Sam Harvey** (NZL, [UTMB Index 824](#)), **Benjamin Duffus** (NZL, [UTMB Index 818](#)) and **Vald Shatrov** (AUS, [UTMB Index 801](#)) the top contenders.

**Madison Reynolds** (AUS, [UTMB Index 692](#)) returns to try and **defend her title** in the women's race at **Kosci50 (50K)**, but will face top-ranked **Kimber Mattox** (USA, [UTMB Index 744](#)). The second and third placed athletes from the 2022 - **Blake Hose** (AUS, [UTMB Index 866](#)) and **Ronnie Sparke** (GBR, [UTMB Index 854](#)) will be ready to battle it out at the top in the men's race.

In a fast and furious **20K**, two defending champions will go head-to-head. **Patricia McKibbin** (AUS, [UTMB Index 715](#)), the 2023 100K winner, will shift focus to the shortest distance, but will face the **reigning champion, Paige Penrose** (AUS, [UTMB Index 677](#)) in an exciting duel.

Follow all the action from Ultra-Trail Kosciuszko by UTMB [here](#).



### Upcoming events on UTMB World Series international circuit:

- 30 October - 3 November: Mallorca by UTMB® - Spain
- 1 - 2 November: Kullamannen by UTMB® - Sweden
- 7 - 9 November: Puerto Vallarta México by UTMB® - Mexico
- 8 - 10 November: TransLantau by UTMB® - Hong Kong
- 15 - 17 November: Malaysia Ultra-Trail™ by UTMB® - Malaysia
- 28 - 30 November: Ultra-Trail Kosciuszko™ by UTMB® - Australia

More information can be found at the [UTMB World Series website](#).

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

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