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Inaugural Island View Endurance Run Brings 100-Mile Ultra to the Gaviota Coast

Santa Barbara, Calif. (December 16, 2025) — The Santa Barbara County Trails Council successfully hosted its 8th trail run, marking a major milestone with the debut of its inaugural 100-mile ultra-distance event. The Island View Endurance Run, held on December 5th and 6th, drew more than 150 runners, cementing its place as a destination race on the West Coast ultra-running calendar. Among the runners traveling long distances, half hailed from outside Santa Barbara County, with a dozen states and Canada represented at the multi-day event.

The Island View Endurance Run is a 2-day ultra trail event offering five distance options: 12K, 25K, 50K, 100K, and 100-mile. The course traversed the rugged and remote landscapes of the Gaviota Coast, stretching from Baron Ranch to Gaviota State Park. Weather conditions were divine all weekend, with sunny, clear skies, pristine views of the Channel Islands, and sweeping sunsets over the Pacific Ocean — a much-deserved reward for the challenging terrain and seemingly endless mountainous miles that these runners endured. As one 100-mile finisher put it, "There are worse places to suffer."

"Hosting a race in these mountains has been a dream," said race director and Santa Barbara local Erik Koenig. "I am eternally grateful for the volunteers, sponsors, and runners who made this such a magical experience. We look forward to returning with an even better Island View 100 next year."

Beyond competition, the Island View Endurance Run fostered a powerful sense of community among runners, volunteers, and organizers. The event was supported by two dozen volunteers, who worked day and night keeping aid stations stocked and running. Moreover, runners fought through physical and mental limits together, sharing moments of struggle and pushing each other to the finish line. The event was widely described as one of the most challenging courses in the area, making it all the more rewarding and deeply inspiring for runners and supporters alike.

Proceeds from the Island View Endurance Run directly support trail maintenance projects in the Santa Ynez Mountains. The event reflects a growing movement within trail running to protect and sustain the lands that make these experiences possible. Event sponsors include the U.S. Forest Service, California State Parks, Channel Island District, and the County of Santa Barbara, Parks Division, as well as a dozen other organizations.

With its successful expansion into ultra-endurance distances, the Island View Endurance Run continues to grow into a cornerstone event for the California trail-running community and beyond.

Congratulations to the top finishers across all five distances:

100-MILE TOP FINISHERS

Timothy Brasier 23:32:25

Bridgett Heser 32:40:01

100K TOP FINISHERS

Dan Vykopen 16:18:02

Gurinder Kaur 23:40:47

50K TOP FINISHERS

Nick Stice 5:15:43

Michelle McToldridge 6:23:39

25K TOP FINISHERS

TJ Myers 2:13:04

Anna Haddad 2:41:15

12K TOP FINISHERS

Jeff Martin 1:03:36

Alicia Martinez 1:25:59

For more information about the Island View Endurance Run and future events, visit

<https://islandviewtrail.run> or follow @islandviewtrailrun

About the Santa Barbara County Trails Council: The Trails Council is a nonprofit advocacy group that supports outdoor recreation and enhances the Santa Barbara County trail system for safe, shared use by everyone. The organization advocates conserving natural spaces to expand a countywide trail network for recreation. The Trails Council guides and effectively manages trail planning, permitting, funding, construction, and maintenance projects for government agencies. They also facilitate a popular year-round recreational hiking program and a volunteer-supported trail maintenance program. On the web at <http://santabarbaratrails.org>

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Photo Credit: Christian Mauer

Suggested Caption: Running Above the Clouds on the Gaviota Coast

Link to hi-res image: <https://santabarbaratrails.org/docs/island-view-run-christian-mauer-2025.jpg>



Photo Credit: Mark Wilkinson

Suggested Caption: 100-Mile Top Finishers (left to right)

Timothy Brasier, Men's 100, Erik Koenig, Race Director, Bridgett Heser, Women's 100

Link to hi-res image: <https://santabarbaratrails.org/docs/island-view-run-mark-wilkinson-2025.jpg>



Photo Credit: Erik Koenig

Suggested Caption: Ocean and Island Views from Island View Endurance Run

Link to hi-res image: <https://santabarbaratrails.org/docs/island-view-run-erik-koenig-2025.jpg>

