

APRIL 18, 2026 | PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

Whiskey Basin

TRAIL RUNS
- EST 2016 -

2026

RACE
INFORMATION



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSE ELLIS

WELCOME RUNNERS



Whiskey Basin TRAIL RUNS - EST 2016 -

92KM | 60KM | 33KM
Half-Marathon | 10KM

April 18, 2026
Watson Lake Park

3101 Watson Lake Park
Prescott, AZ 86301

Welcome to the Whiskey Basin Trail Runs!

These endurance foot races will take place along the Prescott Circle Trail and Watson Lake Trails in beautiful Prescott, Arizona. Featuring a perfect mix of high desert trails, pines, and junipers this course takes you completely around the City of Prescott on some of their best trails all while never being more than a few miles from the heart of downtown and Whiskey Row. We are so excited to host an amazing week at Watson Lake Park and on the beautiful high desert trails of Prescott, Arizona.

Please take time to look through this guide to learn more about the event and local fare to better prepare yourself for race weekend!

Feel free to email us with questions you are unable to answer from these resources:
info@aravaiparunning.com



QUICK LOOK

START & FINISH LOCATION

The start line and finish line for all races will be at Watson Lake Park. All runners will park in the large field parking just past the entry gate and walk to the main Ramada/Starting Area.

Watson Lake
3101 Watson Lake Park
Prescott, AZ 86301

PARKING

The park charges a \$5 park entry fee per vehicle. This fee is included in your registration this year so to accommodate a smooth entry by all runners on race day. We will handle all parking permits for race day. You may pick up your park pass at packet pickup on Friday at bib pickup. Saturday morning park your car and get park pass at registration. The park will have car counters so please make sure you have the pass displayed in your window. There will be plenty of parking for all attendees at Watson Lake Park to the right as you pass the entry gate.

Friday, April 17, 2026

BIB PICKUP

Fleet Feet Prescott | 3:00-7:00pm

122 N Cortez St #100,
Prescott, AZ 86301

Saturday, April 18, 2026

RACE DAY

4:00am – Bib pickup
5:00 am – 92K Start
5:29 am – Civil Twilight
5:54 am – Sunrise
6:00 am – 60K Shuttle Leaves Watson Lake
7:00 am – 60K Start at White Rock Trailhead
7:00 am – 33K Shuttle Leaves Watson Lake
8:00 am – 33K Start at Goldwater Lake
9:00 am – Half-Marathon Start at Watson Lake
9:30 am – 10K Start at Watson Lake
7:01 pm – Sunset
10:00 pm – Overall Cut-off at Watson Lake/Race Ends

FLEET FEET™



RACE INFO

RACE TIMING

We will be utilizing a chip timing system at this event to record your time at the finish. You will be provided with a timing chip attached to the back side of your race bib. It is important to not crease, or fold the timing chip to ensure your finish time is read. Additionally, you will be required to check in to all aid stations by prominently displaying your bib number for volunteers to record. If you drop from the race you must notify race management.

AID STATIONS

Aid stations every 4 to 10 miles including water, electrolyte drink, sweet snacks, salty snacks, and fruit. Please plan to run with at least one bottle of water. Please note, the aid station at Badger Mountain is remote and minimal aid including water and a few salty/sweet snacks will be hiked up by volunteers. Please prepare accordingly.

WEATHER

Keep an eye out on the weather forecast. It is usually windy at Watson Lake. Please be prepared for the unexpected by packing an extra layer. There are course exposed areas so sunscreen, hat, extra water are encouraged for warmer days.

TRAIL RUNNING & TRASH

Please respect the trails and the beauty of the forest by disposing of any trash at one of our aid stations.

RESTROOMS

We will have portable restrooms at most remote aid stations including Iron Springs, Copper Basin, White Spar and Goldwater Aid.

MEDICAL

Medical support is provided by MedStar Solutions. For any medical issue during the race:

Call 480-269-4126

This number is printed on your bib; please save it in your phone.

Medical personnel are stationed at major aid stations, with mobile medical vehicles operating throughout the course and responding as needed.

