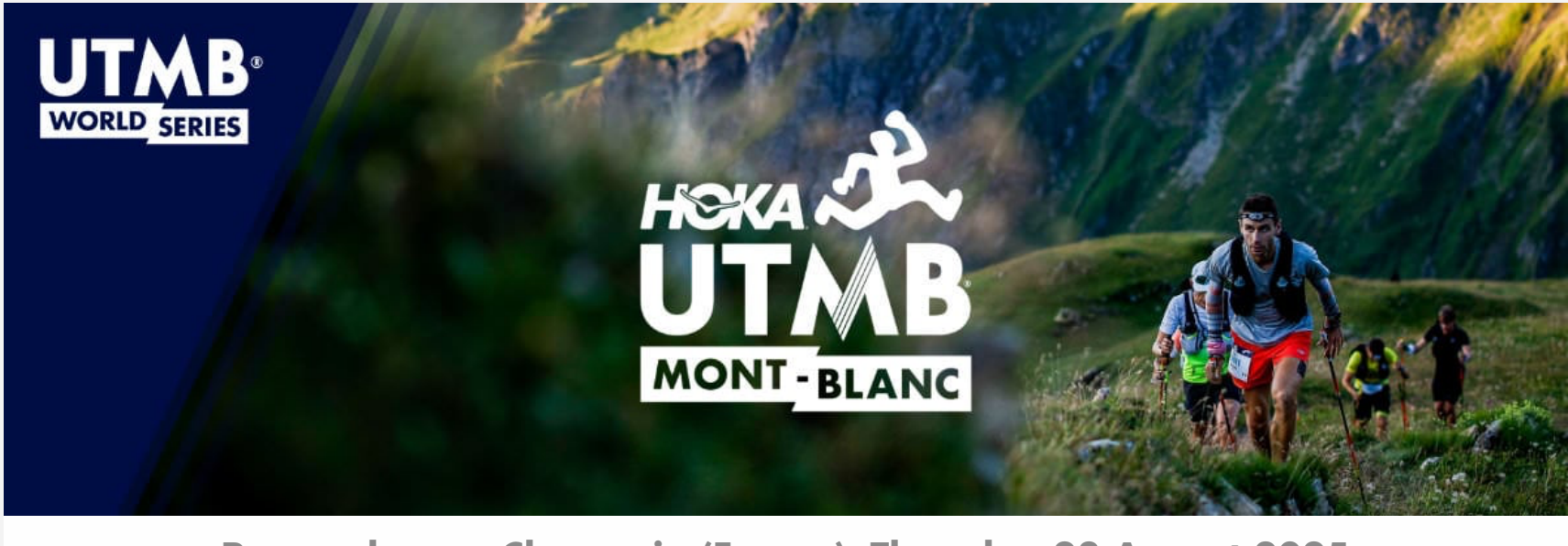




Press release - Chamonix (France), Thursday 28 August 2025

HOKA UTMB Mont-Blanc 2025 The OCC opens the Finals: a spectacular start with favourites in the spotlight

The first Final of the UTMB® World Series, the OCC (61km – 3,400m D+), took place today on a re-routed course. More than **1,200 runners** set off this morning from Orsières and although the weather conditions required last-minute changes, they did nothing to diminish the intensity or the spirit of the race.



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A masterstroke from Jim Walmsley, Joyline Chepngeno crowned in the women's race

In the men's race, UTMB Legend **Jim Walmsley (USA, UTMB Index 945)** delivered a decisive performance. Having surprised many by announcing his entry to the OCC just weeks ago – a shorter format than the UTMB®, which he won in 2023 – the American confirmed his versatility by taking victory today in 5:00:35. He finished just 20 seconds ahead of **Cristian Minoggio (ITA, UTMB Index 920)**, with **Andrzej Witek (POL, UTMB Index 904)** claiming third, 3 minutes 33 seconds behind.



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The women's race was equally intense, with defending champion **Miao Yao (CHN, UTMB Index 802)** battling it out against **Joyline Chepngeno (KEN, UTMB Index 802)**. In the end, the Kenyan triumphed in Chamonix after 5:34:03 of racing, finishing 1 minute 10 seconds clear of Yao, with **Judith Wyder (SUI, UTMB Index 804)** completing the podium, 4 minutes 19 seconds adrift.

Once again, the depth of the elite fields – both men's and women's – produced a thrilling and tightly fought finish.

Team Adaptive athletes shine



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The Team Adaptive programme was proudly represented in this first Final, with four of the 14 athletes with visible and invisible disabilities competing: **Claire Verzaux**, born with agenesis of the right forearm; **Franck Derrien**, who lives with Asperger's; **Guillaume Pick**, who is deaf; and **Pol Makuri Redolad Garcia**, who has hemiparesis.

