



ULTRA X SAHARA

RACE INFORMATION PACK

22-26 MARCH 2027

30.9°N/6.93°W

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WELCOME

Ultra X Sahara and the Sahara Challenge (110km instead of 220km) take place in the remote and awe-inspiring Chegaga region of the Moroccan Sahara. Nestled deep in the south of the country, this area is known for its vast sand dunes, rocky plateaus, and harsh desert terrain.

Ultra X Sahara is a demanding 5-stage course covering 110/220km, designed for those seeking a serious challenge. With extreme temperatures, and varied terrain underfoot, this event is a serious undertaking.

The Sahara Challenge is exactly half the distance of the Full Event. Each day entrants to the Challenge will be dropped at the half way point on the course to complete the second half.

If you are looking to combine a race with a holiday, then you have plenty of options. Competitors can choose from Atlas Mountain hikes, meandering through the streets of Marrakesh or just chilling out at Legzira Beach, near Sidi Ifni.

There are five stages. The first will commence on Monday 22nd March and the last on Friday 26th. After the final stage on Friday, participants will be transferred back to the Official Race Hotel, the Karam Palace in Ouarzazate. If you would like to book a stay at the Karam Palace you will be able to book a room in a single or twin room at checkout. Staying at the Karam Palace is not mandatory.

Stage distances can be seen below. Please half the distance for The Sahara Challenge

Day 1: 53km
Day 2: 32km
Day 3: 48km
Day 4: 53km
Day 5: 37km

Ultra X Sahara is a UTMB® indexed race.

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KEY INFORMATION

For the full race rules and regulations, see our [Terms & Conditions](#).

Arrivals:

We advise participants to arrive at Marrakesh Airport on or before Saturday 20th March. Ultra X will have buses departing from Marrakesh airport at 1400. The bus transfer will be a 4 hour and 30-minute journey with a stop in the middle before reaching the race hotel - The Karam Palace in Ouarzazate. Staying at the Race Hotel is optional but advised. Here you will meet fellow competitors and prepare for the challenge ahead.

On Monday, you will transfer south to a desert camp near M'Hamid, where the event begins on the Monday.

Each night is spent in shared desert camps under the stars, where a strong sense of camaraderie, shared meals, and the spirit of adventure create an unforgettable atmosphere. After the finish, runners return to the Karam Palace for a well-earned celebration.

Add on options for hotel accommodation will be available on our registration page. If you experience any difficulties, please let contract@ultra-x.co know.

If you wish to purchase the Deluxe add-on, you can do so on your My Race Space account. Those who do, will sleep in real single beds in 2 person rooms each night. They will also be provided with breakfast and dinner each day.

As alternative travel options, there are occasionally direct flights to Ouarzazate. These are intermittent however and we cannot guarantee any will arrive in time for the respective race day registrations/timings. We encourage you to be proactive with flight bookings and arrive earlier if this is your preferred option.

30.9°N/6.93°W

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THE ROUTE



MOROCCO

FINISH LINE



5

4

2

3

1



START LINE

MOROCCO
ALGERIA

3K

SAHARA

- DAY 1 (54KM)
- DAY 2 (31KM)
- DAY 3 (47KM)
- DAY 4 (51KM)
- DAY 5 (37KM)



KIT CHECKS

This is the process by which the race organisers will ensure you have the mandatory kit and are carrying the correct number of calories.

Kit checks will take place on the Sunday morning before the race at The Karam Palace race hotel. Any participants caught throwing away equipment or food after this process will be penalised.

To make kit checks more efficient, each food item must be labelled with the number of calories it contains. Food parcels which have been assembled by you must have a sticker estimating their calorie content.

In line with our sustainability policy, you must also label all packaging with your bib number. Any packaging found littered will put you at risk of disqualification.

SLEEPING

The living accommodation for those who do not purchase the 'Deluxe add-on', will consist of tents shared by around 10 competitors. Participants will be provided with a basic mattress for the floor. You will need to bring sleeping bags and pillow. For those purchasing the Deluxe Entry, you will be sleeping in a twin tented room with your own bed.