If you need help at an unstaffed aid station, notify volunteers to request medical support. **If medical assistance is needed, be ready to provide bib number, location/mile marker, condition, and a contact phone number.**

Response times may be longer in remote areas; reaching an aid station when possible is best. Our medical team will respond faster than local emergency services. **Do not call 911.**





RACE RULES



THE BASICS

- Littering is Strictly Prohibited (this includes organic waste, i.e. banana peels, orange peels, toilet paper). This is grounds for disqualification.
- No pets are allowed on course with runners.
- Follow the marked route in the race direction. Cutting or deviating may result in time penalties and up to disqualification. If you get off course, retrace to the last known marker in order to continue.
- Cutoffs will be enforced based on gun time. All results posted will also be based on gun time.
- Trekking poles: permitted
- Headphones are allowed on course. Remove earbuds as you approach aid stations. Do not listen to music without headphones.

- Please be respectful of all volunteers, race staff, public trail users, and forest service personnel.



LEAVE NO TRACE

This race is permitted by multiple land agencies. Please allow this event to continue for many more years by carrying your trash to the next aid station. Leave no trace. There will portable toilets along the way at three designated Aid Stations: Goldwater Aid, Copper Basin, and Iron Springs. We will also have portable restrooms at the start/finish next to the park facilities at Watson Lake.

CUPLESS RACE

We're committed to preserving the beautiful trails we love and minimizing our environmental impact. Whiskey Basin is a cupless event.

Runners must carry their own container for refilling at aid stations. You can:

- Purchase an UltrAspire reusable cup during registration or on race day.
- Bring your own cup, hydration vest, pouch, or water bottle.

Thank you for helping us keep the trails clean!





92KM

THE COURSE

The 92K race course is a point to point endurance foot race along Prescott Circle Trail in Prescott, Arizona, featuring a perfect mix of desert trails, pines and juniper and will take runners completely around the City of Prescott.

COURSE MARKINGS

The course will be well marked with orange plastic ribbons with black polka dots and trail junctions and turns will be marked with colored laminated signs. Please pay attention to these signs at each junction as there are multiple race distances and race courses.

All runners are responsible for understanding the layout of the course.

Please note there have been changes to the Prescott Circle Trail every year since 2017— Follow the marked course.

COURSE UPDATE

New for 2027, Badger Mountain aid station will be a full aid at the end of an out and back to Turley Trailhead. This junction will be well marked and ALL runners must check in at the aid station - do not skip the aid or out and back.

Our courses can now be accessed on [CalTopo](#) or [Strava](#). Find detailed GPS/GPX information on our website.

ELEVATION PROFILE



AID STATION & CUTOFF TIMES

Aid Station	Segment Distance	Total Distance	Cutoff Times	Race Distance / Notes
Start: Watson Lake	0	0		
Pioneer Park	5.7	5.7		Crew
Katahn Aid	5.8	11.5		
Iron Springs Aid	4.9	16.4	10:00 AM	Drop Bag
Copper Basin Aid	10.8	27.2	12:30 PM	
White Spar Aid	5.6	32.8	2:30 PM	
Goldwater Aid	4.6	37.4	4:00 PM	Crew / Pacer / Drop Bag
Badger Mountain Aid	9.3	46.7	6:30 PM	
Sundog Aid	4.6	51.3	7:45 PM	
Finish: Watson Lake	6.5	57.8	10:00 PM	Crew





60KM & 33KM

The 60K and 33K*, will also follow segments of the Prescott Circle Trail starting from White Rock Trail Head (60K) and Goldwater Lake (33K).

The finish line for all races and parking for shuttle buses will be at Watson Lake Park.

All runners in the 60K and 33K are required to park at the finish (Watson Lake) and shuttle to the start. Buses are free and scheduled ahead of your race start. Please see the bus schedule below.

Shuttle Bus Schedule

SATURDAY	LEAVES WATSON	ARRIVAL TO START	RACE START
60KM	6:00 AM	6:30 AM	7:00 AM
33KM	7:00 AM	7:30 AM	8:00 AM

COURSE UPDATE

New for 2027, Badger Mountain aid station will be a full aid at the end of an out and back to Turley Trailhead. This junction will be well marked with laminated signs and orange flagging. ALL runners must check in at the aid station - do not skip the aid or out and back.

*Distances may vary slightly each year due to ongoing updates and maintenance on the Prescott Circle Trail.

