

2021 New York City Marathon

The **2021 New York City Marathon** was the 50th running of the New York City Marathon. The marathon was held in New York City, United States, on November 7, 2021. The number of competitors was limited to 33,000 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The elite races were won by Albert Korir and Peres Jepchirchir, both of Kenya, in 2:08:22 and 2:22:39 respectively. The wheelchair races were won by Marcel Hug of Switzerland and Madison de Rozario of Australia, in 1:31:24 and 1:51:01 respectively.

Contents

Background

Course

Field

Race summary

Non-elite race

Results

Men

Women

Wheelchair men

Wheelchair women

Notes

References

50th New York City Marathon



Central Park, the location of the
finish of the race

Location	<u>New York City,</u> United States
Date	November 7, 2021
Champions	
Men	<u>Albert Korir</u> (2:08:22)
Women	<u>Peres Jepchirchir</u> (2:22:39)
Wheelchair men	<u>Marcel Hug</u> (1:31:24)
Wheelchair women	<u>Madison de Rozario</u> (1:51:01)

Background

After the 2020 New York City Marathon was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic,^[1] the 2021 race was confirmed in June 2021 by Governor of New York Andrew Cuomo.^[2] It was held on its traditional date of the first Sunday in November.^[2] It was the last of the five World Marathon Majors held in 2021; all of the events in the series were run in the space of six weeks between late September and early November.^{[3][a]} The 2021 New York City Marathon was sponsored by Tata Consultancy Services.^[5] Both elite races had prize money of \$100,000, \$60,000 and \$40,000 for the top three finishers, plus \$25,000 for the highest finishing American competitor in each race.^{[6][7]} Both wheelchair races awarded prize money of \$25,000, \$20,000 and \$15,000 for the top three finishers in each event.^[8]

Given the ongoing pandemic, the number of runners was limited to 33,000,^[2] and competitors were required to either prove that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or have a recent negative COVID-19 test.^[9] Competitors were required to wear face coverings at all times apart from during the race.^[10] Competitors started in five different timeslots, to minimize crowding on the course.^[11]

Course

The marathon distance is officially 42.195 kilometres (26.219 mi) long as sanctioned by World Athletics (IAAF).^[12] The New York City Marathon starts at Fort Wadsworth on Staten Island, New York City.^[13] The runners first cross the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge into Brooklyn. The streets in this borough are flat and the runners remain here until mile 12. The runners then enter Queens before crossing the Queensboro Bridge at mile 13.^[14]

After crossing the bridge, the runners enter Manhattan and run North on First Avenue. The runners then enter The Bronx for miles 19 and 20 and pass the 'Entertainment Zone' which includes bands and dancers. The course then re-enters Manhattan (Fifth Avenue) for the final 6.2 miles (10.0 km). After running through Harlem, there is a slight uphill section along Fifth Avenue before it flattens out and runs parallel to Central Park. The course then enters the park around mile 24, passes Columbus Circle at mile 25 and re-enters the park for the finish.^[14]

Field

The elite women's race featured Peres Jepchirchir, who won the marathon event at the delayed 2020 Summer Olympics,^[15] and had the fastest personal best time of all competitors in the field.^[16] Molly Seidel, who came third in the Olympic marathon, also competed^[17] and it was the first New York City Marathon for both Jepchirchir^[18]^[19] and Seidel.^[17] Ababel Yeshaneh and Nancy Kiprop, who came second and fourth respectively at the 2019 Chicago Marathon also featured,^[18] as did 2018 Boston Marathon winner Des Linden. Americans Sally Kipyego, Aliphine Tuliamuk and Emily Sisson also competed.^[15] 2019 winner Joyciline Jepkosgei did not compete, as she chose to run the 2021 London Marathon instead.^[20]