Competitors will be allocated tents at random, unless specifically requested to share. There is no doubt that one of the best things about multi-stage ultra marathons are the lifelong friendships forged along the way.

Although competitors must carry essential safety equipment (such as water bottles, daily nutrition, basic medical kit, a whistle etc) in their running packs, their race holdall (containing sleeping equipment, clothing, meals etc) is transported between each campsite by the organisers.

DROP OUTS

This is an extreme event and voluntary or imposed withdrawal does happen. This is taken seriously and handled with great respect by the race organisation.

Participants may withdraw from the event at any time.

Should a participant retire or be withdrawn from the event, all additional costs incurred (accommodation, transfers, food, etc) must be covered by the participant.

If you cannot finish a stage (as long as you are cleared by the medical team) you may start the following day's. However, you will not receive a rank or medal. Should you wish to drop down to the Sahara Challenge – you may!

RACE BRIEFING

The race safety briefing will take place on Sunday morning at the Karam Palace Race Hotel

CUT-OFFS

We want everyone to finish the race whilst enjoying the scenery. We therefore have generous time allowances of 2 hours per 10km.

Participants must have departed the checkpoint before the cut-off time, or they will not be allowed to continue. Cut offs are subject to change by the Race Director. Any changes will be communicated to participants.

FOOD

There is no cooking with gas allowed during Ultra X events. For food, the organisers will provide hot water with which to rehydrate your dehydrated meals. Hot water will be available at camp two hours before the scheduled race start each day and before the first runner crosses the finish line after each stage.



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BAGS & RACE HOLDALLS

Participants are allowed two bags for the week:

Race holdall (20kg): This will be transported between camps by the race organisers and should contain everything required for the entirety of your trip. You are encouraged to bring as many supplies as you like as long as the weight does not exceed 20kgs. We recommend a wide variety of dehydrated food, spare pairs of clothes and anything which may make your nights under the stars more comfortable.

Your race holdall should be a tough hardwearing holdall and if possible, waterproof.

Running pack: This is the bag you will carry each day whilst on the course. Running packs must be large enough to carry the mandatory items on the kit list. We recommend packs from 8-12 litres.

Suitcase: If you would like to leave a non event specific suitcase at the race hotel for the week, you may do so.

30.9°N/6.93°W

THE SAHARA CHALLENGE

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

The Sahara Challenge delivers the same landscapes, camps, checkpoints, and unforgettable experience as Ultra X Sahara – at roughly half the daily distance – 110km. Designed primarily with walkers in mind, The Sahara Challenge offers adventurers the full experience without the full mileage. The Challenge is an achievable and deeply rewarding way to be part of one of the world's great footraces.

WHAT IS THE SAHARA CHALLENGE?

The Sahara Challenge is a five-day, non-competitive stage run/walk that takes place alongside Ultra X Sahara. You follow the same route, stay in the same camps and cross the same finish lines, starting each day from approximately the halfway point.

Total distance: ~110 km across five stages

Format: Non-competitive, experience-focused

Atmosphere: Identical to the full event – camps, community and finish lines included

HOW IT WORKS

Each morning, the Sahara Challenge participants are transported by 4x4 to the halfway checkpoint of the day's stage. You then cover the remainder of the route into camp, sharing the trail and the experience with Ultra X Sahara participants.

THE SAHARA CHALLENGE STAGE DISTANCES:

Stage 1: 22 km

Stage 2: 15 km

Stage 3: 24 km

Stage 4: 30 km

Stage 5: 15 km

Cut-offs apply to ensure everyone reaches camp safely. The required pace is 10 km in 3.5 hours (approx. 3.3 km/h).

WANTING TO SWITCH FROM ULTRA X SAHARA TO THE SAHARA CHALLENGE?

Entered the 220 km race but unable to complete a stage?

You can seamlessly continue as a Sahara Challenge participant (subject to medical clearance) and receive a Sahara Challenge medal.

