

CASTLE HALF MARATHON



All 10K runs follow the Half Marathon routes

Lough Cutra Castle Half Marathon

The first 3K of the circuit heads north from the castle lawns, hand railing the western shore of the luminescent Lough Cutra Lake (largest privately owned lake in Europe). Following a system of well-worn tracks and paths the route passes through the ubiquitous Deer Park and then into the Carrowcarriff forestry block with its ancient pines and abundant wildlife. At the northerly most point of the run competitors will pass a well-stocked feed station before exiting the wood and hitting a narrow tarmac lane, which they will follow for 800m. A left takes competitors back onto the estate tracks and paths and after crossing a couple of well worn fields runners will emerge onto Black Drive and head south back towards the formal gardens of the estate. With 1K of the circuit to go, track turns to tarmac at the internal estate drive, and finally runners pass through 2 iconic courtyards before arriving at the Castle forecourt with 1 lap complete! With finish line in sight off to the left, runners descend sharply down the side of the castle, past the old servants quarters and onto the lower lawn before re-joining the original circuit and heading out on their second lap. With third lap complete, this time runners turn left onto the castle forecourt and cross the finish line in front of main castle doors to receive their medal and the now famous finishing line banquet!

Cholmondeley Castle Half Marathon.

Starting adjacent to the cricket pitch and in full view of the castle the 1st K of the course follows a well worn track to an area of the estate called Cattle Crush. At this point and for the next 4.5K runners follow the internal estate tarmac road that takes them past the estate chapel, the Old Hall and out to the Beeston Lodge Gate before they double back and head towards the castle itself. After passing the huge Victorian stable and supporting dove-cote runners will head uphill to the landscaped area behind the castle before turning right and heading steeply off-road up to the top of Castle Hill which affords a view of the stunning Peckforton Hills to the north of the estate. The final 1K of the circuit is mostly downhill off road passing the castle tea rooms, over the croquet lawn and down the main lawn of the castle. With the finishing line in sight runners turn left at the fork and continue around for the 2nd and 3rd laps. Finally, with third lap complete, runners turn right into the finishing straight and cross the finish line with the castle as a backdrop, to receive their medal and the now famous finishing line banquet!

Castle Howard Half Marathon

Starting on the North Lawn, a few yards from the main entrance to the castle, competitors initially head downhill towards the Boathouse and Lake before circumnavigating the enchanting woodland garden of Ray Wood. The next 5K is on a network of estate tracks and bridle paths that wind their way in a clockwise direction, always in sight of the impressive Mausoleum, passing through the ancient Bog Hall, Spring Wood, Alamo Trekking Centre and High Gaterley Farm. At the 7K point and just after the well stocked Feed Station, competitors enter the aptly named Pretty Wood passing the Temple of the Four Faces and a couple of curious pyramids. The last 1.5K of the route builds through the formal gardens of the estate starting with New River Bridge and moving onto the South Lake, The Atlas Fountain and the South Lawn. A final, cruel, climb to the top of Ray Wood is a precursor to a view of the Finish Line from the reservoir at the top of the hill. Lap 1 complete, runners then re-join the same circuit for their second before entering the 500m long spectator lined finishing straight, crossing the finish line with the world famous castle backdrop, to receive their medal and classy finishing line banquet!

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Chateau de Chantilly Half Marathon.

Starting in the formal gardens with the Chateau as a backdrop, competitors initially head off on the internal estate tracks towards Porte Vaillant, one of the main gates on the eastern edge of the estate. Then, heading north and after passing the otherworldly Wallaby Enclosure, runners will circumnavigate Parc de Syllie (a woodland garden) before arriving, after 4K, at Grille de Honor, the main spectator entrance to the Chateau. A small cobbled section is then followed by a 5K circuit of the, world famous Hippodrome de Chantilly (racecourse). After passing the Museum of Horse and re-entering the estate at the Grille de Jeu de Paume participants then have a 1.5K ramble through the Garden Anglais and back into the formal gardens. With the finish line in sight, a quick circuit of the spectator heavy main fountain is followed by a 2nd lap of the same circuit. On completion of the 2nd lap, this time competitors turn right into the finishing straight and cross the finish line with the world famous chateau backdrop, to receive their medal and classy finishing line banquet!

Hever Castle Half Marathon.

Starting a few yards from the main castle drawbridge competitors will head off around the formal gardens of the estate before hand railing the lake for 0.5K and then heading up through Park Wood towards a corner of the estate called Thresher's Field and the first of two well stocked Feed Stations. A brief road section to Lockskinners is followed by a stunning country section of interconnected paths and tracks taking in the high point of the course at Stocks Wood and a water station in the strictly private Belhurst Nature Conservation Trust woodland area. A couple of woods and fields later competitors arrive at the hamlet of Hill Hoath and shortly afterwards the picture post card National Trust owned village of Chiddingstone where, just inside the gates of the castle by the same name, they will find the 2nd of the two Feed Stations. A brief trot across the frontage of Chiddingstone Castle, a small road section and then a gorgeous woodland gallop sees participants regain the Hever estate from where they left it at Threshers Field and the 1st Feed Station. Finally, a 2K circumnavigation of the Hever Lake and a brief traverse of the formal gardens will see runner complete their first lap. After a further lap runners turn right into the finishing straight and cross the finish line with the castle as a backdrop, to receive their medal and the now famous finishing line banquet!

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