

## WHERE AND WHEN TO RACE

Prepare for the fall racing season by running one of these popular mid- to end-of-summer races. Whether you're looking to PR or simply want to experience a fun and epic race, we've selected events for all types of sweat-breaking goals. Make sure to mark these on your calendars.

For a complete race calendar, go to [Competitor.com/calendar](https://competitor.com/calendar)



## MARATHONS/HALF MARATHONS

### HATFIELD MCCOY HALF MARATHON

June 13; Matewan, W.V.  
[Hatfieldmccoymarathon.net](http://Hatfieldmccoymarathon.net)

Learn about the Hatfield and McCoy family feud while running 13.1 miles near the Blackberry Mountains and Tug River. Along the course you'll run past historic sites that tell the story of the infamous feud and briefly crossover into Kentucky. Now in its 15th running, this half has grown in popularity from 13 runners when it was first held in 2000 to thousands of participants today.

### GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN MARATHON

July 11; Boone, N.C.  
[Hopeformorrow.org](http://Hopeformorrow.org)

This race takes place during the Mountain Highland Games, the largest Scottish Games held in America and second largest in the world. It's also considered one of the toughest marathons in the nation as it climbs more than 1,000 feet in elevation and winds through the scenic valleys of the Blue Ridge Mountains. With a cutoff time of 6 hours, there's little room for walking on this point-to-point course.

### MISSOULA MARATHON

July 12; Missoula, Mont.  
[Missoulamarathon.org](http://Missoulamarathon.org)

For the most part this marathon course is flat and fast—except for the hill at the halfway point—which makes it a great BQ race. It's also an incredibly scenic course that starts in Missoula's mountainous countryside and ends in the heart of downtown along the Clark Fork River. Plus, your race entry includes delicious post-race summer treats such as pasta salad, watermelon and frozen juice bars.

Rock n Roll Chicago



PHOTO: COURTESY OF ROCK 'N ROLL MARATHON SERIES

**MARATHONS/HALF MARATHONS**

**ROCK 'N' ROLL CHICAGO HALF**

July 19; Chicago  
[Runrocknroll.com/chicago](http://Runrocknroll.com/chicago)

A race and concert experience in one event, you're sure to stay energized for 13.1 miles through Chi Town. With views of the city skyline, Lake Michigan and the Chicago River, this racecourse also offers several misting stations and popsicle handouts that'll keep runners cool despite the summer heat. Complete the festive vibe with a beer garden and a musical performance by Andy Grammer.

**THE SANTA ROSA MARATHON**

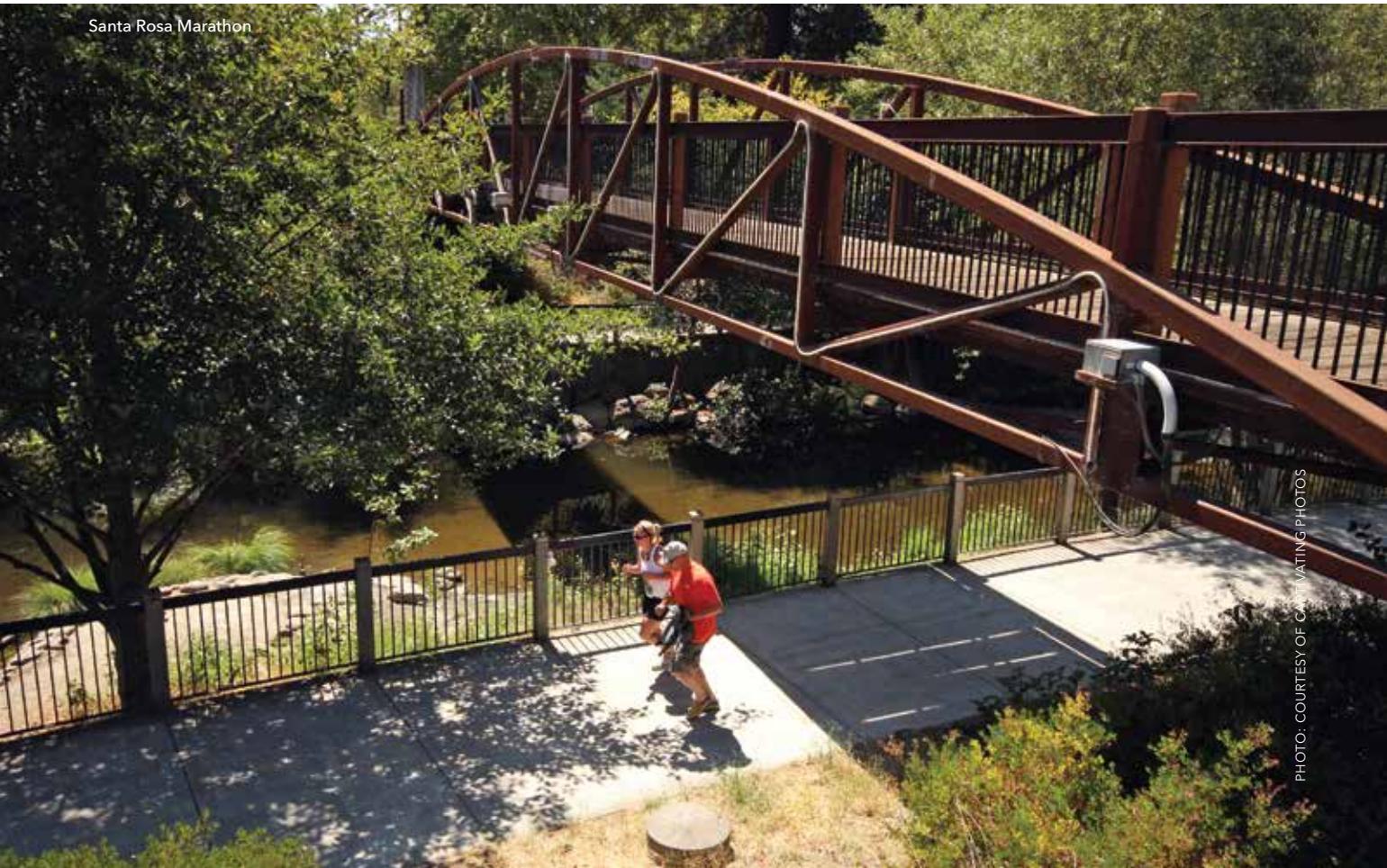
Aug. 23; Santa Rosa, Calif.  
[Theasantarosamarathon.com](http://Theasantarosamarathon.com)

