



BIG SUR

INTERNATIONAL MARATHON

PRESENTED BY **HOKA**

12K PARTICIPANT GUIDE

RACE WEEKEND DETAILS

APRIL 24-26, 2026

Welcome to the 39th Annual Big Sur International Marathon weekend of events! This is your go-to guide for everything you need to know about race weekend. On behalf of the the Big Sur Marathon Foundation events committee, board, staff, and team, we look forward to seeing you soon and hope you have an amazing experience.

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PRE-RACE INFORMATION & EXPO

LOCATION & DATE

Monterey Conference Center - 1 Portola Plaza, Monterey, CA 93940

Friday, April 24 from Noon to 6 PM & **Saturday, April 25** from 9:30 AM to 6 PM

The Expo is FREE and open to the public.

BIB & SHIRT PICKUP

Bibs and shirts must be picked up in person at the Expo. **You must bring your photo ID & your check-in pass to pick up your bib. Each runner must pickup their own bib, friends and family are NOT permitted to pickup a bib on behalf of another participant. No exceptions.** We will be sending you an email with your check-in pass (QR code and bib number) several times leading up to the event.

Please Note: There will be NO race morning bib pick-up this year for the 5K & 12K. You will pick up your bib at the Race Expo on Friday, April 24 from 12 - 6 PM or Saturday, April 25th from 9:30 AM - 6 PM.

CLINIC SCHEDULE

On Saturday, we will host a full day of free race clinics **beginning at 10:30 AM**. All clinics are located on the second floor of the Monterey Conference Center (up the escalators to the right inside the front doors). From how to run your best race to inspiring runner stories, our programming has something for everyone. Check out the [clinic schedule](#)!

OFFICIAL RACE MERCH

Be sure and visit the Marathon merchandise store on the main expo floor for a wide assortment of commemorative items including technical wear, leisure wear, souvenirs, and HOKA® shoes for try-on and purchase! Supplies are limited and many items sell out early. You can also shop our [online store](#) prior to race weekend.

RACE WEEKEND SPECIAL EVENTS



PUB RUN | THURSDAY, APRIL 23 @ 6 PM

Fieldwork Brewing Company - 560 Munras Ave, Monterey, CA

Join HOKA and Fleet Feet Monterey at Fieldwork Brewing Co for a demo run featuring the all-new Cielo X1 3.0 and Mach 7. All paces encouraged and welcome! Don't miss out on the fun!



HAPPY HOUR AT THE EXPO | 2 - 5:30 PM FRIDAY, APRIL 24 & SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Visit the Runner Lounge presented by Monterey Regional Airport and United Airlines for Happy Hour featuring beverages from Peter B's and Folktale Winery & Vineyards. Purchase a commemorative glass for complimentary beverages.



HOKA BIG SUR FLY LAB AT THE EXPO | ALL DAY FRIDAY, APRIL 24 & SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Join HOKA at the Fly Lab at the Big Sur Marathon expo with a demo experience and sweepstakes where you can be entered to win a pair of Cielo X1 3.0 or Mach 7 and an entry of your choosing into one of the five distances offered at the 2027 Big Sur International Marathon.



SHAKEOUT RUN | SATURDAY, APRIL 25 @ 8 AM Monterey Conference Center - 1 Portola Plaza, Monterey, CA 93940

Join HOKA and Fleet Feet Monterey for a shakeout run with demos of the all-new Cielo X1 3.0 and Mach 7. **The first 400 runners receive a HOKA shakeout run shirt.** *Distribution starts @ 7:15 AM.*



PRE-RACE PASTA DINNER | SATURDAY, APRIL 25 Monterey Marriott - 350 Calle Principal, Monterey, CA 93940 4:30 & 6 PM Seatings - Tickets Required

Mix & mingle with fellow runners at the Pre-Race Pasta Dinner. Pre-purchased tickets are available for pick-up at the Expo. *Additional tickets available for purchase while supplies last.*

RACE MORNING

GETTING TO THE START LINE

The 12K is an out-and-back race from the Marathon finish line and 12K entrants are responsible for their own transportation to the start (if staying in Big Sur, see below). Limited free parking is available at [The Crossroads Carmel](#) and in designated parking lots along Carmel Rancho Blvd. Plan to arrive extra early and expect heavy traffic in the area. **We do not provide any bus transportation to the 12K start.**

PLEASE NOTE: Race day packet pickup is **NOT** available for 12K runners. You must pick up your bib and participant shirt at the Expo prior to race morning.

For 12K participants staying in Big Sur: If you are staying in a hotel or campground north of the start, you would walk to either Ripplewood Cabins and Campground or Big Sur River Inn to catch a bus at 5:15 AM. If you are staying south of the starting line, please walk to Post Ranch Inn or Deetjen's to catch a ride to the start at 5:15 AM. To board these buses, stand near Highway 1 in order to be visible to bus drivers. A second bus will depart from the Marathon starting line to take 5K runners to the start of their race at the Marathon finish line in Carmel.

