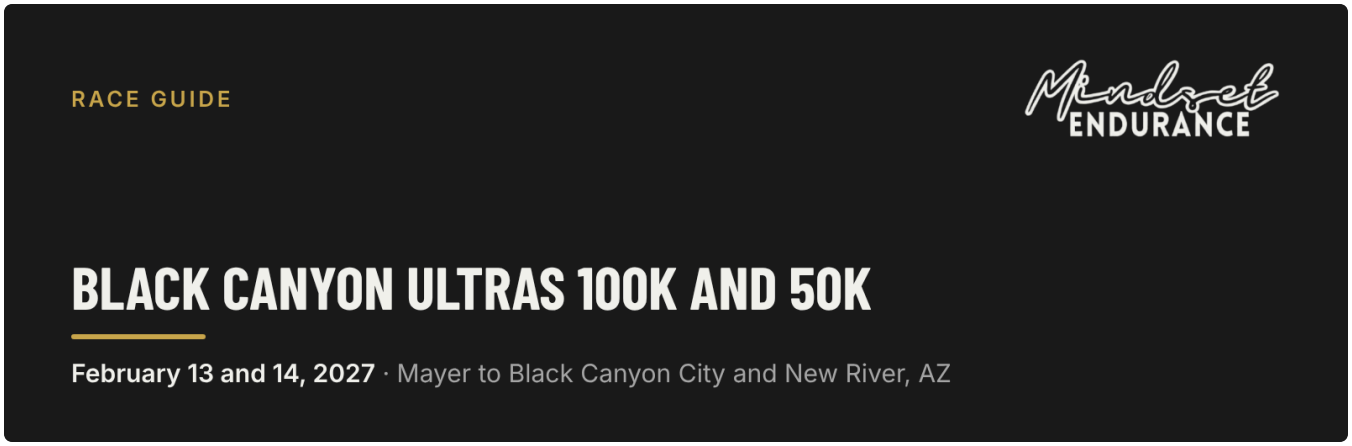
Black Canyon Ultras 100K and 50K Race Guide



https://www.aravaiparunning.com/blackcanyon/

Race Company: Aravaipa Running

At a glance

Race Date: 100K Saturday, February 13, 2027 · 50K Sunday, February 14, 2027

Location: Start at Mayer High School, Spring Valley, AZ · 100K finish at Emery Henderson Trailhead, New River (Phoenix), AZ · 50K finish at Deep Canyon Ranch, Black Canyon City, AZ

Race Distance: 100K 62.2 mi (+5,219 ft / -7,337 ft), 20-hour limit · 50K 32.2 mi (+2,004 ft / -4,005 ft), 11-hour limit

Race Start Time: Both races start in three waves at 7:00, 7:30 and 8:00 AM MST

Format: Point-to-point on the Black Canyon Trail, net downhill north to south. 100K: 9 aid stations plus finish. 50K: 4 aid stations plus finish.

Qualifiers: 100K is a Western States lottery qualifier (sub-17 hours) and a Golden Ticket race (top 3 men and women).

Course

Both races run south on the Black Canyon Trail from Mayer High School and share the same first 32 miles.

50K, 32.2 mi. Mayer High School to Deep Canyon Ranch in Black Canyon City. Four aid stations before the finish. The course climbs 2,004 ft and drops 4,005 ft, with a high point of 4,199 ft and a low of 1,986 ft.

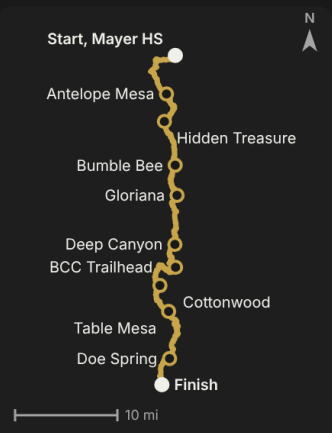
100K, 62.2 mi. The same route to Deep Canyon Ranch at mile 31.9, then on through Black Canyon City to Emery Henderson Trailhead in New River. Nine aid stations before the finish. The course climbs 5,219 ft and drops 7,337 ft, with a high point of 4,199 ft and a low of 1,737 ft.

Distances and elevation come from the race website. The course GPX files measure 61.6 mi (100K) and 31.9 mi (50K), so the slides scale them to the official distances. The elevation profiles come from the course GPX; the gain and loss figures are the race's published numbers, since the GPX samples elevation too coarsely to measure total climb.

SAT, FEB 13, 2027

COURSE OVERVIEW

BLACK CANYON 100K



62.2 mi
Point to point

+5,219 ft
Gain (race site)

-7,337 ft
Loss (race site)

COACH'S NOTE

The course drops about 2,100 ft more than it climbs. Pace the early downhill miles gently so your legs still work after dark.

