

The 9th French leg or rather “Mont Blanc” leg...since it covers 3 countries! The UTMB[®], takes place on the 29 and 30 August at Chamonix-Mont-Blanc 9th event out of 10 and final in the Series.

The last but one event in the Ultra-Trail[®] World Tour, (the Diagonale des Fous in the Reunion, on 23 October will be the last in the 2014 circuit) the UTMB[®] is already promising to bring together the majority of the top runners in the ranking but also a great many lesser known runners who have already taken part in several events in this world circuit.

Around Mont-Blanc, they will have to score decisive points for the final podium. The provisional leader in the ranking, Ryan Sanders is absent and indeed risks losing his place!

The UTMB[®] : 12th edition , 168km and 9600m A, 46h max, 10 peaks of more than 2000m, 2, 300 runners at the Start on Friday 29 August at 17:30 from Chamonix

Since the first edition in 2003, it has been called the “race with all the superlatives”. A complete circuit of the Mont-Blanc massif, non-stop passing through 3 countries: France, Switzerland and Italy, to the cheering of a public as enthusiastic as numerous, one which every ultra-endurance runner must finish at least once in their life.

It is above all the sure knowledge for each one, elite or amateur, of living out around the emblematic summit of Mont-Blanc, a great human adventure bringing together the community of passionate trailers in a magical environment.

The North Face[®] Ultra-Trail du Mont-Blanc[®] is a globally unique event in the field of trail-running proposing 5 events to go around more or less extended or halfway around Mont Blanc in one direction or the other ... the UTMB[®] remains the showpiece event. More info: <http://www.ultratrailmb.com>

Race Series

The "series" constitutes a tight competitive circuit of four races, encouraging meetings of elites around the world, by granting finishers, a higher bonus on the final standings. The UTMB[®] closes the "series" circuit for the year:

- The North Face[®] Transgrancanaria - Spain
- Marathon des Sables – Morocco
- Ultra-Trail[®] Mt Fuji- Japan
- The North Face[®] Ultra-Trail du Mont-Blanc[®]

In the absence of Ryan Sanders, the provisional leader, the French trailers, François d’Haene, Christophe le Saux, Emmanuel Gault, the Americans Timothy Olson, Mike Foote, The Portuguese Carlos Sa, Great Britain’s Jez Brag, the Spanish Iker Karrera, Miguel Heras or the Moroccan Mohamad Ahansal, without forgetting the Asian runners, will still be able to claim first place on the final podium of the 2014 UTWT! With the women, the battle is fierce between Nuria Picas (SP), Rory Bosio (USA) or France’s Laurence Klein still in the race!

But the UTWT also enables the discovery of other less well-known runners already having 2 results and registered for the UTMB®. They are accumulating points, discovering other races on other continents and being ranked among the best runners in the world. Among them:

Freddy Thevenin (FRA)-12th Vibram Hong Kong 100 and 4th in The North Face® Lavaredo Ultra-Trail (not a real unknown).

Denis Clerc (FRA) – 173th The North Face® Transgrancanaria et 330th The North Face® Lavaredo Ultra-Trail.

Lei Yu (CHN) - 156th Vibram Hong Kong 100 and 218th of l'Ultra-Trail du Mont Fuji.

John Yoon (AUS), 3 races: 191th Vibram® Tarawera 100km Ultramarathon, 261th Ultra-Trail du Mont Fuji, 196th The North Face® 100 Australia.

Sophie Grant, woman (NZL) 169th TNF® Transgrancanaria 126th The North Face® Lavaredo Ultra-Trail

Invited runners

As with all the other legs, some elites coming from the whole world have been invited. The organisation of the UTMB® is taking care of their lodging and race bibs while the Ultra-Trail® World Tour is financing the air tickets of 6 athletes: Tina Lewis (US), Neal Gorman (US), Clarke McClymont (Aus), Timothy Olson (US), Tsuyoshi Soma (Jap), Michael Wardian (US)

Ultra-Trail® World Tour programme during the UTMB®

- The organisers of each of the 10 races will be present or represented at the foot of Mont-Blanc during this last week of August.

- Salon Ultra-Trail® is going to welcome an **Ultra-Trail® World Tour** chalet where it will be possible to meet up the organizers of the races involved in the 2014 circuit. A welcome atmosphere, meetings and films about these events are on the program.

Meeting at the UTWT chalet (n°102), from Wednesday 26/ 13h00 to Friday 29 August 13h00. A press conference has been announced for Thursday 28 August from 19h00- 19h30 at the Media Center of The Majestic, with the organizers of all the races in the circuit and the athletes competing in them..

UTWT ranking after 8 events

Men

1 Ryan Sandes (RSA)	3 races	629 points
2 Antoine Guillon (FR)	4 races	524 points
3 Brendan Davies (AUS)	4 races	492 points

Women

1 Nuria Picas (SP)	3 races	625 points
2 Fernanda Maciel (BRA)	3 races	563 points
3 Francesca Canepa (ITA)	3 race	532 points

All the UTWT results on : <http://www.ultratrailworldtour.com/fr/resultats>

19 August 2014