60K ELEVATION PROFILE



60K AID STATION & CUTOFF TIMES

Aid Station	Segment Distance	Total Distance	Cutoff Times	Race Distance / Notes
Start: White Rock Trail Head	0	0		
Copper Basin Aid	6.7	6.7	12:30 PM	
White Spar Aid	5.6	12.3	2:30 PM	
Goldwater Aid	4.6	16.9	4:00 PM	
Badger Mountain Aid	9.3	26.2	6:30 PM	
Sundog Aid	4.6	30.8	7:45 PM	
Finish: Watson Lake	6.5	37.3	10:00 PM	Crew

33K ELEVATION PROFILE

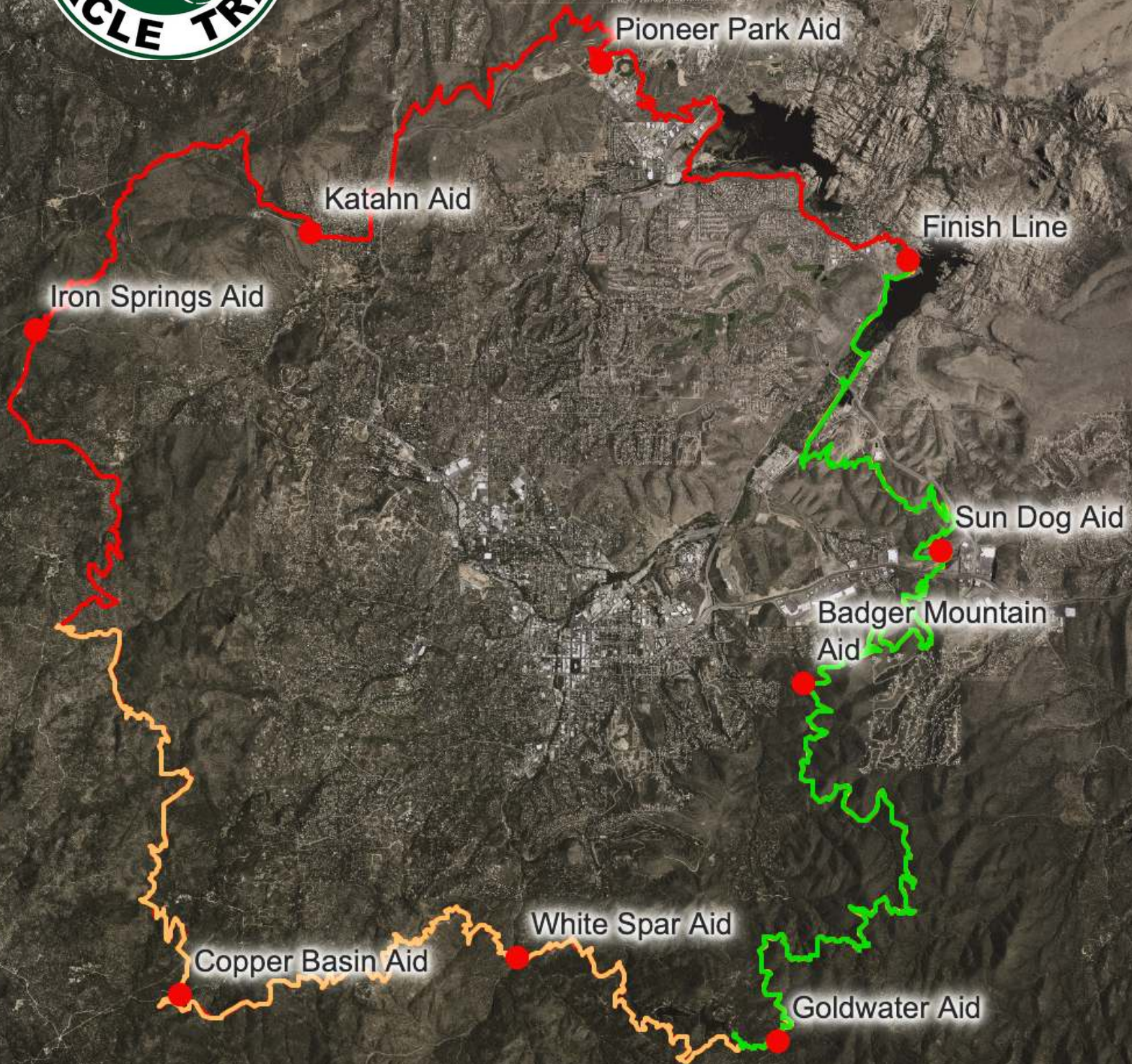


30K AID STATION & CUTOFF TIMES

Aid Station	Segment Distance	Total Distance	Cutoff Times	Race Distance / Notes
Start: Goldwater Lake	0	0		
Goldwater Aid	0.6	0.6	4:00 PM	
Badger Mountain Aid	9.3	9.9	6:30 PM	
Sundog Aid	4.6	14.5	7:45 PM	
Finish: Watson Lake	6.5	21	10:00 PM	



INTERACTIVE MAP



92K: Red, Orange, Green

60K: Orange, Green

33K: Green



GOOD TO KNOW

DROP BAGS

Drop bags are only allowed for the 92K at: Iron Springs (Mile 16.4), Goldwater Aid (Mile 37.4) and Watson Lake (finish).

Please bring your drop bags to the start line on race morning with and label each bag detailing:

- Aid station name
- Runner Name
- Bib Number

All DROP BAGS must be at the START at WATSON LAKE before the start of your race.

CREWS & PACERS

Crews are welcome to support runners of the 92K at the finish line, Pioneer Park and Goldwater Lake. Goldwater Lake has a \$2 parking charge and will require any crew to hike a ½ mile to meet runners at the aid station.

Pacers are allowed for the 92K only starting at Goldwater Lake aid station. Pacers will need to pay \$2 to park at Goldwater Lake and hike a 1/2 mile to meet their runner on the course at the Watershed Trailhead.

PACER RULES

- All race rules also apply to pacers
- Only one pacer per runner
- Pacers must be human and on foot (no pets and no bicycles)
- No muling or carrying runner gear or supplies

ROAD CROSSINGS

