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Run the Austin Marathon by [William Hauselberg](#)

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Every February, runners from around the country meet in the capital city of Texas to participate in the Austin Marathon. This year, on February 19, an estimated 20,000 participants will step off downtown to take part in the ultimate running challenge. As part of the Livestrong movement, the Austin Marathon is an inspirational event for both runners and participants alike.

Running the Austin Marathon is not easy, but accepting the challenge and setting a goal for yourself to train for and complete the marathon is motivation enough for serious runners who have trained all year for the event. Training for a marathon means pushing yourself to the limit and giving yourself a sense of accomplishment.

The race begins at The Ann W. Richards Congress Avenue Bridge downtown and ends near the Texas State Capital Building on Congress Avenue. The 26.2 mile course is tough and hilly offering an extra challenge for participants, but the spectators at the Austin Marathon come out by the thousands to offer their support. The estimated crowd of over 70,000 people are energetic and enthusiastic, and they offer support, encouragement, snacks and drinks to the runners to keep their spirits and motivation up throughout the course.

Weekend Events

The marathon is more than just the race itself. There are several events leading up to the race such as the Health and Fitness Expo held for two days at the Palmer Events Center. At the Expo, runners will pick up their race packets and can check out over 90 vendors through the center. Participants can also listen to motivational speakers who can provide energy and inspiration before the race.

For runners who are travelling from out of the area to participate in the marathon, Austin Hotels located near the race site as well as the airport provide not only a convenient location, but stylish, comfortable lodging as well with accommodations to suit both your pre and post-race needs. Look for a hotel with a 24 hour fitness center to help you complete last minute physical preparations before the race. And once you have completed the Austin Marathon, you will want to come back to a hotel where you can relax and unwind in a comfortable, oversized guest room.

If you are participating in this year's marathon, confirm your registration and book your hotel room today to be part of a national fitness event like no other.

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