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MEDALS & RECOGNITION

Complete all five of the Sahara Challenge stages and you'll receive a First Edition Sahara Challenge medal, distinct from the full Ultra X Sahara medal, but just as meaningful.

WHO IT'S FOR

- First-time multi-stage runners and walkers
- Adventurers seeking a reduced-distance challenge
- Runners managing injury or recovery
- Friends or family supporting an Ultra X Sahara competitor
- Anyone ready to do something extraordinary

COST, SUPPORT & KIT

The Sahara Challenge costs the same as Ultra X Sahara, reflecting the identical level of support, infrastructure, medical care and logistics – plus daily transfers to start points. Mandatory kit requirements are the same to meet safety standards in this remote desert environment.

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04

MEDAL RIBBONS

All finishers will receive a race medal. Different medal ribbons will be awarded based upon the finishing times outlined below. Those that do not want a medal will be able to opt-out at race registration. Different medal ribbons will be awarded based upon the finishing times outlined below.

As part of our [Sustainability Policy](#), the Green Ribbon will be awarded to the competitor that displays the highest commitment to reducing their environmental impact both in preparation for and during the race (as determined by the organisers).



Black Ribbon
Under 23 hours



White Ribbon
Under 24 hours



Blue Ribbon
Over 24 hours



Green Ribbon
Environmental award

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MANAGING YOUR BOOKING

Race Space is the registration platform we use where participants sign up and can manage their booking from.

To manage your booking, please follow the Manage your Booking link in your confirmation email.

It is here that you can see all races that you are signed up to and Add Extras to a race (such as hotel bookings).



RACE RULES

No. Rule

1.	There will be no unofficial runners (i.e pacers).
2.	Runners must be completely aware of the length and specificity of the event and be prepared for it. It is the runners' responsibility to stay up to date with the event information as it is emailed to participants and published on the event webpage.
3.	Each runner's bib number must be worn on the front of the body and must be easily visible at all times.
4.	Runners must always follow the marked trail/course.
5.	Each runner must complete the entire course under their own power.
6.	Runners may not store supplies of any kind along the trail. E.g drop bag
7.	Each runner must be checked IN to all checkpoints. You will be disqualified if your time is not registered at every aid station.
8.	Cut-off times will be strictly enforced. Runners leaving any aid station after the cut off will not be listed as official finishers and will not be eligible for awards.
9.	Injection of PEDs or Fluids/ IVs by non-official race medical personnel will result in disqualification.
10.	Littering of any kind will result in immediate disqualification. Please respect the natural beauty of our trails and the right of everyone to enjoy them. Littering will threaten our use of the trails and the future of the race.

No. Rule

11.	Any runner who is unable to finish the race must personally inform the aid station captain of the nearest checkpoint of their decision to withdraw. This serves as official notice of a runner's withdrawal from the race. Runners who leave the course without turning in their number will be classified as "lost," initiating search and rescue.
12.	Runners are responsible for the actions of any supporters. If your supporters are deemed to have broken any of the runner race rules the runner will be held accountable. Your supporters act on YOUR behalf and based on YOUR instructions.
13.	Runners must carry with them AT ALL TIMES the mandatory equipment required.
14.	There will be mandatory kit checks at the start, on route, and at the finish. Failure to comply with the kit checks will result in disqualification.
15.	Runners are not to be accompanied by dogs at any time whilst on course.
16.	Any athlete who has been determined to have violated anti-doping rules at any time - through IAAF, the World Anti-Doping Agency, UK Anti Doping or any other National Sports Federation is ineligible for entry into any of our events. We reserve the right to conduct pre and post-competition testing for any and all performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs) listed on the current WADA Prohibited List. Any athlete who refuses to submit to anti-doping controls, if selected for testing, shall be disqualified and subject to a lifetime ban from our events.
17.	Runners must not be crewed in any way at this event.
18.	Runners must at all times comply with any instruction given by race management, staff and volunteers.

*All race rules above will be subject to Ultra X penalty and disqualification guidelines found in our Terms and Conditions [here](#), Clause 22.



YOU CAN DO SO MUCH MORE
THAN YOU THINK YOU CAN

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