RACE START

The [5K/12K](#) start together on Highway 1 at the Marathon finish line at **7:35 AM**. Runners should selfseed by expected pace with faster runners near the front. Be sure to wear your race number on the front of your shirt or shorts so it is visible to race officials during the event. The event is chip-timed so there is no advantage to being near the front unless you can start with and maintain a faster pace.

GEAR CHECK

Since most 12K participants will have a personal vehicle parked nearby, and because we are preparing the gear check area for the thousands of runners running point-to-point longer races on Highway 1, there is a very limited gear check option for the 12K. If you need to use gear check, use **ONLY** the clear gear check bag provided at bib pick-up and attach the adhesive bag tag located at the top of your race bib. Do not enclose valuables, keys, credit cards, etc. and do not check any fluids or other heavy or sharp items. Please tie your bag tightly. **Place your bag in the gear collection area on the way to the start. We are not responsible for lost or stolen property.**

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE DETAILS

- The 5K & 12K feature a beautiful **out-and-back course** beginning and ending at the Marathon finish.
- The 5K has white mile markers with blue numbers & the 12K has blue mile markers with white numbers. Do not look for the larger wooden marathon markers.
- Be sure your race number is visible on the **FRONT** of your shirt or shorts for race officials and photographers.
- **Please help us keep this beautiful area clean.** Please toss all trash, cups, gel packs, food, etc., within an aid station footprint to help ease clean up and get roads reopened promptly. And please don't go to the bathroom behind bushes, trees, or fences on the course. There are plenty of portos on the route and there is A LOT of poison oak alongside some sections of the course!
- The road is closed to private vehicles, bicycles, walkers, or non-registered runners. The only place for friends and family to watch you run is at the finish line. **No spectators are allowed on the course.**
- Only official race entrants wearing an official bib assigned to them are allowed on the course. No dogs or other animals, unofficial pacers, skates, skateboards, bikes, scooters, wheelchairs, hand cranks, baby joggers, or carrying of children or infants. No bandits, no unofficial pacers, no exceptions.

View the course map [here](#).



AID STATIONS

Aid station amenities include **Precision Hydration PH 1000**, water, refill stations for you to refill your personal bottles, portable restrooms, and first aid.

The 12K features three aid stations. One is in Point Lobos and one is a marathon aid station that runners pass on the way out and on the way back.



[Precision Hydration PH 1000](#)

FINISH AREA



The marathon village is located at Highway 1 and Rio Road. After crossing the finish line, you will receive a finish medallion and recovery food and beverages. The family reunion area is outside the runner food tent in the central area of Marathon Village.

Hot minestrone soup and a Cheers Garden (for those age 21 or over) are also available. Your participant bib is good for one complimentary beverage; additional beverages can be purchased on-site.

Gear bags checked before your race are located just outside the fenced grass village area in the parking lot of The Crossroads Carmel shopping center.

View a map of the finish area [here](#).

POST-RACE INFORMATION

TRACKING, RESULTS & AWARDS

For runner tracking, click [here](#).

Results will be located under black SVE tents in the Marathon Village. Type in your name or bib number and your results will appear on the computer screen. Results will also be located [here](#).

The Marathon awards ceremony will begin at 11:30 AM on the main stage. Top finishers and first place in each age group will be announced on stage during the awards ceremony. Age group awards are three deep and are available at the awards tent next to the stage. There are also Boston to Big Sur awards and relay awards.

There are no awards in the 21-Miler, 11-Miler, 12K, or 5K.

POST-RACE SHUTTLES

Buses back to the Big Sur area campgrounds and hotels are scheduled to depart at 11:30 AM, 1 PM and 2 PM, subject to change.

IMPORTANT EVENT NOTES

SPECTATOR TIPS

- Due to the closure of Hwy 1 to private vehicles, bikes, runners and walkers, **the only place to watch participants in any of our races is at Marathon Village.**
- Marathon Village is a relatively small area so anticipate heavy vehicle and pedestrian traffic and lengthy delays accessing the area.
- Free parking is available in the surrounding shopping centers, but you may have to park a half mile or more away from Marathon Village.
- Find friends and family at the runner reunion area near the exit of the runner food tent.
- Please, no dogs, drones, or bicycles in Marathon Village.

CELL SERVICE

The Big Sur International Marathon collection of races are in an area with **little to no cell coverage.** There is no cell service at the marathon start line or along the course and there is limited cell coverage at the finish line (and 12K/5K start and finish lines). This will affect texting and calling, runner tracking, and results. Please have plans in place with friends and family before race day.

QUESTIONS?

If you have additional questions, please visit bigsurmarathon.org and click on the "Frequently Asked Questions" page. Our email is registration@bsim.org.



GOOD LUCK, RUNNERS!