ELEVATION (FT)

Course: 1,750 to 4,200 ft

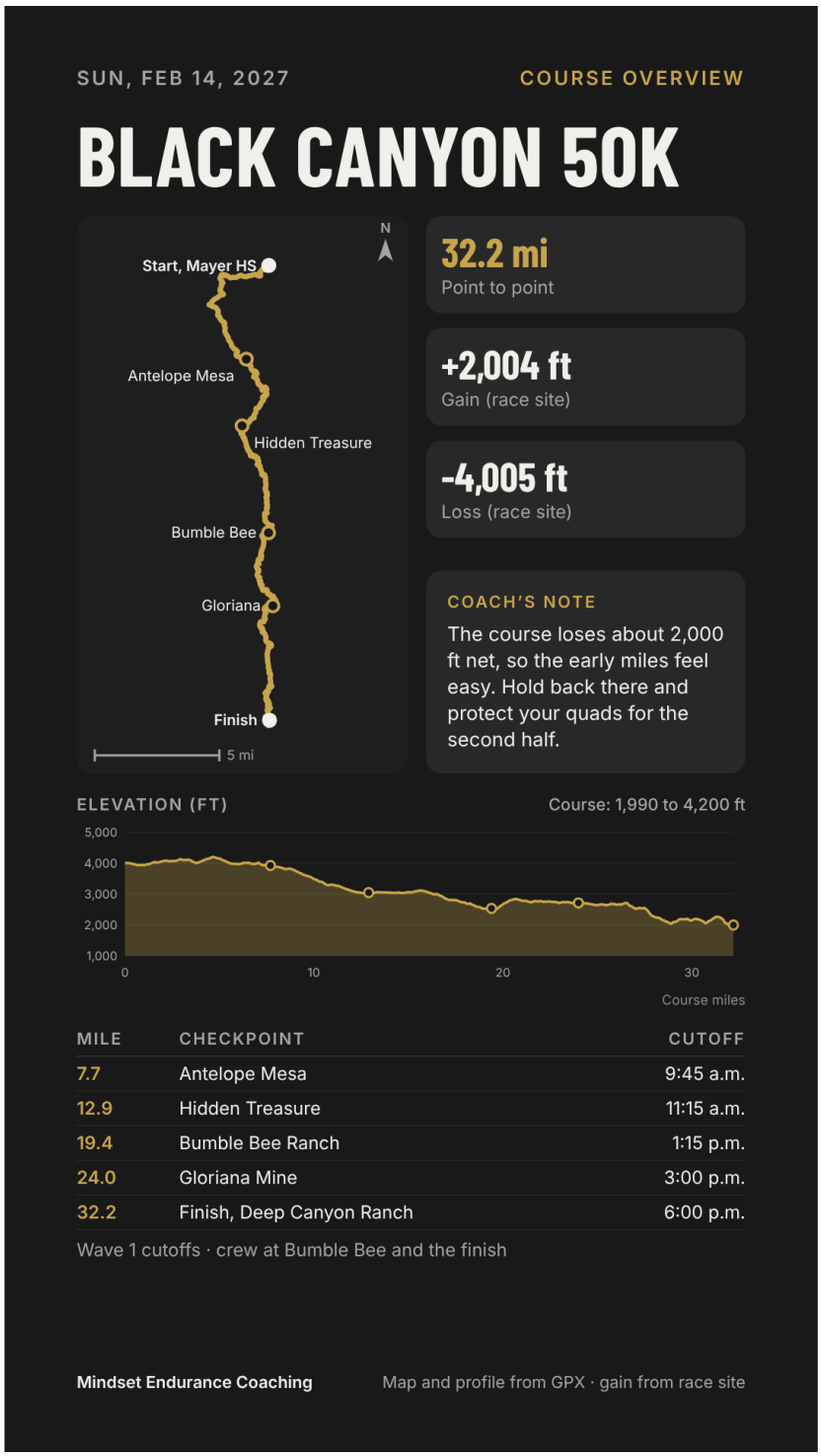


MILE	CHECKPOINT	CUTOFF
7.7	Antelope Mesa	9:15 a.m.
12.9	Hidden Treasure	10:45 a.m.
19.4	Bumble Bee Ranch	12:45 p.m.
24.0	Gloriana Mine	2:30 p.m.
31.9	Deep Canyon Ranch	5:00 p.m.
37.2	Black Canyon City TH	7:00 p.m.
46.4	Cottonwood Gulch	10:00 p.m.
51.1	Table Mesa	11:30 p.m.
58.7	Doe Spring	2:00 a.m.
62.2	Finish, Emery Henderson	3:00 a.m.