The elite men's race featured Kenenisa Bekele, his first appearance at the event. Bekele had not competed in a race in New York since 2006, but was convinced by New York Road Runners to attend.^[21]^[22] Albert Korir and Girma Bekele Gebre, who came second and third respectively at the 2019 event, also competed.^[23] Abdi Nageeye, who came second in the Olympic marathon event raced, as well as Kibiwott Kandie, the world record holder in the half marathon; it was Kandie's first marathon race.^[21] 2016 winner Ghirmay Ghebreslassie competed,^[18] and other competitors with a personal best of under 2:10:00 included Noah Droddy, Callum Hawkins and Jared Ward. Canadian Ben Preisner, whose personal best is just outside 2:10:00, also raced; it was his first World Marathon Major.^[21]

The women's wheelchair race featured Manuela Schär, who had won the last three New York City Marathons, and set the course record in 2019.^[24] Also competing were five-time winner Tatyana McFadden,^[15] who last won the event in 2016,^[17] as well as twice former champion Amanda McGrory,^[15] Nikita den Boer, who won the 2020 London Marathon,^[24] and Susannah Scaroni,^[15] who recorded the fastest time at the virtual 2020 New York City Marathon.^[25]

The men's wheelchair race featured 2018 and 2019 winner Daniel Romanchuk, as well as three time former champion Marcel Hug.^[24] Other competitors included Aaron Pike, who came fourth in the 2018^[26] and 2019 races, Ernst van Dyk, who had won the Boston Marathon on 10 occasions, and David Weir, who was an eight-time winner of the London Marathon.^[24]

Race summary

The wheelchair races started at 08:00 EST (13:00 UTC), the elite women's event is commenced at 08:40 EST and the elite men's competition began at 09:05 EST.^[27]

The elite women's race was won by Kenyan Peres Jepchirchir, ahead of fellow Kenyan Viola Cheptoo and Ethiopian Ababel Yeshaneh.^[7] Jepchirchir took control of the race after 18 miles (29 km), but Jepchirchir, Cheptoo and Yeshaneh were still together as the race headed into Central Park.^[7] Molly Seidel finished fourth



Albert Korir won the elite men's race.

overall; her time of 2:24:42 was the fastest ever by an American at the New York City Marathon,^[7] beating Kara Goucher's time from in 2008 by over a minute.^[28] Shalane Flanagan finished her sixth marathon major of the year (including the virtual Tokyo Marathon).^[28]

The elite men's event was won by Kenyan Albert Korir, ahead of Moroccan Mohamed El Araby and Italian Eyob Faniel.^[6] It was Korir's first victory at a World Marathon Major.^[29] El Araby and Faniel took the lead early in the race, and at the halfway point, they were 51 seconds ahead of a chasing group containing Korir. Around 18 miles (29 km) into the race, the pair were caught by Korir and Kibiwott Kandie, and Korir took the lead around 2 miles (3.2 km) later.^[6] American Elkanah Kibet finished fourth overall, and won \$25,000 for being the highest finishing American competitor.^[6]

The wheelchair women's event was won by Australian Madison de Rozario, the first time that the event had been won by an Australian.^[8] De Rozario, Manuela Schär and Tatyana McFadden traded the lead early on.^[8] Schär was dropped from the leading group after around 30 kilometres (19 mi),^[28] and de Rozario took the race lead on the Queensboro Bridge.^[8] McFadden and Schär finished the race in second and third respectively.^[8]

The wheelchair men's event was won by Swiss athlete Marcel Hug; it was his fourth New York City Marathon victory.^[8] Hug led the race throughout, and after 20 kilometres (12 mi), he had a lead of three minutes over Briton David Weir,^[8] and was on track to beat the course record.^[28] Hug eventually won by over 6 minutes, ahead of Weir and Daniel Romanchuk, who finished second and third respectively.^[8] Hug's finishing time was slower than the course record, as he lost time on hilly sections in the latter half of the race.^[28]

Non-elite race

The mass participation event commenced in five waves between 09:10 and 12:00 EST.^[27] Around 30,000 people competed in the mass participation event.^[29] Celebrities who participated included former international women's soccer players Abby Wambach, Lauren Holiday, Kate Markgraf and Leslie Osborne, as well as former American footballer Tiki Barber. Actress Kelli O'Hara competed and also sang the national anthem before the event.^[30]

Results

Only the top 10 finishers in each race are listed.

