



BIG SUR

INTERNATIONAL MARATHON

PRESENTED BY **HOKA**

MARATHON RELAY 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. All team bibs and shirts are picked up by the team captain or designated representative and are not available for individual pick-up.

You must bring your photo ID & your check-in pass to pick up your bibs. 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.

RELAY BUS TICKETS

All Relay runners must use our free transportation to the start of their leg. Your relay bib is your bus ticket. Marathon Relay buses leave from **ONLY ONE location**. [View the bus pick-up location and parking map](#) to learn more.

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 Relay runners must use our free transportation to the start of their leg. **Your relay bib is your bus ticket.** Highway 1 is closed early race morning to private vehicles. There is **NO parking in the start area or any exchange areas** and there is **NO runner drop-off by private vehicle.**

Marathon Relay Bus Pick-Up Location - Monterey Peninsula College (MPC)

980 Fremont Street, Monterey. Plan to arrive at MPC at least 15 minutes prior to the departure time and be ready to board your bus on time. Buses will leave on schedule.

[View the bus pick-up location and parking map](#) | **Note that MPC is letter "L" on the map.**

The Relay buses leave at the following times for each leg:

- **Leg 1** - 3:45 - 4:00 AM
- **Leg 2** - 4:15 - 4:30 AM
- **Leg 3** - 4:30 - 4:45 AM
- **Leg 4** - 5:00 - 5:15 AM

Note that Marathoners will also be parking at MPC. Marathoners will board and leave MPC from 3:45 - 4:00 AM. Don't be late! **There is NO way to get to your exchange point once the buses have left.**

For participants staying in Big Sur, please check in with the Transportation Desk at the Expo for your best option or view this [transportation document](#).

LEG 1 START

Leg 1 runners begin at the Marathon start 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. If you prefer something specific on race day, please bring your own supplies.

Wear warm clothing as the average temperatures are in the 40's and you will be in the area for one to two hours before the start.

START CORRALS

Marathon relay participants can choose any corral to start the race. Each corral has its own staging area with identical amenities (Gear Check, Restrooms, Hydration). You will be directed into your 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: Relay participants can choose any corral to start the race, while full marathon participants are assigned to specific corrals based on their estimated finish time.

COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE DETAILS

- **The Marathon and Relay Leg 1 begin at 6:45 AM**
- There are large marathon mile markers on the course. Note there are not special relay mile markers.
- There are 11 aid stations spread out about every two-to-three miles.
- 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!

View the course map [here](#).



- 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.

POST-RACE INFORMATION

RELAY GEAR CHECK

Relay Gear Check bags are not taken from one exchange zone to the next. Bags turned in at each exchange zone are taken to the finish but may not arrive until after 1 PM.

Remember: We only take clothes to the finish that are left at gear check at the start or at the exchange zones. Bags or clothes left anywhere else are donated to charity.

SUGGESTED RELAY TEAM GEAR CHECK PLAN

To facilitate this plan, each relay runner will collect 2 gear check bags at packet pick-up. One for your warm up clothes and the other for your post-run clothes.

- Bag 1 (post-run clothes) Incoming runner will give their post run bag with clean sweats to their outgoing runner the night before (e.g., leg 1 runner gives a bag to the leg 2 runner). Be sure to do this the night before or before you get on the bus race morning.
- Leg 4 runner will give their post-run bag to leg 1 runner. The leg 1 runner can turn in the leg 4's bag at the start where it will be available for pick up at the Marathon Village.
- The outgoing runner will hand off the incoming runner's post-race bag when they are handed the bracelet.
- Bag 2 (warm up clothes) Runners waiting to run at the exchange area can use their second bag to store their warm up clothes to check in at the gear check bus at the exchange. They will be available at Marathon Village after 1 PM. By following this plan, all your teammates will have warm clothes after each leg.
- 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.

FINISH AREA

The **Marathon Village** is located at Highway 1 and Rio Road. After crossing the finish line, you will receive four finish medallions 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.

Most Relay teams use an alternative gear check program as described above. Any gear bags that were left at relay exchanges will be brought to the main gear check area just outside the fenced grass Village area in the parking lot of The Crossroads Carmel shopping center.

POST-RACE INFORMATION

TRACKING, RESULTS & AWARDS

For runner tracking, click [here](#). Results will be located 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 awards ceremony will begin 11:30 AM.

New in 2026: Each member of the top three teams in each category will receive an award at the Awards Tent. Teams with fewer than four members are not eligible for awards. The top finishing team will be announced and awarded on the Awards Stage. **Awards are not mailed after the race.**

POST-RACE SHUTTLES

Shuttles back to **Monterey Peninsula College** from the finish run from 9:30 AM until 2:00 PM. Shuttles from the finish back to Big Sur leave at 11:30 AM, 1 PM and 2 PM.

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** (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?

Please visit bigsurmarathon.org or email registration@bsim.org.

GOOD LUCK, RUNNERS!