Wave 1 cutoffs · crew at Bumble Bee, Deep Canyon, Table Mesa

Mindset Endurance Coaching

Map and profile from GPX · gain from race site



Schedule and cutoffs

The 100K has a 20-hour limit and the 50K an 11-hour limit, with every cutoff set from your wave's gun time.

Day and time (MST)	Event
Thu, Feb 11, 12:00 to 5:00 PM	Packet pickup, Aravaipa HQ
Fri, Feb 12, 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM	Packet pickup and expo, Chilleen's on 17
Sat, Feb 13, 5:45, 6:20, 6:45 AM	100K shuttles leave Anthem Outlets for the start
Sat, Feb 13, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 AM	100K waves 1, 2 and 3 start
Sat, Feb 13, 12:00 to 6:00 PM	50K packet pickup, Deep Canyon Ranch
Sat, Feb 13, 1:00 PM onward	100K finish shuttles to Anthem begin
Sun, Feb 14, 3:00 to 4:00 AM	100K final cutoff (waves 1 to 3)
Sun, Feb 14, 6:05, 6:35, 7:05 AM	50K shuttles leave Deep Canyon Ranch for the start
Sun, Feb 14, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 AM	50K waves 1, 2 and 3 start
Sun, Feb 14, 6:00 to 7:00 PM	50K final cutoff (waves 1 to 3)

100K cutoffs

Checkpoint	Mile	Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Hours from start
Antelope Mesa	7.7	9:15 AM	9:45 AM	10:15 AM	2:15
Hidden Treasure	12.9	10:45 AM	11:15 AM	11:45 AM	3:45
Bumble Bee Ranch	19.4	12:45 PM	1:15 PM	1:45 PM	5:45
Gloriana Mine	24.0	2:30 PM	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	7:30
Deep Canyon Ranch	31.9	5:00 PM	5:30 PM	6:00 PM	10:00
Black Canyon City TH	37.2	7:00 PM	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	12:00
Cottonwood Gulch	46.4	10:00 PM	10:30 PM	11:00 PM	15:00
Table Mesa	51.1	11:30 PM	12:00 AM	12:30 AM	16:30
Doe Spring	58.7	2:00 AM	2:30 AM	3:00 AM	19:00
Finish, Emery Henderson	62.2	3:00 AM	3:30 AM	4:00 AM	20:00

50K cutoffs

Checkpoint	Mile	Wave 1	Wave 2	Wave 3	Hours from start
Antelope Mesa	7.7	9:45 AM	10:15 AM	10:45 AM	2:45
Hidden Treasure	12.9	11:15 AM	11:45 AM	12:15 PM	4:15
Bumble Bee Ranch	19.4	1:15 PM	1:45 PM	2:15 PM	6:15
Gloriana Mine	24.0	3:00 PM	3:30 PM	4:00 PM	8:00
Finish, Deep Canyon Ranch	32.2	6:00 PM	6:30 PM	7:00 PM	11:00

Hours from start are worked out from the published wave cutoffs. Missing your 100K start shuttle moves you to the next wave. There is no race-day packet pickup.

Aid stations

The race is cupless, so carry your own bottle or cup; every station stocks water, Gatorade, GU Roctane, GU gels, salt tabs, sweet and salty snacks and fruit.

Location	Mile	Races	Crew access	Drop bags
Antelope Mesa	7.7	100K, 50K	No	No
Hidden Treasure	12.9	100K, 50K	No	No
Bumble Bee Ranch	19.4	100K, 50K	Yes	100K only
Gloriana Mine	24.0	100K, 50K	No	No
Deep Canyon Ranch	31.9	100K; 50K finish	Yes	Yes
Black Canyon City Trailhead	37.2	100K	No	No
Cottonwood Gulch	46.4	100K	No	No
Table Mesa	51.1	100K	Yes	Yes
Doe Spring	58.7	100K	No	No
Emery Henderson Trailhead (finish)	62.2	100K	Shuttle only	Yes

Food includes chips, soda, potatoes, bean burritos, PB&J and soup, with fuller meals such as sandwiches at the main stations. Hot drinks come in race-supplied cups.

Drop bags. Label each 100K bag with the aid station name, bib number and last name, and leave it at the expo or the start. The 50K has one bag, delivered to the finish at Deep Canyon Ranch; label it with bib number and last name. Unused bags go to the finish after each station closes.

Headlamp in a drop bag. Sunset is 6:06 PM. The race suggests putting a light at Bumble Bee if you expect 18 to 20 hours, Deep Canyon for 14 to 18 hours, and Table Mesa for 11 to 14 hours.

