



BIG SUR

INTERNATIONAL MARATHON

PRESENTED BY **HOKA**

MARATHON 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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SCAN TO SEND YOUR START LINE SHOUTOUT TO OUR ANNOUNCER →



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.** You will receive an email with your check-in pass (QR code and bib number) several times leading up to the event.

Boston 2 Big Sur Bib Pickup and **VIP Runners**, please proceed to your designated kiosks when you enter the Bib Pickup room.

BUS TICKETS

If you pre-selected your bus pick up location, you will receive your ticket at the Transportation Desk after you pick up your bib. All others will be directed to visit Transportation Solutions to secure a bus ticket to the start. Buses leave from one of seven locations. **View the [bus pick-up locations and parking map](#) to see the available locations.** Your assigned bus will be based on where you are staying the night before the race, if you need to park a vehicle on race morning, and availability.

Staying in Big Sur? Review this [transportation document](#) on getting to the start!

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 to 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

TRANSPORTATION TO THE START

All marathon runners must use our free transportation to the start at Big Sur Station in Big Sur. Highway 1 is closed early race morning to private vehicles. **There is NO parking in the start area and there is no runner drop-off by private vehicle.**

If you pre-selected your bus pick up location, you will receive your ticket at the Transportation Desk after you pick up your bib. All others will be directed to visit Transportation Solutions to secure a bus ticket to the start. Buses leave from one of seven locations. **View the [bus pick-up locations and parking map](#) to see the available locations.** Your assigned bus will be based on where you are staying the night before the race, if you need to park a vehicle on race morning, and availability.

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RACE START

The Marathon start is at Big Sur Station on Highway 1 in Big Sur. There will be porta potties as well as water, Precision Hydration, and coffee and tea. Wear warm clothing as the average temperatures are in the 40s and you will be in the area for one to two hours before the start. Discarded clothes will be donated.

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 at the gear collection truck in your corral. We are not responsible for lost or stolen property.**

NOTE: Do NOT enter the woods at the start village or alongside Highway 1. There is A LOT of poison oak in the area as well as sensitive vegetation.

START CORRALS

Marathon participants are assigned to one of three corrals based on estimated finish time. Look for your corral assignment on your race bib. Each corral has its own staging area with identical amenities (Gear Check, Restrooms, Hydration). You will be directed into your assigned corral staging area when you arrive at Big Sur Station. **The race begins at 6:45AM** with corral A and subsequent corrals will be released approximately every five minutes. Your official time does not begin until you cross the start line.

NOTE: You may move to a later corral race morning but not an earlier corral for safety reasons.

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE DETAILS

- **The Marathon begins at 6:45 AM** with three corrals.
- 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.](#)



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. **Precision Fuel PF30** energy gels will be available at mile 12.2 and 19.0. The Strawberry Station is at mile 23.2.

Aid Station Locations: Mile 2.5, 4.8, 7.8, 10.4, 12.2 (**Precision Fuel station**), 14.7, 16.9, 19.0 (**Precision Fuel station**), 21.2, 23.0, 24.5.



[Precision Fuel PF30](#)



[Precision Hydration PH 1000](#)

TIME LIMITS

The Marathon course time limit is 6:00 hours, a pace of 13:45 per mile/8:32 per km. This begins when the final runner crosses the start line. This strict enforcement is part of our permit to use Highway 1 and it is enforced without exception by the California Highway Patrol and race officials in the following ways:

- Those who do not reach marathon mile 15.2 by 10:30 AM or mile 21.2 by 11:50 AM will not be allowed to proceed past that point and will be provided transportation to the finish. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- If you decide to drop out at any point on the course, notify a course marshal or stop at any aid station and inform the volunteers of your desire to drop out. They will dispatch a SAG van to take you to the finish.

Thank you for your cooperation. Maintaining the time limit helps us secure a permit each year to conduct this race.

PACE GROUPS

There are planned pace groups (provided by [On Pace Race](#)) for the full marathon for the following goal finish times:

3:10, 3:20, 3:30, 3:40, 3:50, 4:00, 4:10, 4:15, 4:20, 4:30, 4:40, 4:45, 4:50, 5:00, 5:15, 5:30, 5:50

FINISH AREA



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

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.

B2B Gear bags are located inside the premium tent.

BOSTON 2 BIG SUR FINISHERS

Boston 2 Big Sur (B2B): B2B finishers will be redirected to exit the post-race runner flow to head to the B2B premium tent in the Village. B2B bibs will allow runners access into this tent and B2B guests need to wear their pre-purchased wristbands for admittance.

A variety of food and beverages will be available in the tent. You will receive your special B2B finish medallion and your B2B jacket inside the tent (provided you had an official time in the April 20, 2026 Boston Marathon).

B2B Gear Check: Gear bags checked before your race can be retrieved inside the premium tent.

POST-RACE INFORMATION TRACKING, RESULTS & AWARDS

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

Results will be located in the premium tent as well as under black SVE tents in 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

Post-race buses depart continuously from Marathon Village on Rio Road (in front of Bank of America and Starbucks) **beginning at 9:30 AM and ending at 2PM** to return you to your morning boarding locations.

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!