Safety and adaptability go hand in hand



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After several days of close monitoring with the support of two meteorologists, and in response to a forecasted storm, the HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc organisation decided on Wednesday 27 August at 12:00 to adjust the OCC start time and **switch to an alternative route**. The change avoided the most exposed sections, ensured access to key points, and preserved the demanding and authentic spirit of the OCC.

"The safety of runners and everyone present on the course is our absolute priority. We felt it necessary to implement this alternative route and revised start time to ensure the level of safety we consider essential across all races at the HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc," explained **Baptiste Lassensson, Technical Director of the HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc**.

RESULTS OF THE DAY

OCC 2025 results

Top 3 Women:

1. **Joyline CHEPNGENO** (KEN, UTMB Index 802) – 5:34:03
2. **Miao YAO** (CHN, UTMB Index 802) – 5:35:13
3. **Judith WYDER** (SUI, UTMB Index 804) – 5:38:22

Top 3 Men:

1. **Jim WALMSLEY** (USA, UTMB Index 945) – 5:00:35
2. **Cristian MINOGGIO** (ITA, UTMB Index 920) – 5:00:55
3. **Andrzej WITEK** (POL, UTMB Index 904) – 5:04:08



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FULL RESULTS OF THE DAY

UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS

CCC® and UTMB® take centre stage

Tomorrow, the spotlight shifts to the final two races of HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc 2025: the CCC® (100K), starting at 09:00 in Courmayeur, and the UTMB® (100M), starting at 17:45 from the Place du Triangle de l'Amitié in Chamonix. Once again, these two legendary races will see runners take on the iconic trails of the Tour du Mont-Blanc, crossing three countries.

SEE THE ELITE START LISTS

WHERE AND HOW TO FOLLOW THE HOKA UTMB MONT-BLANC 2025

From 25–31 August, the Mont-Blanc Valley will be the stage for an exceptional week of trail running, where fans and newcomers alike can follow – free of charge – the exploits of elite athletes and hundreds of runners pushing their limits. Whether in Chamonix or following remotely, everyone can experience the intensity of the races, the beauty of the Alpine landscapes, and the unique atmosphere of the event through live coverage and on-site activities.

- **Live:** from Thursday 28 August, 09:45 (CEST) – expect more than 70 hours of **UTMB Live streaming** (live.umb.world), with the OCC, CCC® and UTMB® finals broadcast in five languages, featuring expert commentary and spectacular footage (drones, on-board cameras, LiveCam).
- **Online & social media:** follow [real-time rankings](#), LiveTrail® stats, interviews, behind-the-scenes insights, and highlights shared across the official [HOKA UTMB Mont-Blanc](#) and [UTMB World Series](#) platforms.
- **On-site:** soak up the unique Chamonix atmosphere with the [Fan Experience](#) at the heart of the Ultra-Trail® Village (talk shows, entertainment, watch parties, athlete meet-ups), alongside festive activities throughout the valley and host villages.

NEWS ACCESS

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PRESS KIT

A dedicated WhatsApp group for accredited media covering the HOKA UTMB Mont-Blanc 2025 is available [here](#).

Note to editors

About UTMB® World Series

The UTMB® World Series is the trail running circuit that brings together the best athletes in the sport and amateur runners in top international events held in some of the most beautiful places on the planet. The UTMB® World Series is rooted in a passion for the mountains and respect for the environment and offers trail running enthusiasts the chance to experience the UTMB® adventure across the globe, with events taking place in Asia, Oceania, Europe, Africa and the Americas. This is the way for everyone to start their quest towards the HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc, where the UTMB® World Series finals take place. Launched in May 2021 with the collaboration of UTMB Group and The IRONMAN Group, the UTMB® World Series circuit brings together 50 events in 28 countries. For more information, visit <https://utmb.world>.

About UTMB Group

Since the creation of HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc in 2003 by a group of passionate friends, UTMB Group has been the driving force behind the development of trail running. The HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc is the sports pinnacle event and every year, 10,000 runners earn their place on the start line. UTMB Group also pioneered the LiveTrail® technology, an innovative digital service that supports the management of endurance races. Revered by hundreds of thousands of athletes, UTMB® has become a global, premium, and leading brand. In May 2021, UTMB Group partnered with The IRONMAN Group to launch the UTMB® World Series, which brings together many of the best international events on the planet to provide exclusive access to the sport's pinnacle event, HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc. The UTMB® World Series is built on the founding principles of HOKA UTMB® Mont-Blanc: surpassing oneself, fairplay, respect for people and the environment, and solidarity. Find out more at <https://utmb.world>.

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