



50K COURSE GUIDE



IMPORTANT UPDATES (11/02/2017)

- NEW COURSE MODIFICATION - Old Inn to Muir Beach
- New 2017 Start & Finish Locations
- On-Course Nutrition Information
- UPDATED Crew and spectator information

RACE DAY CHECKLIST

PRE-RACE PREPARATION

- Review the shuttle and parking information on the website and make a plan for your transportation to the start area. Allow extra time if you are required or planning to take a shuttle.
- Locate crew- and spectator-accessible Aid Stations on the course map and inform your family/friends where they can see you on-course. Review the crew and spectator information section of this guide for crew rules and transportation options.
- If your distance allows, make a plan with your pacer to meet you at a designated pacer aid station. Review the pacer information section of this guide for pacer rules and transportation options.
- Locate the designated drop bag aid stations and prepare a gear bag for the specific drop bag location(s). Review the drop bag information section of this guide for more information regarding on-course drop bag processes and policies.
- Pick up your bib and timing device at a designated packet pickup location.
- Attend the Pre-Race Panel Discussion for last-minute questions and advice from TNF Athletes and the Race Director.
- Check the weather forecast and plan clothing and extra supplies accordingly for both you and your friends/family attending the race and Finish Festival. It is typically colder at the Start/Finish area than it is in the city.
- Make sure to have a hydration and fuel plan in place to ensure you are properly nourished throughout your race. See the Aid Station Menu for details on the hydration and fuel options available on-course.

WHAT TO BRING

- Directions and/or map to race start, parking location or shuttle pickup location
- Bib, timing device and safety pins
- Bibs should be worn on the front where they will be clearly visible to assist aid station volunteers tracking your progress on the course, and to ensure you will have some great photos of your achievement! Photos will be available a few days after the race, and can be found at www.ultraracephotos.com/tnfec.
- Headlamp or flashlight (mandatory for all 50 Mile participants)
- Change of clothes and shoes for the Finish Festival
- Appropriate clothing based on the weather forecast (jacket, pants, gloves, head cover, rain jacket, etc.)
- Appropriate equipment based on the weather forecast (umbrella, poncho, blanket, etc.)
- Bag to store your belongings at the Finish Festival
- Water bottle or hydration pack
- Required medications, inhalers or EpiPens
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses or hat
- Anti-chafe gel
- Watch/GPS device (remember to charge the night before)
- Cell phone (limited cellular reception at Start/Finish area) or camera
- Cash for food and beer
- I.D. for beer garden
- Ibuprofen or pain reliever (this will not be distributed to any individual by event staff, volunteers or medical teams)
- Game face

COURSE MAP



COURSE DESCRIPTION

Located in the visually stunning Marin Headlands The North Face Endurance Challenge Championship course engages runners with both scenic views and drastic elevation change. The new course makes a long ascent out of Sausalito Marin City before descending down into Tennessee Valley. Runners enjoy ascents through Tennessee Valley, Muir Beach and up to Pantoll Station, before descending down the famous Dipsea trail. This carries runners to the border of Muir Woods National Monument, down through Muir Wood and back to Muir Beach. After a few quick ascents, runners are first treated to dramatic views of the Golden Gate Bridge as they race off the Marin Headlands and then onto the iconic Golden Gate Bridge itself. A short but steep descent off the Golden Gate Bridge is the final push before arriving at the new historic airfield finish of Crissy Field.

