# Record-breaking distances and innovative challenges mark Dartmoor Prison Break Ultra 2025



Over 130 participants recently took part in a unique endurance event known as the Dartmoor Prison Break Ultra Challenge 2025, hosted by the Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team Plymouth. With runners arriving from across the UK and Channel Islands, the event unfolded at the Dartmoor Prison Museum, where the participants were tasked with escaping from the historic gates of HMP Dartmoor over various time periods—6, 12, or 24 hours.

As the clock struck midday, sirens blared to signal the official start of the “mass breakout.” Competitors, playfully branded as Absconders, Delinquents, and Felons based on their chosen duration, sprinted off into the moors, eager to cover the maximum distance possible. The event’s Wardens, members of the rescue team, were tasked with tracking down these 'escapees', leading to whimsical attempts to blend into the local landscape—some intriguingly sporting hastily grown beards. Early captures included participants found in Tavistock attempting to camouflage themselves from their pursuers.

As the day progressed, the challenges of the event began to manifest. After the first six hours, many Absconders returned, rewarded with a meal at the base, while the Delinquents continued their escape, with Okehampton serving as a popular waypoint. As night descended, the remaining Delinquents were gradually rounded up, becoming less elusive as fatigue overtook them. The 24-hour Felons faced the most strenuous demands, pushing through the night as they battled exhaustion. A small but dedicated group continued running in the final hours, aiming for personal bests and to capture the glory of being the ultimate escapees.

Remarkably, two participants set new records for the distance covered, outpacing the previous benchmark of 83.4 miles with one runner reaching an astounding 87.1 miles as the crow flies—an achievement that delighted event organisers. Some adventurous runners even ventured as far as Cornwall, teasing the possibility of reaching the coast or perhaps a local pasty shop.

By the event's conclusion, all participants were accounted for, and the Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team Plymouth expressed heartfelt gratitude. A spokesperson highlighted that the event not only facilitated fun and camaraderie but also raised essential funds for their life-saving work. “Every mile run, every laugh shared, and every ‘recapture’ helped us raise money that goes directly into supporting our life-saving work on Dartmoor," they emphasised. Looking ahead, plans are already underway to enhance the challenge for the next year, promising an even tougher experience for participants.

As a charity, the Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team plays a crucial role in emergency services, providing 24/7 search and rescue operations across Dartmoor and nearby areas. The funds raised during events like this are vital for maintaining the team’s equipment and training, affirming the strong bond between the community and this essential service.

## 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/whats-on/whats-on-news/inmates-hunted-down-hmp-dartmoor-10236079), [[2]](https://www.dartmoorprisonbreak.com/dartmoor-prison-break-ultra-event)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/whats-on/whats-on-news/inmates-hunted-down-hmp-dartmoor-10236079), [[3]](https://runabc.co.uk/dartmoor-prison-break)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/whats-on/whats-on-news/inmates-hunted-down-hmp-dartmoor-10236079), [[4]](https://www.sientries.co.uk/list.php?event_id=13873)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://runabc.co.uk/dartmoor-prison-break), [[5]](https://dsrtplymouth.org.uk/life-saving-search-mountain-rescue-services)
* Paragraph 5 – [[6]](https://www.runningcalendar.co.uk/event/dartmoor-prison-break-ultra-challenge/), [[7]](https://www.dartmoorprisonbreak.com/dsrtp)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/whats-on/whats-on-news/inmates-hunted-down-hmp-dartmoor-10236079> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.dartmoorprisonbreak.com/dartmoor-prison-break-ultra-event> - The Dartmoor Prison Break Ultra Challenge 2025 is an endurance event where participants choose their own route from HMP Dartmoor, aiming to cover the greatest distance within a set time. Organised by Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team Plymouth, the event offers three categories: a 6-hour 'Absconder', a 12-hour 'Delinquent', and a 24-hour 'Felon'. Entrants are monitored via GPS trackers, and all funds raised support the team's life-saving work on Dartmoor. The event is scheduled for 31 May 2025, with a mandatory kit list provided for participants.
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