Another flat and fast BQ course, this small-town marathon captures Sonoma County's wine country charm. At mile 10 marathoners run through one of the colorful wine barrel and fermenting rooms of DeLoach Vineyard and Winery. Finishers also receive a custom bottle of DeLoach wine along with their race medal.

**SUNRIVER MARATHON FOR A CAUSE**

Sept. 6; Bend, Ore.  
[Sunrivermarathon.com](http://Sunrivermarathon.com)

Only in its fifth running, the single-loop marathon has become a popular charity race hosted just 15 miles south of Bend off of Highway 97. All race proceeds help benefit St. Charles Cancer Services. Mostly run on paved pathways, the course winds through residential areas in the Crosswater, Caldera Springs and Sunriver communities with less than 50 feet of elevation loss or gain.



Santa Rosa Marathon

PHOTO: COURTESY OF CALIFORNIA PHOTOS

**5K TO 15K**

**BELLIN 10K RUN**

June 13; Green Bay, Wis.  
Bellinrun.com

When the first Bellin 10K was held in 1977, it was supposed to be a one-time event celebrating an addition to the Bellin Hospital to promote cardiovascular fitness. This year, the race will be hosting its 38th run and has become a yearly tradition. Unlike most races, the Bellin Run distributes medals every five years to keep race costs low, so there will be no finishers' medals available this year.

**BOILERMAKER 15K**

July 12; Utica, N.Y.  
Boilermaker.com

One of the most competitive road races in the world, the Boilermaker 15K has attracted numerous elite participants, including four-time Boston Marathon champion Bill Rodgers, who won the race in 1983. Although the race still has a strong elite field every year, the popular event welcomes runners of all skill levels.

**BIX 7**

July 25; Davenport, Iowa  
Bix7.com

A premier road race in the Midwest, this 7-miler also boasts one of the largest non-marathon cash prize purses in the nation of \$12,500. The hardest and steepest part of the race, though, is at the onset up Brady Street hill with a 9 percent grade for about a third of a mile. Once you're past that, it's smooth sailing to the finish line.



Bix 7

PHOTO: LOUIS BREMS, COURTESY OF QUAD CITY TIMES/ZUMA WIRE

**5K TO 15K**

**THE EVERGREEN TOWN RACE**

Aug. 2; Evergreen, Colo.  
[Evergreentownrace.org](http://Evergreentownrace.org)

Choose between a 5K or 10K in this peaceful lake-side race located just 15 miles west of Denver. A fast, mostly downhill course that follows Upper Bear Creek and finishes near Evergreen Lake, runners can expect to shave several minutes off their PR.

**BOWERMAN 5K**

Aug. 15; Beaverton, Ore.  
[Bowermantc.com](http://Bowermantc.com)

Named after Bill Bowerman, co-founder of Nike and coach to iconic runner Steve Prefontaine, the race will be held within the Nike World Headquarters. This year runners will experience a new course that's guaranteed to produce faster times and attract a more competitive field.

**DISNEYLAND 10K**

Sept. 5; Anaheim, Calif.  
[Rundisney.com](http://Rundisney.com)

A part of the Disneyland Half Marathon weekend, this is arguably the happiest 10K on earth. Participants dress up in their favorite Disney character costume as they make their way from the Anaheim Convention Center through both California Adventure and Disneyland parks until they reach the Disneyland Hotel.



Disneyland 10K

PHOTO: COURTESY OF DISNEYLAND 10K

**TRAIL**

**BARR TRAIL MOUNTAIN RACE**

July 19; Manitou Springs, Colo.  
Barrtrailmountainrace.com

The first half of the 12.6-mile course ascends Pikes Peak's iconic Barr Trail, gaining 3,630 feet before turning around at Barr Camp to make the second half's descent. Due to its competitive nature, this grueling event is also a qualifying race for the Pikes Peak Marathon and Ascent. Plus, the post-race party is hosted at a local brewery, which includes a free beer and 20 percent discount on food.