COURSE RATING, ELEVATION PROFILE & PACE CHART

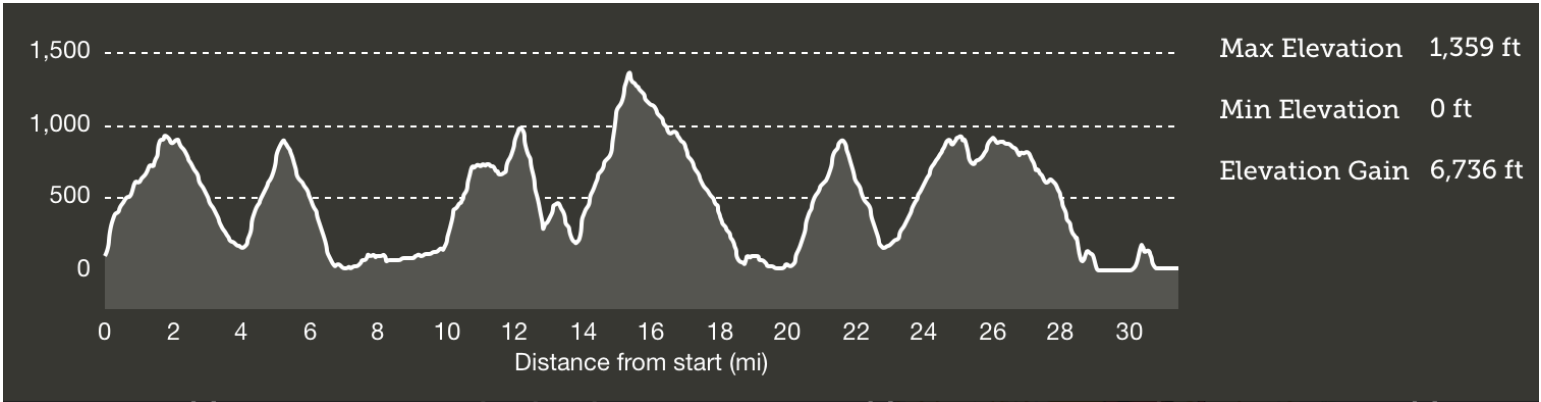
OVERALL DIFFICULTY: ★★★★★

TECHNICAL TERRAIN: ★★☆☆☆

ELEVATION CHANGE: ★★★★★

SCENERY: ★★★★★

				Pace		0:08:12		0:13:22		0:18:31	
Aid Station	Name	mile	Next Aid	Lead Runner		Middle Runner		Last runner		Crew	
Start	Sausalito Ball Field	0.0	3.5	0:00:00	7:00 AM	0:00:00	7:02 AM	0:00:00	7:04 AM	Yes	
Aid #1	Tennessee Valley	3.5	3.0	0:28:42	7:28 AM	0:46:45	7:48 AM	1:04:49	8:08 AM	Yes	
Aid #2	Muir Beach	6.5	5.3	0:53:18	7:53 AM	1:26:50	8:28 AM	2:00:22	9:04 AM	No	
Aid #3	Cardiac	11.8	5.9	1:36:46	8:36 AM	2:37:38	9:39 AM	3:38:31	10:42 AM	No	
Aid #4	Old Onn	17.7	2.8	2:25:08	9:25 AM	3:56:28	10:58 AM	5:27:47	12:31 PM	No	
Aid #5	Muir Beach	20.5	3.0	2:48:06	9:48 AM	4:33:52	11:35 AM	6:19:38	1:23 PM	No	
Aid #6	Tennessee Valley	23.5	2.9	3:12:42	10:12 AM	5:13:57	12:15 PM	7:15:11	2:19 PM	Yes	
Aid #7	Alta	26.4	6.0	3:36:29	10:36 AM	5:52:41	12:54 PM	8:08:53	3:12 PM	No	
Finish	Crissy Field	32.4	-	4:25:41	11:25 AM	7:12:50	2:14 PM	10:00:00	5:04 PM	Yes	
Hard Cut Off				Crissy Field		All 50K racers need to be through the Finish Line by this time				5:04 PM	



CUTOFF POLICY

In accordance with parameters agreed to by ALL permitting properties and for the safety of all runners, volunteers and race staff, any runner that is off pace to complete their distance by the designated course cutoff may be pulled at any time by the Race Director.

