



News Release

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Ultra Marathon Returns to Big Bend National Park in 2011

The Big Bend Ultra Marathon will return Sunday, January 16, 2011. The race will include 50K and 25K trail races and introduce a new RGV/Hot Springs 10K race.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday weekend allows extra travel time to the remote, Far West Texas location.

Proceeds from the Big Bend Ultra go to the Friends of Big Bend National Park, which works to raise funds for park preservation and improvement.

To minimize the impact on the park, there is a limited number of participants. Everyone involved must follow strict rules, including a zero-tolerance, anti-litter policy. Aid stations and back country Privies will be located on the remote backcountry park courses.

Information on entry fee, online registration, list of weekend activities, course maps, new 10K course, outdoor camping options, food, fuel, transportation, and lodging within the park and nearby Terlingua/Study Butte/Lajitas, will be available online. To receive updates [sign up for our e-newsletter](#). We will be regularly updating [our web page](#) and the [Big Bend 50 Ultra Run Facebook page](#).

The BB50 race is not run at altitude. It starts at 3,200 feet (975 meters) and drops to 1,900 feet (579 meters), so it's a steady downhill race on the park dirt roads. The 50K course goes down Black Gap Road, then on to River Road, and back past the Mariscal mercury-cinnabar mines to Glen Spring Road.

There is a common start, and common finish line for both the 50K and 25K distances.

"Weather can be windy, cold, light rain, snow, perfect, but normally it's beautiful, dry, cool, and the roads are easy to run," says Mr. Voss, race director, "You will have Elephant Tusk, the Chisos Mountains, Mule Ears peaks, and the Mariscal mines to look at on the way, it's easy to get your eyes off the road. All you hear are natural sounds, overlaid with the sound of your feet on the road and your heart beating in this unique quietness."

"There is a tradition to take the short drive to Hot Springs from Rio Grande Village Race Headquarters, to soak tired muscles Sunday night," said Voss. "We hope everyone can enjoy this experience."

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