Desert Road Runners 10km Race

March 15th, 2019

All You Need To Know

The UAE's oldest running event

About Desert Road Runners

Desert Road Runners is the oldest running club in the UAE. It was founded in 1990. The Club aims to promote running for all ages and abilities. Training sessions are designed with everyone in mind.

The club meets 3 times per week. During these training sessions runners are split into groups according to ability.

The Club is run entirely by volunteers.

Click here for more information and details on club membership!

Event History

The first Desert Road Runners 10k race was held in 1990. In the early days the event was held from the Chicago Beach Hotel Club which was on the site now occupied by the Jumeirah Beach hotel. The event was small, of the order of 100 runners. Prizes were only awarded to the first 3 male and female finishers. There were no junior events.

Despite the small number of participants, the quality was very high. The Ukrainian national athletics team used Dubai as a base for their winter training and regularly entered the event. Winning times for the men's race were generally around 30 minutes.

Redevelopment of the Chicago Beach Hotel to the Jumeirah Beach Hotel forced the event to be relocated in 1998 to the Radisson Hotel (Now Sheraton Jumeirah Hotel) at what is now the southern end of Dubai Marina. Age categories were introduced and a junior event. The roads in the area were quiet and the location served well until the development of Dubai Marina.

From 2004 until 2007 the event relocated to Nad Al Sheba race course. The race was held on the roads surrounding the race course and passed through the stables area. The post-race breakfast was held in the Grandstand restaurant and we had the facilities of the Golf Club for changing. By now

technology had started to creep into the event with on line race registration and use of a lap top computer for event time keeping and processing of results. This saved a lot of time enabling the presentation of prizes to take place straight after the finish of the race. With the setting up of the Dubai Road Runners Web site results were posted on line within hours of the event. With the attraction of running extending to older generations, more age categories were introduced extending to age 60 plus.

The development of Nad Al Sheba race course into what is now the Meydan forced yet another change of location. For two years the event was held around Safa Park. This was not ideal as participant numbers were increasing to 200.

In 2010 the event moved to the Dubai Autodrome. With ever increasing numbers of participants it was becoming impractical to use manual timing for the event. Chip timing was introduced. In 2012 the number of entries exceeded 750.

In 2017 & 2018 the event was held at Mushrif Park, before moving in 2019 to the Polynesian-inspired Lapita Hotel in Dubai Parks and Resorts.

Event Venue | Date

The event will take place on Friday 15th March 2019 @ Lapita, Dubai Parks and Resorts.

Directions to Lapita, Dubai Parks and Resorts

On Friday early morning the traffic is usually light. However, do leave plenty of time to arrive.

From Dubai on the E11 Highway (Sheikh Zayed Road), past Dubai Marina and Jebel Ali heading towards Abu Dhabi. Take Dubai Parks and Resorts Exit 5. Follow the signs towards your preferred parking or drop off location (Lapita Hotel). Makani Number: 98861 57658

From Abu Dhabi on the E11 Highway (Sheikh Zayed Road) toward Dubai. Take Dubai Parks and Resorts Exit 5. Follow the signs towards your preferred parking or drop off location (Lapita Hotel). Makani Number: 98861 57658

Click here for the Google map directions!

Toilet | Changing Facilities

There are no changing facilities as such but there are toilet facilities at the venue.

Race Briefing

The briefing will take place at the start 5 minutes before each distance.

Collection of BIB numbers | Timing Tags

BIBs with timing tags attached are to be collected from 6:00am to 6:45am at the venue on the morning of the race. Do not remove the timing tag from the bib. Collect the race pack from the TAMURE Main Ballroom next to the start line.

The race pack will include any additional purchases such as: theme park entry tickets and /or additional breakfast vouchers.

Race Start | Timings

The race start will be a line across the width of the track.

- The 10KM race will start at 7:00 am
- The 5KM race will start at 7:15 am
- The 2Mile junior race will start at 7:45am

Course

Running race within the confines of Dubai Parks and Resorts

The course starts and finishes in front of the Polynesian-inspired Lapita Hotel and takes runners on a rolling 5KM loop right through Legoland, Riverland, and Motiongate.

The course has been measured according to IAAF-AIMS standards for this event; however, is not certified.

The course is marked by orange route arrows. Always follow the direction of the arrow.

- The 10KM race is just over 2 laps of the laid-out course starting at Lapita Hotel followed by the Riverland, Legoland and Motiongate.
- The 5KM race is just over 1 lap of the laid-out course starting at Lapita Hotel followed by the Riverland, Legoland and Motiongate.
- The 2Mile junior race is just over ½ lap of the 5 km course. There will be a number of adults running with the juniors to keep an eye on them.

The finish is under the finish arch next to the TAMURE Main Ballroom. After crossing the finish line, you may collect your medal.

Click here for the Course map!

Hydration | Water
There are water stations at the start / finish line and half-way point on the 5KM loop.

Heat | Conditions
Runners are reminded of the risks of running in the hot | humid conditions. Temperatures are expected to be comfortable. Please watch out for runners around you who may be in difficulty. Throughout the event the course will be patrolled by marshals. They will call for help if needed. There will be an ambulance and medical cover at the event.

Breakfast & Post-race relax
All participants get complimentary breakfast starting 8am.

Relax after the race at the pool of the Lapita hotel and receive 20% discount on F&B consumption or explore the theme parks (reduced entry fee AED155 per person).

Results | Prizes
The presentations will take place as soon as we have the results available in the breakfast area. Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, 3rd age and gender category winners (in the 60+ category only 1st place), as well as first male and female over all.

Click here for the Results!

Enjoy the run!