Please be aware that **10 Hours** is considered a hard cutoff time. All runners will be expected to carry the slowest official finishing pace for the entirety of the course.

If the runner fails to do so and is significantly behind pace, the race staff reserves the right to pull ANY runner from the race at ANY time and at ANY point on the course.

Wave start times are accommodated in the cutoff times.

TURN-BY-TURN DIRECTIONS

Start to Aid #1 – Tennessee Valley (3.5 miles)

- Depart the main event site.
- Cross Drake Ave.
- Slight right to access Pacheco Fire Road through the gate and continue up Fire Road.
- Turn left on Alta Trail.
- Turn right to Marincello Trail at Bobcat Trail intersection.
- Continue on Marincello Trail across the ridge and then descend down to the Tennessee Valley Aid Station.

You will start the race in the pre-dawn and proceed through this first section, which is fire roads within GGNRA. Look back to see the other runners behind you snaking up Pacheco Fire Road in the darkness. Enjoy the lights of the Golden Gate on Marincello trail before a quick descent into Tennessee Valley aid station.

Tennessee Valley to Aid #2 – Muir Beach (3.0 miles)

- Exit Aid Station to the Left and proceed along a paved walking trail that turns into a Fire Road.
- Turn right onto Fox Trail and proceed up the hill.
- At the top of the hill, proceed straight onto Coastal Fire Road.
- Stay straight/left at intersection with Coyote Ridge Trail.
- Stay Right on Coastal Trail and continue to drop down to Muir Beach.
- At bottom of hill go right on Kaasi Road.
- Proceed on Kaasi Road through two hard left hand turns to the Muir Beach Aid Station near the corner of Highway 1 and Pacific Way, near the Pelican Inn.

This is a beautiful section with a sweeping view of the coast that winds along the Headlands above the Pacific.

Muir Beach to Aid #3 – Cardiac (5.3 miles)

- Exit Muir Beach Aid Station right onto Pacific Way.
- Turn left immediately on Highway 1 by the Pelican Inn.
- Follow Highway 1 on the shoulder for ½ mile, crossing the road and proceeding straight as the road turns.
- Take an immediate right within 50 yards at the trailhead to the Redwood Creek Trail.
- Proceed along Redwood Creek Trail parallel and above the road.
- Turn hard left at Heather Cutoff, you turn hard left, then pass down along a quick switchback.
- Carefully cross the road into the driveway on the other side, then run down to and across a footbridge.
- Pass through a large field to the mouth of a single track trail that begins a long ascent along switchbacks.
- Turn right onto Coastal Trail.
- Stay left/straight at intersection with Deep Park Fire Road.
- Proceed to Cardiac Aid Station just below Pantoll Ranger Station and Dipsea Trail intersection.

This section starts with one of the only road portions of the course. Stay on the left hand shoulder and avoid traffic to the course marshals who will guide you across Hwy 1. Enter the trails, cross the road one more time, and you're onto the long, winding trail up to Coastal. Switchbacks lead you to the top of the hill to views of San Francisco and the Pacific up into the edge of Muir Woods. At Cardiac take aid and congratulate yourself on having completed 1,500 feet of ascent.

Cardiac to Aid #4 – Old Inn (5.9 miles)

- Exit Cardiac on Dipsea Trail.
- Turn left where Dipsea Trail meets Deer Park Fire Road.
- Turn left onto Ben Johnson Trail and wind down the hill through Muir Woods.
- Turn left on Bootjack Trail at the bottom of the hill, across a wide footbridge where the trail dead-ends.
- Turn right on Alice Eastwood Cutoff after ¼ mile.
- Turn left on Camp Eastwood Trail.
- Make soft right onto Plevin Cut. Trail makes sharp right after a short hill.
- Go straight onto the Fern Trail for .6 miles.
- Turn left onto Lost Trail after footbridge across tree.
- Turn left on Canopy View.
- Turn right on Panoramic Trail as the trail reaches the top.
- Turn right onto the Redwood Trail.
- Turn left across driveway after Tourist Club, then turn onto Sun Trail.
- Turn right on Dipsea Trail.
- Cross Muir Woods Road and continue on Dipsea Trail.
- Bear soft left onto Dipsea Trail, down wooden stairs to the Aid Station.