The Prescott Circle Trail crosses several county roads along the race course. We will be signing these crossings, but vehicle traffic is not required to stop.



Runners need to look both ways before safely crossing any road along the course. Please be careful, as there could be a fair bit of traffic along these roads. Major crossings to be especially watchful at will be at Iron Springs, Copper Basin, White Spar, Goldwater Aid (Senator Hwy).

GATES

There are numerous gates along the Prescott Circle Trail. We ask that runners please close all gates behind you.

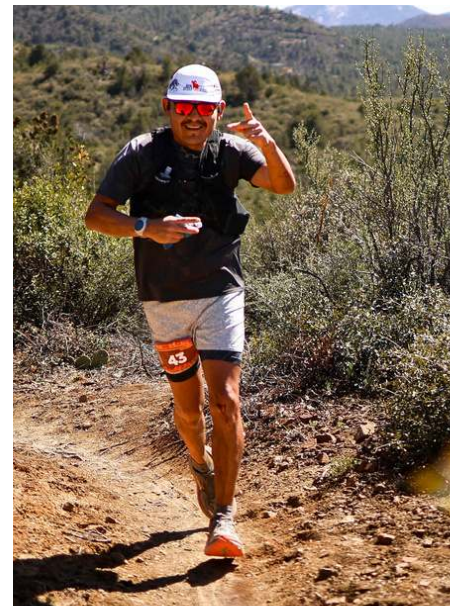


DROPPING FROM THE RACE

If you decide to drop, you must do so at an aid station and inform the aid station captain. They will record your bib number and confirm your withdrawal from the race.

DO NOT WALK OFF COURSE!

Please note that due to the remote nature of this race, transportation back to the finish line may take time.





10KM & HALF



THE COURSES

The 10K and Half- Marathon enjoy a mix of fast single track, technical granite rock, and steep scrambles. From Watson Lake runners follow lake trails to the Peavine Trail. From the Peavine a *sharp* junction to the right leads into the newer Storm Trails that weave in and out of the Granite Dells.

After running the perimeter of the Storm trails, runners reconnect to the Peavine and first aid station.

The Half Marathon runners run a fast and flat out and back to a timing checkpoint, and return to Peavine aid before a final scramble to the finish.

COURSE MARKINGS

The course will be marked with orange plastic ribbons with black polka dots and trail junctions and turns will be marked with colored laminated signs. Please pay attention to these signs at each junction as there are multiple race distances and race courses. The signs will have YOUR distance on it.

