

No.121, April 24, 2026

Mt. FUJI 100 2026 Kicks Off: The 165km Journey Around the Foot of Mt. Fuji Begins

— Rain from the previous day clears up as elite athletes from Japan and abroad share their enthusiasm —



The Mt. FUJI 100, one of Japan's largest international trail running events held at the foot of Mount Fuji, has officially commenced its 14th edition for 2026. At 5:00 PM on Friday, April 24, the flagship "FUJI100mi" (approx. 165.3km distance, 6,461m cumulative elevation gain) kicked off from Fujisan Kodomo-no-Kuni in Fuji City, Shizuoka Prefecture. A total of 1,982 runners—comprising 244 women and 1,738 men—started their journey today.

As predicted during the meeting three days prior, heavy rain fell primarily on the western side of Mt. Fuji on Thursday, the 23rd. However, by the time of the ceremony on Friday, the 24th, at the starting point of Fujisan Kodomo-no-Kuni, the rain had stopped, and the sky occasionally peeked through the clouds. Despite expectations of tough trails with remaining mud and puddles, the athletes set off on their 165km journey with high morale.

The FUJI100mi runners will head clockwise toward the western side of Mt. Fuji, traversing the Tenshi Mountains through the night. After passing through the Fumoto area and Lake Shoji, they will navigate a newly added aid station at "Fuji-Q Highland Conifer Forest" before turning around at Lake Yamanaka. In the final stages, they will pass through a rerouted section via Ishiwari Shrine—changed due to a recent trail collapse—and traverse Mt. Shakushi to reach the finish gate at Fuji Hokuoku Park / Fujisan GX Stadium. The first finisher is expected to arrive at the stadium around 10:20 AM on Saturday, April 25.

■ World Trail Majors Organizers Gather, Highlighting Partnerships

Prior to the start, a pre-event and elite presentation were held at 11:00 AM at Fuji Hokuoku Park / Fujisan GX Stadium. Organizers from major international races participating in the "World Trail Majors" took the stage, fostering a highly international exchange.

Robbie BRITTON (GBR), visiting from the UK's "South Downs Way 100" and participating in the FUJI100mi himself, remarked, "It's my first time in Japan. The damp weather after the rain is similar to the UK, making it easy to run. I was also happy to see Mt. Fuji a few days ago. I'm really looking forward to the race this afternoon." **David LLOYD** (GBR) from the Vietnam Mountain Marathon and other organizers also took the stage, highlighting the strong connection between their respective trail running cultures and Japan.

■ Domestic and International Elites Share Their Enthusiasm for the 100-Miler

During the subsequent elite presentation, top athletes competing in the FUJI100mi took the stage to share their ambitions for the race.

From the international field, the 2023 champion Jiaju ZHAO (CHN) confidently declared, "I want to update my result from three years ago." Ying LI (CHN), making her Japanese debut and tackling her first 100-miler, expressed her excitement: "I want to set a personal best in this beautiful place with cherry blossoms and Mt. Fuji."

The Japanese athletes also delivered powerful comments. The 2023 runner-up, **Yuya KAWASAKI** (JPN), highlighted his readiness: "I've practiced more than ever. I aim for the win

with that confidence." The 2022 champion, Hirokazu NISHIMURA (JPN), emphasized his home advantage: "I've run several 100-milers recently but haven't had a satisfying run. I will do my best here in my terrains, Shizuoka and Yamanashi." Furthermore, **Terunobu KUROKAWA** (JPN) vowed to redeem himself: "Actually, I DNF'd at 100km in 2023. I want to show what I've done over these past three years and challenge the top runners in Japan and the world."

■ Bracing for the Weather and a Message from the Organizers Before the start, Chairman of organizing committee, **Tsuyoshi KABURAKI** offered words of encouragement and a reminder on safety to the runners: "This year, we introduced our first-ever prize money system, and the world's best athletes have gathered here. The rain from the previous day has left some parts of the trail in tough condition, but with the rain having stopped, please be very careful about temperature changes. I urge every runner to maintain a deep respect for nature and a strong awareness of safety, and I pray that everyone returns safely to the finish gate. Please bear witness to this historic moment as the Mt. FUJI 100 enters a new phase."

Following the FUJI100mi, the approx. 38.5km "ASUMI40k" will start at 12:00 PM on Saturday, April 25, followed by the approx. 68.6km "KAI70k" at 2:00 PM on the same day from Fuji Hokuroku Park. Additionally, the new "SAKUYA" races will commence at 9:00 AM on Sunday, April 26, as the foothills of Mt. Fuji are enveloped in trail running excitement throughout the weekend.