Prepare for a ride! This section has a winding difficult descent, followed by a challenging climb. Enjoy sweeping vistas along the Sun Trail, then rejoin the famous Dipsea Trail for a short time.

Old Inn to Aid #5 – Muir Beach (2.8 miles)

- Exit Aid Station through Muir Woods Parking lot.
- Tear left down stairs and across stream onto Dipsea Trail.
- Turn left at Deer Park Fire Road.
- At Muir Woods road, turn right and continue down Muir Woods Road.
- Turn left on Redwood Creek Trail (CA Highway Patrol will assist). **Do NOT cross road toward Heather Cutoff.**
- Turn left onto Highway 1.
- Turn right at Pelican Inn onto Pacific Ave to Muir Beach.
- Turn left immediately at Kaasi Road to enter the Aid Station.

This section runs you through the high grasses of the Redwood Creek trail, across two wooden bridges, and back to Muir Beach Aid Station, which you visited earlier in the day.

Muir Beach to Aid #6 -- Tennessee Valley (3.0 miles)

- Exit Aid Station on Kaasi Road.
- Turn left on Coastal Trail and proceed up hill.
- Continue slight right at the top of the hill onto Fox Trail.
- **Do NOT return on Coastal Trail towards Pirates Cove, or left on Coyote Ridge.**
- Turn left at the bottom of Fox and return to Tennessee Valley Aid Station via Tennessee Valley Road.

Exit Muir Beach, going up a hill you saw earlier in the race. Then, enjoy the amazing vistas as you grind up Fire Road, and down Fox Trail back to the Aid Station you have seen earlier in the day.

Tennessee Valley to Aid #7– Alta (2.9 miles)

- Follow Marincello to top of the hill, stay left.
- Turn left on Bobcat Trail.
- Turn right on Alta Trail.

Just when you thought the climbing was over. This section will gradually ascend almost 700 feet over 2 miles of wide Fire Road.

Alta to Finish (6.0 miles)

- Leaving aid station turn hard left onto SCA Trail across the ridge.
- Stay Left on SCA Trail at the intersection with Coastal Trail.
- Descend down SCA Trail. Cross Conzelman Road. Pay attention to NPS Rangers/PD at this intersection.
- Stay on trail and onto sidewalk at the Golden Gate Bridge trailhead parking lot.
- Follow stairs down and under Hwy 101 to access east side of the Golden Gate Bridge.
- Go left at top of stairs and left again to proceed onto the Golden Gate Bridge.
- Head across the Golden Gate Bridge.
- **NOTE: No marks will be on the bridge until you exit. Stay to your right while crossing the bridge. Pedestrian bridge is OPEN, and you will be sharing this experience with other people. Please be courteous!**
- Follow the bike/pedestrian trail as it curves around to your left.
- Turn right onto Battery East Trail and continue heading down making your way back to the Warming Hut.
- Go left onto the Battery East Trail stairs.
- Cross Long Ave and make a left to continue onto Crissy Field Promenade.
- Follow Crissy Field Promenade on north side of Crissy Field and take a right up the stars to the Finish!

Enjoy the spectacular views of the Golden Gate Bridge as you make your way from the terrain of the Headlands to the jubilation of the finish at Crissy Fields.

IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION

- All runners will be tracked through every aid station. It is crucial that your bib number is recorded by a volunteer for each pass through.
- When entering an aid station, call out your bib number to the volunteers tracking runners.
- Your race bib must be worn on the front of your body outside of your clothing so that it is visible.
- If you are unable to finish the course, please notify event staff at the nearest aid station that you will not be continuing on the race course. The race staff will then notify the race director and arrange transportation if needed.
- If you see a potentially injured runner on course, please get the runner's bib number and report the situation to the aid station captain at the following aid station.