Running through the Granite Dells runners will look for **white blazes (white dots)** to help lead the way between the orange flagging.

Please familiarize yourself with the layout of the course.

AID STATIONS & ELEVATION PROFILES

Whiskey Basin 10K

range 5079' to 5292' gain 994' loss 994' exaggeration 62.3x

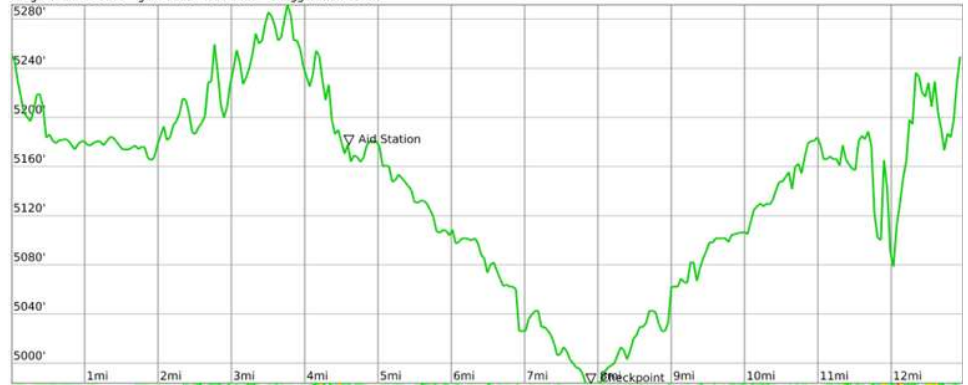


Aid Station	Segment	Total	Cutoff (from starting wave time)	Notes
Start: Watson Lake	0	0		10KM
Peavine Aid	4.6	4.6		
Finish: Watson Lake	1.6	6.2		

Start: Watson Lake	0	0		Half-Marathon
Peavine Aid	4.6	4.6		
Aqueduct Checkpoint	3.4	8		Turnaround!
Peavine Aid	3.4	11.4		
Finish: Watson Lake	1.6	13		

