

# Event update

## Ile-Ife Heritage Marathon Update

In 2018, the Ile-Ife Heritage Marathon was founded with the hope of building an event for the entire ancient city of Ile-Ife in Nigeria. For the past 3 years, runners, volunteers, spectators and community members have shown up on the streets of Ile-Ife to support one another. They have consistently turned an individual sport into a collective experience. In response to the coronavirus pandemic, the event organizers have had to reluctantly announce the decision to convert the 2021 Edition of the Ile-Ife Heritage Marathon to a virtual event. While we had hoped to once again line 42.195 km of our streets in January of 2021, the health and safety of everyone participating and supporting the event is our highest priority. In light of this decision, registered runners for the 2021 event will have the option to receive a refund for their race entry or to defer their place and entry fee to the 2022 edition of the Ile-Ife Heritage Marathon. Our team is working hard developing plans for a virtual experience which recognizes the dedication and commitment of everyone who would have taken part in the local destination experience of the 4th Edition of the Ile-Ife Heritage Marathon. Details on how runners, their network of supporters and fans of this sport can get involved will be shared in the coming weeks.

On a personal note to the runners who have kept our race going during the past three years, we want to thank you for your kilometers and for your loyalty. The Ile-Ife Heritage Marathon has always been your race, the people's race, and with your continued commitment to the sport, we will re-unite in the ancient city. The pandemic has mandated social distancing but we do not need to stop our marathon running. We will find new ways to engage as a running community by applying patience, resilience and determination to achieve our running goals. When we finally return to the streets of Ile-Ife, we will celebrate the moment with our collective spirit that defines who we are as a global running community. We are powerful, we are persistent and we will continue with our running adventures.

We have introduced the additional distances of 10 km and 21.1 km to our usual 42.195 km in the 2021 Edition. This will encourage inclusiveness for more runners. The organisers will finally be able to join in the fun of running and sharing live virtual events on the marathon route. Furthermore, 20% of each entry fee will be donated to the Osun State Branch of the Nigerian RedCross Society and the Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) Command of the Man O War Society. Both are remarkable international humanitarian organizations. The exceptional work of the RedCross prevents and alleviates human suffering on one hand. The Man O War Society, on the other hand, applies the challenges found in the environment to instil in our youth the core values of courage, trust, integrity and compassion.

Please join the Ile-Ife Heritage Marathon Team to support the Osun Branch of the Nigerian RedCross and the Obafemi Awolowo University Command of the Man O War by signing up to run with us on the 31st of January, 2021.

Sign up, run anywhere in the world and upload your time, photos and video clips to:

- ✓ Receive A chance to support the Osun State Branch of the Nigerian RedCross Society
- ✓ Receive A chance to support the OAU Command of the Man O War Society
- ✓ Download An E-Running Bib
- ✓ Receive A Finisher's Medal
- ✓ Download A Finisher's Certificate
- ✓ Publish to the Finisher Gallery
- ✓ Upload time to the Ile-Ife Heritage Marathon Global Leaderboard