Mt. FUJI 100 2026 Event Outline

■ **DATES: Friday, April 24, 2026 – Sunday, April 26, 2026 (3 days)**

■ **Race Categories**

① FUJI100mi

- Distance: Approx. 165.3.0km / Cumulative altitude gain: +6,461m
- Start: Fujisan Kodo-mo-no-Kuni (Fuji City, Shizuoka Prefecture)
- Finish: Fuji Hokuroku Park / Fujisan GX Stadium (Fujiyoshida City, Yamanashi Prefecture)
- Race start time: Friday, April 24 (Wave start, 500 racers per wave)
17:00 / 17:15 / 17:30 / 17:45
- Final cutoff time: 14:30, Sunday, April 26 (*44 hours and 30 minutes cutoff)
- Number of racers: 2,000 (including priority, general, donation-based, and elite entries)

- Support crews: 500

② KAI70k

- Distance: Approx. 68.6km / Cumulative altitude gain: +2,921m
- Start / Finish: Fuji Hokuroku Park / Fujisan GX Stadium (Fujiyoshida City, Yamanashi Prefecture)
- Race start time: 14:00, Saturday, April 25
- Final cutoff time: 11:00, Sunday, April 26 (*21 hours cutoff)
- Number of racers: 1,000 (including general, donation-based, and elite entries)

③ ASUMI40k

- Distance: Approx. 38.5km / Cumulative altitude gain: +1,481m
- Start / Finish: Fuji Hokuroku Park / Fujisan GX Stadium (Fujiyoshida City, Yamanashi Prefecture)
- Race start time: 12:00, Saturday, April 25
- Final cutoff time: 21:30, Saturday, April 25 (*9 hours and 30 minutes cutoff)
- Number of racers: 1,000 (including general, donation-based, and elite entries)

④ SAKUYA 9k / U-20 6k (Open Race)

- Distance: 8.6km / U-20 5.7km
- Start / Finish: Fuji Hokuroku Park / Fujisan GX Stadium (Fujiyoshida City, Yamanashi Prefecture)
- Race start time: Sunday, April 26 (9k at 9:00 / U-20 6k at 9:15)
- Number of racers: 200 (including general and elite entries)

■ Organizer: Mt.FUJI100 Race Committee

<Member Organizations>

General Incorporated Association Fuji Hakone Izu Trail Support

Mt.FUJI100 Joint Venture (Sotoe Co., Regionport LLC, R-bies Co., Ltd.)

■ **Co-sponsored by:** Fuji City, Fujinomiya City, Minobu Town, Narusawa Village, Fujikawaguchiko Town, Fujiyoshida City, Oshino Village, Yamanakako Village, Gotemba City, Susono City

■ **Supervisor:** Mt.FUJI100 Joint Venture (Sotoe Co., Regionport LLC, R-bies Co., Ltd.)

■ **Environment Partner:** NPO Fuji Trail Runners Club

■ **Special Partner:** THE NORTH FACE

■ **Platinum Partner:** Goldwin, aminoVITAL®

■ **Supported by:** Japan Sports Agency, Japan Tourism Agency, Shizuoka Prefecture, Yamanashi Prefecture, Doshi Village, Yamanashi Nichinichi Shimbun, Yamanashi Broadcasting System,

Television Yamanashi, FM Fuji, The Shizuoka Shimbun, Shizuoka Broadcasting System, Shizuoka Telecasting, Shizuoka Asahi Television, Shizuoka Daiichi Television, K-MIX

■ **Honorary Race Committee:** Mayors of the 10 municipalities comprising the Executive Committee

■ **Race President:** Tsuyoshi KABURAKI (Representative Director, General Inc. Assoc. Fuji Hakone Izu Trail Support / Professional trail runner)

■ **Vice President of the Race:** Koichiro HORIUCHI (President, Fuji Kyuko Co., Ltd.)

■ **Race Producer:** Ricka FUKUDA (Medical doctor / President of Japan Trail Running Association)

■ **Co-representatives:**

Tatsuo CHIBA (Representative Director, Sotoe Co., Ltd.)

Yoshihiro TAJIKA (Representative, Region Port, LLC)

Yu KUROSAKI (Representative Director, R-bies Co., Ltd.)

■ **Advisors:**

Shin MURAKOSHI (Professor, Faculty of Education, Shizuoka University)

Masumi NAKAO (Representative Director of NPO Discover Rias)

Tsutomu MIURA (Chairman of NPO Fuji Trail Runners Club)

■ **Contact Information**

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YouTube : <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYTG7HNLx89OeaOsknc6mTg/featured>

For past press releases, please visit : <https://mtfuji100.com/press/>

For access to official race photos for press use, please contact the Secretariat above.