

WEEKENDER RUNNING 20 WEEK TRAINING PLAN



Brought to you by:
THRESHOLD/
MORE IS IN YOU™

**RACE TO THE
TOWER** 

INTRODUCTION

MEET OUR COACH

Sometimes there can come a point in life when we are looking for something else; something to shake things up, something which gives us the opportunity to stretch ourselves, test ourselves, something that takes us out of the ordinary flow of life....That or you made a drunken bet which you are now being held to! Either way ultra events are a perfect to have a new challenge and test yourself in a very different way.

I fell into the former category twenty years ago. It began with an endurance walk of 50 miles across Scotland. I trained hard, it wasn't always easy to fit sessions in around 4 small children, but I made it to the start line ready to give it my best shot - and I absolutely loved it! Fast forward 20 years, and I am now a competitive ultra runner taking on challenges for varying distances and I have had the good fortune of racing all around the world. So first a warning: beware, endurance events are hugely addictive, because believe it or not, they are a lot of fun!

My experience from ultra walker to competitive ultra runner means that I can understand first-hand what it is like take on these challenges. I have written the plan below to get you to the start line of Race to the Tower, fit and ready for the challenge ahead of you. It is easy to follow and will lead you by the hand, gradually building your endurance base and fitness over the course of 20 weeks.

If however you would like a more personalised plan I am also able to offer bespoke coaching. Being coached by me will allow you to have a plan which is tailor made to you and your specific life challenges, sporting ability and goals. The plan I write for you will be backed up with phone, email and text contact providing guidance, support, and motivation.

If you would like further advice visit www.perpetualmotioncoaching.com or email Kerry@perpetualmotioncoaching.com

'Take the first step'

Kerry Sutton - Threshold Trail Series Training Coach

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INTRODUCTION

THE 6 RULES

THE KEY TO A HAPPY FINISHER

1	Consistency is key. Improvement happens when we do the activity repeatedly, but not in a stop/start fashion. Decide how much time is manageable for you on a weekly basis and stick to it.
2	Rest is when the transformation happens. We train to break our muscles down, it's when we rest that they rebuild stronger.
3	Don't neglect your mental game . Be aware of the sessions that make you mentally stronger. Sessions when you trained when you really didn't want to, when you carried on and did another 3 km even though you had blisters. The day you finished your 9.5 km in the driving rain. All of these scenarios make you mentally more able to deal with them next time they arise, and ultimately a more robust runner.
4	Have the right kit . If you don't, it'll either be the reason you don't train or training will be uncomfortable and less enjoyable. Don't 'make do', respect what you are taking on and prepare yourself well.
5	Train in all weathers . You'll be fully prepared for what ever is thrown at you on the day itself.
6	Try to incorporate strength training into your week. If you can do 2x 45 min sessions that is good. If time is tight, try the little and often approach. For instance, some glute activation ahead of your run is never wasted.
Don't forget:	Rarely does anyone regret having completed a training session but you often regret missing one.

INTRODUCTION

YOUR TRAINING BLOCKS

DIVIDE YOUR TRAINING INTO MANAGEABLE BLOCKS

BLOCK	AIM
BLOCK 1	This block is all about setting on your journey.
	This block is all about consistency - get the sessions in on a regular basis and you'll see your fitness increase quickly.
BLOCK 2	Race to the Tower, is the hilliest of our Threshold Trail Series with 2,300m climbing over the 53 miles, so be sure to start including some more lumpy routes on your walks.
	Some gradients on The Cotswold Way are 10%+ and are thus not runnable, so you need to be practised in walking uphill, then resuming running once the terrain flattens out.
	While many forget, be sure to include some downhill running as this requires different muscle activation.
BLOCK 3	Things will start ramping up now, but if you've got this far then you definitely have the fitness to do it.
	I've included an optional 5 th session – a cross training session – each week. Either swim or cycle: both are great at developing strength and aerobic endurance.
	When planning your walks keep focussed on the gradient of your training routes. Keep in a mix of steep and undulating routes. To replicate The Cotswold Way terrain, a rough guide would be to accumulate between 450-500m of climb per 6 mile walk.
BLOCK 4	Like Block 3, focus on The Cotswold Way specific terrain and still aim for a minimum of 450m of climbing per 6 mile walk.
	Start to think about your kit choices - what feels comfortable after hours on your feet - and also what settles well in your stomach.
	Remember: the cross training sessions are optional. Focus on getting the walks done and if you have the time and energy, complete a swim or cycle where stated.
WEEK BEFORE	The best thing you can do this week is chill, get your kit ready by Thursday and enjoy the rest!

INTRODUCTION

STRENGTH & CONDITIONING / RECOVERY

STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING

Strength & Conditioning (S&C) is an important piece of the puzzle when it comes to training for a marathon but is often neglected. An ultramarathon, particularly the latter stages, is very much about strength rather than aerobic capacity, so building a strong foundation is really important.

Each S&C session need not be longer than 45 minutes twice a week. If however, you're struggling to squeeze these session in around your training, drop it down to 3 sessions a week of 15 mins each.

Include exercises that will develop running-specific muscles, such as:

- Squats
- Lunges
- Single leg squats
- Glute bridges
- Calf raises
- Kettlebell workouts
- Hamstring curls
- Leg Press
- Core work – plank, Russian twists etc

RECOVERY

Finally, ensure you pay attention to your recovery after each session. To be able to train consistently, your body needs the nutrition, hydration and sleep required to build between each run. This means eating a balanced diet with plenty of protein, healthy fats, vegetables, and healthy carbs. Steer clear from trans-fats. Drink adequate amounts of water, limit alcohol and sleep as much as possible.