AID STATION MENU

Salty Snacks:

Chips **V GF** | Pretzels **V** | Saltines **V**

Fruit: Oranges & Bananas **V GF**

Sweet Snacks: Skittles **V** & M&Ms **GF**

Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwiches

Potatoes & Salt **V GF**

Vegetable Broth **GF**

Energy Chewables

Electrolyte Hydration **V GF**

Soda: Pepsi & Mountain Dew **V GF**

Water **V GF**

V = VEGAN

GF = GLUTEN FREE



GEAR CHECK

FINISH LINE GEAR BAGS

- Runners will be able to leave bags at the Finish in the Gear Check tent.
- Finish Line gear bags must be tagged with the perforated tag located at the bottom of your race bib.
- Race staff will assist with adhering the tag to your bag if needed.
- Gear bags cannot exceed 10 pounds.
- Overweight or bulky bags will not be accepted.
- Coolers will not be accepted.
- Runners may only drop one bag at the Finish.
- Gear bags will not be refrigerated.
- Unmarked bags will be available at the Gear Check Area and can be retrieved with description.
- The North Face and Endurance Challenge are not responsible for lost or stolen gear bags or property.
- Gear bags could be exposed to the elements. Contents should be weatherproofed.
- Gear bags are subject to search by race staff if necessary.
- **Gear bags will be available for pickup at the Finish Festival until Sunday at 12:30 p.m. and then at The North Face - San Francisco store for one-week following the race.**
- Gear bags WILL NOT be mailed.
- All unclaimed gear bags will be disposed of at the end of the week.



COURSE MARKING

RIBBON MARKINGS

- Each distance will follow a unique color of marking that corresponds to the participant's bib color.
- Any time runners do not see their race color among the ribbons hung on the trails, they should take it as an indication that they are no longer on their race course. They should return to the last place they saw ribbon matching their race.
- For portions of the course that will be impacted before sunrise or after sunset, reflective tape and/or glow sticks will be placed alongside course markings.

FLAG MARKINGS

- As needed, ribbon markings will be replaced by flag markings.

SIGN MARKINGS

- All Endurance Challenge racers will follow the white directional signage arrows on-course.
- In the event that the course is marked with a colored arrow instead of a white arrow, runners should follow the sign color that corresponds to the color of their race bib.
- Locations where this may occur include when the race distances split and at trail intersections.

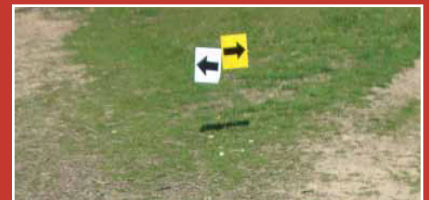
AID STATION SIGNAGE

- At each aid station, runners will find a sign featuring the current mileage and the distance to the next aid station (see bottom image).

RUNNING WITH GPS WATCHES

We understand that runners will be equipped with a wide variety of GPS watches. These watches should only be used as a guide for measuring your distance throughout your respective trail race. Please be cautioned that satellite reception, tree coverage and other factors will impact the accuracy of the distance displayed on your watch and that the distance of your course will vary depending on the type/model you wear.

SAMPLE MARKINGS



CREW INFORMATION

CREW INSTRUCTIONS

- A crew member is defined as any individual who provides material support to a runner during the race
- Crews must follow all rules and regulations set forth by The North Face Endurance Challenge
- Crew members must comply with all instructions from event staff and volunteers at all times
- Failure to comply will result in disqualification of the runner

RULES FOR CREW

- Crew access is only permitted at designated aid station locations (see pace chart and map)
- Crews must check-in with the aid station captain for direction on where to assist runners
- Crews may only assist runners within a **100ft** radius of the designated aid stations
- A traffic cone will signify the allowable parameters for crew assistance
- Crews are limited to one vehicle per runner at designated aid stations
- No smoking is allowed at any of the aid stations
- Littering of any kind is strictly prohibited
- Runners are responsible for the actions of their crew

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR TENNESSEE VALLEY: Spectators must stay in the parking lot. Any spectators on or near the Miwok Stables will be removed from the park immediately by race officials. Excessive cheering or noisemakers is strictly forbidden for the safety of the children and horses in the stables.