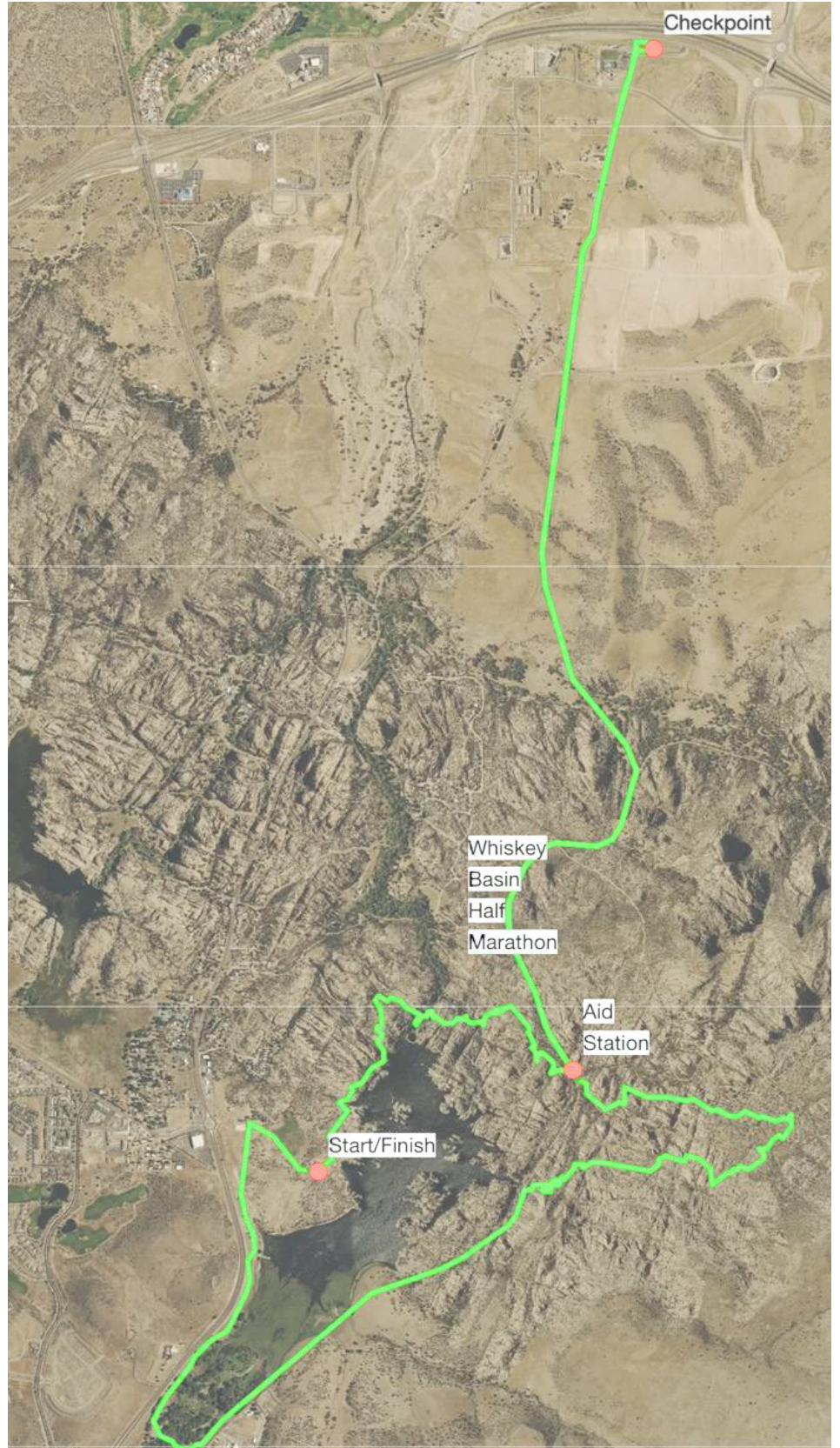
Whiskey Basin Half Marathon

range 4984' to 5289' gain 1122' loss 1125' exaggeration 89.0x





COURSE MAP HALF-MARATHON





COURSE MAP 10KM





CITY OF PRESCOTT



DINING

Historic Palace Saloon & Restaurant

120 S Montezuma Street
Prescott, AZ
928.541.1996

whiskeyrowpalace.com
Arizona's oldest saloon



Lazy G Brewhouse

220 W Leroux St
Prescott, AZ 86303
928.445.2994

<https://www.lazygbrewhouse.com>
Cheers to your run!

Raven's Cafe

142 N Cortez Street
Prescott, AZ
928.717.0009

ravencafe.com
*Vegan, vegetarian, & gluten free options
plus craft beer*

Bear & Dragon Cafe

334 S Montezuma St
Prescott, AZ 86303
928.445.4333

beardragon.cafe

Rosa's Pizzeria

330 W Gurley Street
Prescott, AZ
928.445.7400

rosaspizzeria.com

LODGING

Grand Highland Hotel

Stay downtown on Whiskey Row

154 S Montezuma
Prescott, AZ
928.776.9963
grandhighlandhotel.com



Pescott Pines Inn

Bed & Breakfast in the pines

901 White Spar Rd
Prescott, AZ
928.445.7270
prescottpinesinn.com

The Motor Lodge

Comfy & unique stay downtown

503 S Montezuma St
Prescott, AZ
928.756.0017
themotorlodge.com

THINGS TO DO

Walk Down Whiskey Row

Whiskey Row is full of some of Prescott's oldest history. Visit some of these historic saloons plus art galleries and local shops!

Whiskey Tasting

From their bourbon to infused gin, Prescott's Granite Mountain Distillery captures the essence of the region in every pour, using juniper and sage sourced from the local landscapes.



ADVENTURE IN ARIZONA

The Grand Canyon | 2 hr via AZ-89N

Sedona | 1 hr 15 min via I-17 N
Red rocks and trails abound

Jerome | 1 hr via AZ-89N
Ghost town with fun shops, art, and restaurants



CAMPING AT WATSON LAKE

LOWER CAMPGROUNDS

CAMP AT WATSON LAKE PARK

We are excited to offer camping options at Watson Lake for the Whiskey Basin Trail Runs. Watson Lake Park has some amazing amenities which should make for a really great weekend including:

- Two boat launches
- Picnic ramadas
- Restrooms
- Showers for campers
- Horseshoe pits
- Barbecue grills
- Playground equipment
- Frisbee golf course
- Picnic tables
- Fishing (license required)



UPPER CAMPGROUNDS

There are a total of 35 camping sites at Watson and will be on a first come first serve basis, reserved in advance through the registration process.