Crew access

Crews can meet 100K runners at Bumble Bee Ranch, Deep Canyon Ranch and Table Mesa, and 50K runners at Bumble Bee Ranch and the Deep Canyon Ranch finish.

- **Crew zones:** Green flags mark where crews may start helping and red flags mark where help ends. Outside the flags, crews and pacers give no water, fuel or mulling.
- **Driving and parking:** Follow signs and aid station staff, and never block public roads. There is no parking at Mayer High School; crews can use nearby church and pharmacy lots in Spring Valley.
- **100K finish:** Emery Henderson Trailhead has no parking. Crews reach the finish by shuttle only.
- **Shuttles:** 100K runners park at Anthem Outlets (southwest corner, behind the Chevron) and ride to the start; finish shuttles return to Anthem from 1:00 PM, with no return to Mayer. 50K runners park at Deep Canyon Ranch and ride to the start, so the car waits at the finish.
- **Pacers (100K only):** One pacer at a time, on foot, no pets or bikes. Pacers may join at Deep Canyon Ranch (mile 31.9) and switch at Table Mesa. They sign a waiver, wear a pacer bib and may not carry gear or supplies for the runner.
- **Medical:** Call MedStar Solutions at 480-269-4126 for race-day medical help. The race asks runners to call this number rather than 911, since on-course medics respond faster.

Weather

Typical mid-February conditions run from a mid-30s start near Mayer to highs in the 60s lower on the course, with 100K night temperatures in the 40s; check the NWS forecast 7 to 10 days out.

Window	Time (MST)	Typical temperature	Light
Start, Mayer (about 4,000 ft)	7:00 to 8:00 AM	Mid to upper 30s	Civil dawn 6:49 AM, sunrise 7:16 AM
Upper course, miles 0 to 20	Morning	40s rising to about 60	Full sun
Lower course, miles 20 to 37	Midday and afternoon	Mid to upper 60s	Full sun, little shade
100K evening, miles 37 to 51	6:00 PM to midnight	60s falling into the 40s	Sunset 6:10 PM, dark by 6:36 PM
100K night, miles 51 to finish	Midnight to 4:00 AM	Low to mid 40s	Dark until 6:49 AM

Gear choices: Start in a warm layer, gloves and a hat you can stash or hand to crew at Bumble Bee, then plan for a dry, sunny afternoon with sun protection and enough fluid between aid stations. 100K runners who reach Black Canyon City near dark should have a warm layer and light waiting at Deep Canyon or Table Mesa, since temperatures drop quickly after sunset.

Gear checklist

Pack for a cold pre-dawn start, a dry and sunny desert afternoon, and, for the 100K, up to 10 hours of darkness with temperatures in the 40s.

Paperwork and race kit

- [ ] Photo ID and registration confirmation for packet pickup (no race-day pickup)
- [ ] Bib, worn on the front of your body at all times (required by race)
- [ ] Watch, charged, plus charging cable
- [ ] Shuttle plan: Anthem Outlets (100K) or Deep Canyon Ranch (50K), with your wave's departure time
- [ ] Medical number saved in your phone: 480-269-4126

Run

- [ ] Trail shoes, plus a backup pair for the 100K
- [ ] Socks, plus spares in drop bags
- [ ] Hydration vest or handheld bottles
- [ ] Your own cup or bottle for aid stations (required by race: cupless event)
- [ ] Nutrition for the gaps between aid stations, plus 20% spare
- [ ] Electrolytes or salt tabs
- [ ] Hat or visor and sunglasses
- [ ] Sunscreen and lip balm
- [ ] Anti-chafe
- [ ] Blister kit: tape, lube, needle, alcohol wipes
- [ ] Trekking poles if you use them (allowed)
- [ ] Anti-nausea or antacid medication and any personal medications

Night and cold

- [ ] Warm layer, gloves and hat or buff for the start
- [ ] 100K: headlamp in the right drop bag for your expected finish, plus a backup light and spare batteries
- [ ] 100K: warm layer for after sunset
- [ ] 100K: arm warmers or a long-sleeve top for the night miles

Drop bags

- [ ] 100K: bags labeled with aid station name, bib number and last name for Bumble Bee, Deep Canyon, Table Mesa and the finish
- [ ] 50K: one bag labeled with bib number and last name for the Deep Canyon Ranch finish
- [ ] Spare socks, nutrition, lube and sunscreen in each bag
- [ ] Light and warm layer in the bag you'll reach near dark

Crew and finish

- [ ] Crew sheet: crew stops, your expected times and what to hand over
- [ ] Crew parking plan (no parking at Mayer High School or Emery Henderson)
- [ ] 100K pacer: waiver signed, pacer bib, meets you at Deep Canyon or Table Mesa

- [ ] Dry clothes and shoes for after the finish