CREW ACCESSIBLE LOCATION (see pace chart for mileage)

Tennessee Valley Aid Station

- First Pass Mileage: 3.5
- Second Pass Mileage: 23.5

CREW TRANSPORTATION

- Parking is available at designated aid stations on the course map.
- Vehicles parked at aid stations not designated as accessible aid stations may be ticketed and/or towed by park or venue officials.
- **Shuttles are provided to designated aid stations:**
 - **Continuous shuttle from Start/Finish to Tennessee Valley - 5:30 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.**
- **SEE COURSE MAP FOR PARKING AVAILABILITY**

DRIVING DIRECTIONS



San Francisco



- | | | |
|---|------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Head northwest on US-101 N | go 5.4 mi |
| | About 2 mins | total 5.4 mi |



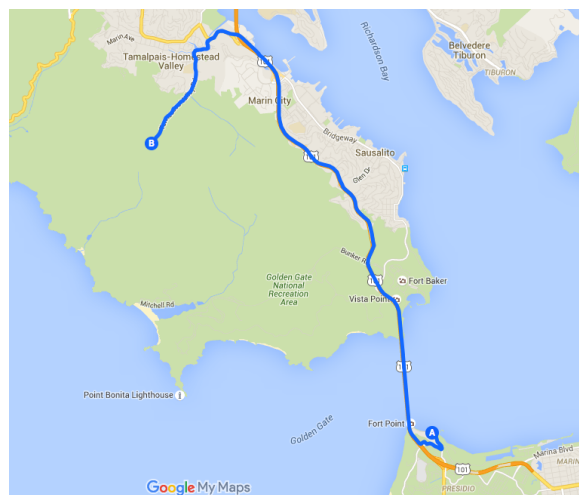
- | | | |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 2 | Exit 445B onto CA-1 N toward Mill Valley/Stinson Beach | go 0.7 mi |
| | About 1 min | total 6.4 mi |



- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 2 | Turn left onto Tennessee Valley Rd | go 1.7 mi |
| | About 4 mins | total 7.1 mi |



Tennessee Valley aid station



SPECTATOR INFORMATION

SPECTATOR INSTRUCTIONS

- Spectators must follow all rules and regulations set forth by The North Face Endurance Challenge
- Spectators must comply with all instructions from event staff and volunteers at all times
- Failure to comply will result in disqualification of the runner

RULES FOR SPECTATORS

- Spectator access is only permitted at designated aid station locations (see pace chart and map)
- No smoking is allowed at any of the aid stations
- Littering of any kind is strictly prohibited
- Runners are responsible for the actions of their spectators

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR TENNESSEE VALLEY: Spectators must stay in the parking lot. Any spectators on or near the Miwok Stables will be removed from the park immediately by race officials. Excessive cheering or noisemakers is strictly forbidden for the safety of the children and horses in the stables.

SPECTATOR ACCESSIBLE LOCATION (see pace chart for mileage)






Tennessee Valley Aid Station

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DRIVING DIRECTIONS

	San Francisco	
<hr/>		
	1 Head northwest on US-101 N	go 5.4 mi total 5.4 mi
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	2 Exit 445B onto CA-1 N toward Mill Valley/Stinson Beach	go 0.7 mi total 6.4 mi
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	2 Turn left onto Tennessee Valley Rd	go 1.7 mi total 7.1 mi
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	Tennessee Valley aid station	

