



Press release - Chamonix (France), Thursday 25 September 2025

HOKA Kodiak Ultra Marathons by UTMB brings UTMB World Series' essence to Big Bear Lake



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From October 9–11, Big Bear Lake will take the spotlight as it hosts the **HOKA Kodiak Ultra Marathons by UTMB**, making its debut as the **UTMB® World Series Major for the Americas**. Part of the UTMB World Series circuit, the event celebrates athletic excellence, fosters local community spirit, and brings together everyone who shares a passion for the mountains.

Nestled at 7,000 ft (2,100 m) in California's San Bernardino Mountains, the event transforms the region into a **vibrant festival of endurance, alpine culture, and human connection**. Over three days, runners of all levels, from the **100-mile** challenge to the **100K, 50K, 21K, 10K** as well as a **Kids Race**, experience California's rugged trails while engaging with fellow athletes, volunteers, and the local community.

Beyond the trails, the event reflects the **core values of the UTMB World Series**: fostering **inclusion, empowering women and underrepresented groups** in trail running, and **creating meaningful experiences for participants and locals** alike. **Trails wind through alpine forests, desert plateaus, and rocky canyons**, offering breathtaking views of Big Bear Lake and Sugarloaf Mountain, while downtown comes alive with **local music, food, and festivities** celebrating the spirit of Big Bear's alpine lifestyle.



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Local community and accessibility at its heart

With **75% of participants coming from the America's**, including **41% from California**, the event celebrates strong local representation and community appeal, alongside international talent.

Promoting women's participation is a core pillar of the UTMB World Series circuit, and as UTMB World Series Major for Americas, HOKA Kodiak Ultra Marathons by UTMB bring this value to life. Women's participation at the event continues to grow reflecting the event's inclusive spirit and commitment to diversity and accessibility. Overall, **women make up 35% of participants**, with particularly **strong representation on shorter distances** (60% on the 10K, 46% on the 21K, 42% on the 50K) and **notable engagement on longer races** (29% on the 100K and 18% on the 100M).

This year, **32 women from Renegade**, a Los Angeles-based trail running group, will join the races alongside elite and community athletes, further highlighting the event's role in empowering women across all levels of the sport. An initiative supported by HOKA.

As part of this commitment, a **dedicated women's panel** will take place, exploring the theme **"trails as our common ground"** and highlighting the social and connective power of trail running. Participants will include elite athletes, community runners, Renegade program participants, and weekend volunteers, sharing insights, experiences, and perspectives that celebrate the impact of women in the sport.

Amongst the stand-out participants lining up at this year's race is **Leandre Kailani, a hearing-impaired athlete with low vision**, who will compete in the 100K race, not only inspiring athletes worldwide but also highlighting the event's inclusivity and accessibility.



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Raising the stakes as a UTMB World Series Major

As one of only four UTMB World Series Majors worldwide, HOKA Kodiak Ultra Marathons by UTMB offers **double Running Stones to every finisher**, boosting their chances of gaining entry to the 2026 UTMB World Series Finals via the lottery. In addition, **210 runners will also earn automatic qualification** for the 2026 UTMB World Series Finals, as either age-group winners across all distances or as the top 10 men and women in the 100M, 100K and 50K races.

The 100M and 100K races will also act as **dual qualifiers for the Western States 100-Mile Endurance Run**, making HOKA Kodiak Ultra Marathons by UTMB one of the few events worldwide offering direct qualification for two of the most prestigious races in trail running.

World-class elite competition across every distance

The event's first edition as a Major has drawn a world-class field, with high stakes and record prize money on the line. In the 100-mile race, Spain's **Claudia Tremps** ([UTMB Index 745](#)), fresh off a Top 10 finish at the UTMB World Series Finals, and China's **Chen Lin** ([UTMB Index 753](#)), who comes in after her victory in the 100M at The Canyons Endurance Runs by UTMB® last April, will be among the standout athletes to follow. On the men's side, **Jonathan Rea** (USA, [UTMB Index 872](#)) arrives as one of the strongest contenders in the field.

The 100K is shaping up to be just as competitive. France's **Guillaume Tiphene** ([UTMB Index 828](#)), runner-up this year in the 100M at the Trail du Saint-Jacques by UTMB® after his victory in the 100K in 2024, and **Matt Daniels** (USA, [UTMB Index 890](#)), fresh off his second-place finish in the 50K at The Canyons Endurance Runs by UTMB 2025, will be among the frontrunners. On the women's side, he'll be joined by **Riley Brady** (USA, [UTMB Index 788](#)), another consistent performer ready to make an impact.

All eyes on the 50K: stars, storylines, and bold debuts

The 50K will be no less exciting. After his breakthrough victory at the Western States 100-Mile Endurance Run, **Caleb Olson** (USA, [UTMB Index 924](#)) returns as the clear athlete to watch. His compatriot **Eli Hemming** (USA, [UTMB Index 919](#)), who placed seventh at the CCC® at the HOKA UTMB® MontBlanc this year, and **Hayden Hawks** (USA, [UTMB Index 912](#)), winner of the CCC® 2024, will also be in the mix. Adding an intriguing storyline, Eli will be joined on the start line by his wife, **Tabor Hemming** (USA, [UTMB Index 749](#)). The couple's shared presence brings a unique dynamic to the race, heightening the anticipation around an already thrilling weekend of competition.

Additionally, the 50K will welcome some fresh faces making the jump from road racing to the trails. Among them are **Makena Morley** (USA, [UTMB Index 719](#)), a standout at the U.S. Olympic Marathon Trials; **Sofie Schunk** (USA, [UTMB Index 607](#)), another Trials qualifier with impressive credentials; and **Ellaney Matarese** (USA), a former Harvard track and field athlete. Their presence adds extra depth to the women's field and raises curiosity about how their speed on the roads will translate to the technical demands of the trails.



Watch Live

As the UTMB World Series Americas Major, HOKA Kodiak Ultra Marathons by UTMB will be broadcast LIVE, giving fans around the world the chance to watch the action unfold.

Fans can stream the race, track key statistics, and follow their favorite athletes **including live performance on key Strava segments, segment battles, and comparisons** on <https://live.utm.world/>. This feature is offered in collaboration with Strava and is available across **all UTMB World Series Majors and Finals**. The event can also be watched on [L'Equipe Live](#), [Outside](#), [DAZN](#), [iQIYI](#) and [Eurovision Sport](#).

Note to editors

About UTMB® World Series

The UTMB® World Series is the trail running circuit that brings together the best athletes in the sport and amateur runners in top international events held in some of the most beautiful places on the planet. The UTMB® World Series is rooted in a passion for the mountains and respect for the environment and offers trail running enthusiasts the chance to experience the UTMB® adventure across the globe, with events taking place in Asia, Oceania, Europe, Africa and the Americas. This is the way for everyone to start their quest towards the HOKA UTMB® MontBlanc, where the UTMB® World Series finals take place. Launched in May 2021 with the collaboration of UTMB Group and The IRONMAN Group, the UTMB® World Series circuit brings together 50 events in 28 countries. For more information, visit <https://utm.world>.

UTMB Group media enquiries

presse@utm.world

French enquiries:

Keziah Piercy - UTMB World Series PR Manager
T: +33 6 08 84 58 25

International enquiries:

Sabina Mollart Rogerson - International Press Officer
T: +44 7922 140148