Men



Marcel Hug and Madison de Rozario won the men's and women's wheelchair races respectively.









Kelli O'Hara sang the national anthem and also competed in the race.

Elite men's top 10 finishers^[31]

Position	Athlete	Nationality	Time
1	<u>Albert Korir</u>	 <u>Kenya</u>	02:08:22
2	<u>Mohamed El Araby</u>	 <u>Morocco</u>	02:09:06
3	<u>Eyob Faniel</u>	 <u>Italy</u>	02:09:52
4	<u>Elkanah Kibet</u>	 <u>United States</u>	02:11:15
5	<u>Abdi Nageeye</u>	 <u>Netherlands</u>	02:11:39
6	<u>Kenenisa Bekele</u>	 <u>Ethiopia</u>	02:12:52
7	<u>Ben True</u>	 <u>United States</u>	02:12:53
8	<u>Nathan Martin</u>	 <u>United States</u>	02:12:57
9	<u>Kibiwott Kandie</u>	 <u>Kenya</u>	02:13:43
10	<u>Jared Ward</u>	 <u>United States</u>	02:13:43

Women

Elite women's top 10 finishers^[32]

Position	Athlete	Nationality	Time
1	<u>Peres Jepchirchir</u>	 <u>Kenya</u>	02:22:39
2	<u>Viola Cheptoo</u>	 <u>Kenya</u>	02:22:44
3	<u>Ababel Yeshaneh</u>	 <u>Ethiopia</u>	02:22:52
4	<u>Molly Seidel</u>	 <u>United States</u>	02:24:42
5	<u>Helalia Johannes</u>	 <u>Namibia</u>	02:26:09
6	<u>Kellyn Taylor</u>	 <u>United States</u>	02:26:10
7	<u>Annie Frisbie</u>	 <u>United States</u>	02:26:18
8	<u>Laura Thweatt</u>	 <u>United States</u>	02:27:00
9	<u>Grace Kahura</u>	 <u>Kenya</u>	02:30:32
10	<u>Stephanie Bruce</u>	 <u>United States</u>	02:31:05

Wheelchair men

Wheelchair men's top 10 finishers^[33]

Position	Athlete	Nationality	Time
1	<u>Marcel Hug</u>	 <u>Switzerland</u>	01:31:24
2	<u>David Weir</u>	 <u>United Kingdom</u>	01:38:01
3	<u>Daniel Romanchuk</u>	 <u>United States</u>	01:38:22
4	<u>Josh Cassidy</u>	 <u>Canada</u>	01:40:38
5	<u>Ernst van Dyk</u>	 <u>South Africa</u>	01:41:51
6	<u>Patrick Monahan</u>	 <u>Ireland</u>	01:41:53
7	<u>Johnboy Smith</u>	 <u>United Kingdom</u>	01:43:23
8	<u>Rafael Botello</u>	 <u>Spain</u>	01:43:37
9	<u>Sho Watanabe</u>	 <u>Japan</u>	01:43:39
10	<u>Krige Schabort</u>	 <u>United States</u>	01:44:25

Wheelchair women

Wheelchair women's top 10 finishers^[34]

Position	Athlete	Nationality	Time
1	<u>Madison de Rozario</u>	 <u>Australia</u>	01:51:01
2	<u>Tatyana McFadden</u>	 <u>United States</u>	01:53:59
3	<u>Manuela Schär</u>	 <u>Switzerland</u>	01:54:02
4	<u>Jenna Fesemyer</u>	 <u>United States</u>	01:59:45
5	<u>Vanessa de Souza</u>	 <u>Brazil</u>	01:59:45
6	<u>Yen Hoang</u>	 <u>United States</u>	02:02:38
7	<u>Shelly Woods</u>	 <u>United Kingdom</u>	02:09:42
8	<u>Michelle Wheeler</u>	 <u>United States</u>	02:18:13
9	<u>Arielle Rausin</u>	 <u>United States</u>	02:25:21
10	<u>Margriet van den Broek</u>	 <u>Netherlands</u>	02:28:10

Notes

- The Tokyo Marathon, which is the sixth World Marathon Major, was postponed until 2022.^[4]

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