The camping area opens Friday and we have reserved spaces for two nights through Sunday. A camping site consists of one RV and one tent or two camping tents and cost is \$35 for the weekend.

CHECK - IN 11AM FRIDAY
CHECK-OUT 11AM SUNDAY





CAMPING IN PRESCOTT



WHITE SPAR CAMPGROUND

Directly south of Prescott, off Highway 89, White Spar Campground is about 10 minutes from downtown and set at an elevation of approximately 5,600 feet. It offers nearby hiking and mountain biking trails in the Prescott National Forest. The picnic tables here look like tiny dollhouse furniture below the pine trees towering above. Sites are very large, and gray boulders dot the grounds. Many of the campsites look out to a tree-covered hillside. You'll find a variety of campsites big and small, some with paved parking pads, and others without. Facilities are limited to vault toilets.

White Spar is the mile 32 Aid Station for the 91KM and only a 15 minute drive to the start at Watson Lake.

RESERVATIONS

Reservations can be made online at RECREATION.GOV

LYNX CAMPGROUND

This beautiful campground on the east side of Prescott is just minutes from the city but feels like it's deep in a forest, far from civilization. The large pine trees are a welcome treat if you are coming from the nearby lowland areas. The campground, located at an elevation of 5,600 feet, is set above Lynx Lake, a popular recreation area. Birds frequent the area, and a hiking trail rims the lake. Paths lead from some loops down to the shoreline. You'll also find mountain biking trails in the area. Campsites generally offer plenty of privacy and are spread out over seven loops. Tent sites are level, and all campsites are very well-kept, clean, and raked. Facilities include flush toilets, but no showers or hookups.

Lynx is only a 15 minute drive to Watson Lake/Race Start.

RESERVATIONS

Reservations can be made online at RECREATION.GOV



POINT OF ROCKS RV CAMPGROUND

Ideally situated right near beautiful Watson Lake, the Point of Rocks RV Campground has everything you need if you like to be close to the city but just far enough out to have amazing scenery and peace and quiet.



The park is actually located in the heart of the stunning Granite Dells, a unique rock formation that Prescott is famous for. Sites have all the amenities of a typical RV park, including 30/50 AMP service, Wi-Fi, water, sewer, and picnic tables, and can accommodate rigs up to 50 feet. If you like to hike, the trails of Watson Lake are a 10-minute walk away, and the Constellation Trails are only a short drive from here, and also worth investigating.

Prescott's tourist attractions and restaurants are a 10-minute drive away.

RESERVATIONS

Official site:

<http://pointofrocksrvcampground.com/>



HISTORY OF THE PRESCOTT CIRCLE TRAIL

The Prescott Circle Trail is a non-motorized trail that gives hikers, backpackers, horse riders, and mountain bikers a route through Prescott National Forest, City of Prescott, Yavapai County, and state lands. You will get views of Watson Lake, Willow Lake, and Goldwater Lake, cut through Granite Dells, and take in Granite Mountain and Thumb Butte.

Back in 1990, the Yavapai Trails Association initiated the idea of a non-motorized trail that would “circle” the city of Prescott. With many partners and volunteers, by late 2014, Prescott Circle Trail (PCT) was completed for the enjoyment of hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers.

The topography of the trail ranges from 5140 to 6990 feet in elevation, and it passes many Prescott landmarks including Watson, Willow, and Goldwater Lakes; Thumb Butte, the mountain that towers over town, and Pioneer Park on the north side of town. There are three campsites along the trail, for those who are interested in camping along the way. The PCT is a beautiful trail that meanders through forest, chaparral, and grasslands.



The Whiskey Basin Trail Runs are organized by Aravaipa Running and permitted by the City of Prescott, Prescott National Forest, and Yavapai County.

Aravaipa Running is a locally owned, runner-driven organization that promotes trail and ultra running events in Arizona and across various regions of the United States. The production of the Whiskey Basin each year would not be possible without the help of our staff and volunteers, including local police officers and sheriffs, medical, HAM radio operators, various running clubs, teams, families, and friends, who all play a huge role in creating a premier running experience for each and every runner.