THE PLAN

BLOCK 1

WEEK	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	✓
1	REST	3 miles	REST	REST	REST	3 miles	3 miles	
2	REST	3 miles	REST	REST	REST	5 miles	3 miles	
3	REST	3 miles	REST	REST	REST	6 miles	3 miles	
4	REST	3 miles	3 miles	REST	REST	3 miles	REST	

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

WEEK		MILES
1	Here we are at the beginning of your journey! In 20 short weeks you'll run the equivalent of two marathons over two days! To start, just aim on being consistent. Tick all the sessions off, even though some may feel very short.	9 miles
2	Hopefully last week wasn't too challenging and you're enjoying the process. Keep it up - the Saturday run increases slightly this week but it should still feel manageable and relaxed.	11 miles
3	Each block will follow a similar format: three or four weeks of building mileage followed by an easy week. This is the last build week before an easy week next week. Earn the down time and tick off all three runs.	12 miles
4	Well done on completing your first block! Try and get that 3 mile run in Wednesday in so you can take Sunday off completely.	9 miles

THE PLAN

BLOCK 2

WEEK	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	✓
5	REST	5 miles	REST	REST	REST	6 miles	3 miles	
6	REST	5 miles	REST	REST	REST	6 miles	6 miles	
7	REST	3 miles	2 miles	REST	REST	7 miles	6 miles	
8	REST	5 miles	3 miles	REST	REST	9 miles	8 miles	
9	REST	REST	3 miles	REST	REST	6 miles	4 miles	

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

WEEK		MILES
5	Later in the week we will shift up to four runs per week, but to begin, focus on getting the regular runs in.	14 miles
6	This weekend you'll take on your first back-to-back 6 miles.	17 miles
7	Your first week of four runs. It's even more important to rest well: eat, sleep, hydrate and keep off your feet as much as possible on your 'off' days.	18 miles
8	25 miles total this week. Make sure you complete all the sessions this week - you've got an easy week next week so earn the downtime.	25 miles
9	This week will feel very easy compared to the last few weeks. You're now half way! Rest up and prepare for the next increase to Block 3.	13 miles

THE PLAN

BLOCK 3

WEEK	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	✓
10	REST	6 miles	4 miles	Cross training	REST	9 miles	6 miles	
11	REST	5 miles	5 miles	Cross training	REST	7 miles	9 miles	
12	REST	6 miles	6 miles	Cross training	REST	10 miles	9 miles	
13	REST	6 miles	7 miles	Cross training	REST	13 miles	6 miles	
14	REST	6 miles	7 miles	Cross training	REST	8 miles	REST	

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

WEEK		MILES
10	Pay close attention to what shoes and clothing you feel comfiest in as the miles increase.	25 miles
11	It may be time to start looking for a new pair of trainers. Purchase a pair 3/4 weeks before the event so you can wear them in.	26 miles
12	With two 6 milers in the middle of the week, the weekend will feel a little punchy. Make sure to carry lots of food & drink and relax on Sunday!	31 miles
13	Your first half marathon within the plan. Well done. Next week easy week!	32 miles
14	Enjoy some down time this week, eat well and take your mind away from Race to the Tower. Enjoy a full Sunday off.	21 miles

THE PLAN

BLOCK 4

WEEK	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	✓
15	REST	5 miles	5 miles	Cross training	REST	13 miles	11 miles	
16	REST	6 miles	5 miles	REST	REST	13 miles	13 miles	
17	REST	6 miles	5 miles	Cross training	REST	16 miles	13 miles	
18	REST	4 miles	4 miles	REST	REST	17 miles	17 miles	
19	REST	3 miles	3 miles	Cross training	REST	6 miles	6 miles	

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

WEEK		MILES
15	It's imperative to recover well, fuel well both before, during and after each session to ensure optimal recovery. It looks daunting, but you CAN do this.	34 miles
16	Back to back half marathons this weekend! Do these runs on trails similar to The Cotswold Way - include both undulating and steep (10%+) hills.	37 miles
17	Pushing the boundaries again this week with a hefty 16 miles backed up with a half marathon on Sunday. Fuel well, it's a big one but you can do this.	40 miles
18	Pushing the boundaries again this week with a hefty 17 miles back to back. Fuel well, it's a big one but you can do this.	42 miles
19	Well done. The training has been done. Take this week easy.	18 miles

THE PLAN

FINAL WEEK

WEEK	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	✓
20	REST	2 miles	REST	REST	2 miles	RACE DAY 1!	RACE DAY 2!	

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

WEEK		MILES
20	Rather than rest all week, include two short runs to keep the legs moving. Rest hard, eat well and keep hydrated. Make sure you have all your kit ready by Wednesday, to allow time to buy anything you may have forgotten! NB: don't be tempted to adjust anything or try something new at this point. GOOD LUCK!	57 miles

ANY MORE QUESTIONS? GET IN TOUCH

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE
CHECK OUT ONE OF THE
FOLLOWING PLATFORMS.

Edit your registration

You can edit your registration by logging into MyEvents portal [here](#).

Join the Community

Make sure to also join us on the [Threshold Trail Series Participant Facebook Forum](#) to meet other participants and swap advice and training tips.

Follow us on social media

Follow us on our social media channels to see the latest tips from Threshold Trail Series ambassadors, hear inspirational stories and get the latest news ahead of your event.

- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)

Still can't find something...

If you can't find the answer you're looking for, please feel free to email us:

info@racetothetower.com