

Mini-Taur 10 km Course Description:

Distance: 10.5 km

Elevation Gain: 950m (3116')

Time limit: 5 hours

The Mini-Taur 10 km is Canada's toughest 10 kilometer race! Note that the terrain is rugged and challenging and there are no Aid Stations on the course. You need to bring all of the food and water that you will consume and take extra care running in this technical terrain.

The race starts downtown Blairmore at 1292m and in less than 1 km you head up Bluff Mountain on Minotaur Ridge following a tiny, rugged switch-backing trail. The trail crosses steep rocky slab sections, threads its way through a talus slope/cliff band and winds through rugged forest on the way to the summit of Bluff Mountain at 2145m. On the way up, you have views of Crowsnest Pass, east to the prairies, and west to the Rocky Mountains. At the summit, the Mini-Taur 10 km turns sharply left back down to Blairmore while the Minotaur SkyRace continues north.

From the summit of Bluff Mountain, you follow a tiny trail that gently descends through open forest. Watch for the "Pecker Tree" before you turn right at a trail junction and head toward an open alpine meadow at about 1930m. Here the trail veers east, then south, descending relentlessly down the southwest face of Bluff Mountain. At about 1740m, turn sharply left at a trail junction. Save some energy for a 50m climb that takes you over to a new ridge and a technical trail that heads down along the top of some steep cliffs. Take some time to look to the east and you will see Minotaur Ridge that you climbed earlier in the race.

Soon you will see the town of Blairmore, now about 400m below. Continue down a steep rocky trail until a sharp left turn takes you off the ridge on to the last forest section. Turn right at the T-junction...you now have completed the loop. From here retrace your steps...it is less than 1km to Blairmore and the finish line!