**GRAND ISLAND TRAIL MARATHON**

July 25; Munising, Mich.  
Greatlakesendurance.com

Enjoy a breezy summer run along the perimeter of Michigan's Grand Island in Lake Superior, off of Munising Bay. Long stretches of beach, 300-foot sandstone cliffs and lush green forests make up the sights of this course as runners make their way around the island. One participant even described the lake "as clear and aqua blue as the Caribbean," making it the perfect summer race getaway.

**TWILIGHT TRAIL ADVENTURE**

Aug. 8; Auburn, Calif.  
Twilighttrailadventure.com

This nighttime event provides a safe and fun course that allows runners of all abilities to experience trail running in the dark. Starting as late as 9 p.m., runners have the option between a 5K or 10K. The post-race party includes live music, neon lights, pizza and an Italian soda bar.

**TRAIL**

**TWISTED BRANCH 100K ULTRA**

Aug. 29; Naples, N.Y.  
Twistedbranchtrail.com

An escape from the city, this ultra trail race explores the Finger Lakes Trail system in the forested areas of upstate New York. The course covers a small portion of the expansive 950 miles of hiking paths including branch trails within the system, but is carefully marked to ensure entrants remain on the correct path.

**TAMALPA HEADLANDS 50K**

Aug. 29; Muir Beach, Calif.  
Headlands50K.com

Coastal, Miwok, Steep Ravine and the Dipsea trails on the lower flanks of Mt. Tamalpais combine to make up this single-loop trail race in Marin County. From singletrack trails with ocean views to climbing stairs deep within aging redwood forests, the scenery is constantly changing as participants cover 7,300 feet of total elevation change.

**VOLCANIC 50**

Sept. 5; Mount St. Helens, Wash.  
Gobeyondracing.com

Rugged and remote, this 50K provides a spectacular view of Mount St. Helens. The course consists of singletrack trails circumnavigating the active volcano that run over lava and pumice fields, cross rivers and pass through dense forests with an overall elevation change of 7,400 feet.

Grand Island Trail Marathon



PHOTO: COURTESY OF GRAND ISLAND TRAIL MARATHON

Volcanic 50



PHOTO: PAUL NELSON PHOTOGRAPHY

**INTERNATIONAL**

[Click here for a complete race calendar.](#)

**BAY OF FUNDY MARATHON**

June 28; Lubec, Maine  
[Bayoffundymarathon.com](http://Bayoffundymarathon.com)

This out-and-back course starts in the U.S. at West Quoddy Head in Lubec, Maine, but then crosses over into New Brunswick, Canada, for about 8 miles until it returns to the U.S. again. It's one of the few races in the world that requires registrants to provide proof of a passport before entering the race.

**ISLANDSBANKI REYKJAVIK MARATHON**

Aug. 22; Reykjavik, Iceland  
[Marathon.is/reykjavik-marathon](http://Marathon.is/reykjavik-marathon)

With temperatures in the low 60s, this race will be a nice change from the sweltering heat of most summer marathons. The capital city of Iceland is also known for its natural hot springs that produce some of the cleanest air in the world. Hence its popularity among runners for post-race soaks in the hot springs and a healthy dose of fresh air.

**JUNGFRAU MARATHON**

Sept. 12; Interlaken, Switzerland  
[Jungfrau-marathon.ch](http://Jungfrau-marathon.ch)

No amount of hill training will prepare you for the epic ascent in this legendary European mountain race. The first 10K is flat and fast and then the rest of the race is less of a run and more of a steady hike up Jungfrau Mountain in the Bernese Alps. However, the mountaintop finish at almost 8,000 feet above sea level with panoramic views of the Swiss countryside is worth the struggle.

Jungfrau Marathon



PHOTO: COURTESY OF JUNGFRAU MARATHON

## NOVELTY RUNS

[Click here for a complete race calendar.](#)

### CRAFT BREW RACES

June 27; Portland, Maine  
[craftbrewraces.com](http://craftbrewraces.com)

This is a 5K race series designed for the beer runner. Instead of hydrating with water, runners quench their post-race thirst with unlimited samplings from local craft breweries. After sweating it out for 3.1 miles, you deserve a cold one.

### BLACKLIGHT RUN

July 11; New Orleans  
[blacklightrun.com](http://blacklightrun.com)

Get doused in UV neon glow powder and light up the night in this nighttime 5K series. Similar to the Color Run, this race is more about colorful fun than speed and a flashy after party that'll keep your adrenaline racing.

### SPARTAN SPRINT

Aug. 1; Mechanicsville, Md.  
[Spartan.com](http://Spartan.com)

Test both your speed and strength in this popular timed race series known for its hardcore obstacles. This particular venue at the Maryland International Raceway is normally reserved for race cars, but will be transformed into the ultimate 3-mile Spartan course come race day.



Craft Brew Races

PHOTO: COURTESY OF CRAFT BREW RACES