

World Marathon Majors

Course Record Progression

Following are progressions for the fastest men's and women's times at each of the six City Marathons.

Courses have changed to some degree at all of the events. In particular New York City was held on a multi-loop course in Central Park until 1976 and Berlin was staged entirely in West Berlin until 1990.

Also the course at the 1981 New York City marathon was determined to be 148 meters short and the winning times of Alberto Salazar (2:08:13) and Allison Roe (2:25:29), although better than the contemporary world records, were invalidated.

Due to construction along the Boston Marathon route, the distance was inadvertently short of the standard distance for several years. The most significant shortage of 1183 yards in 1956 when Antti Viskari (FIN) ran 2:14:14 would have been equivalent to about 2:17:51 for 26 miles 385 yards.

Berlin – Men

2:44:53	Guenter Hallas (FRG)	13 Oct 74
2:23:08	Ingo Sensburg (FRG)	26 Sep 76
2:15:19	Guenter Mielke (FRG)	10 Sep 77
2:14:47	Domingo Tibaduiza (COL)	26 Sep 82
2:13:37	Karel Lismont (BEL)	25 Sep 83
2:13:35	Johan Skovbjerg (DEN)	30 Sep 84
2:11:43	Jimmy Ashworth (GBR)	29 Sep 85
2:11:03	Boguslaw Psujek (POL)	28 Sep 86
2:10:11	Alfredo Shahanga (TAN)	01 Oct 89
2:08:16	Steve Moneghetti (AUS)	30 Sep 90
2:08:07	David Tsebe (RSA)	27 Sep 92
2:07:02	Sammy Lelei (KEN)	24 Sep 95
2:06:05	Ronaldo Da Costa (BRA)	20 Sep 98
2:04:55	Paul Tergat (KEN)	28 Sep 03
2:04:26	Haile Gebrselassie (ETH)	30 Sep 07
2:03:59	Haile Gebrselassie (ETH)	28 Sep 08
2:03:38	Patrick Makau Musyoki (KEN)	25 Sep 11
2:03:23	Wilson Kipsang (KEN)	29 Sep 13
2:02:57	Dennis Kimetto (KEN)	28 Sep 14

Berlin – Women

3:22:01	Jutta von Haase (FRG)	13 Oct 74
3:04:12	Ursula Blaschke (FRG)	26 Sep 76
2:34:48	Christa Vahlensieck (FRG)	10 Sep 77
2:34:10	Magda Ilands (BEL)	29 Sep 85
2:32:10	Charlotte Teske (FRG)	28 Sep 86
2:31:22	Kerstin Pressler (FRG)	04 Oct 87
2:29:16	Renata Kokowska (POL)	09 Oct 88
2:28:45	Paivi Tikkanen (FIN)	01 Oct 89
2:28:37	Uta Pippig (FRG)	30 Sep 90
2:27:36	Renata Kokowska (POL)	29 Sep 91
2:26:20	Renata Kokowska (POL)	26 Sep 93
2:25:15	Katrin Dörre (GER)	25 Sep 94
2:23:44	Catherina McKiernan (IRL)	28 Sep 97
2:20:43	Tegla Loroupe (KEN)	26 Sep 99
2:19:46	Naoko Takahashi (JPN)	30 Sep 01
2:19:41	Yoko Shibui (JPN)	26 Sep 04
2:19:12	Mizuki Noguchi (JPN)	25 Sep 05

Boston – Men

2:31:02	Les Pawson (USA)	19 Apr 33
2:28:52	Ellison "Tarzan" Brown (USA)	19 Apr 39
2:28:29	Gerard Cote (CAN)	19 Apr 40
2:26:52	Joseph Smith (USA)	19 Apr 42
2:25:39	Suh Yun-Bok (KOR)	19 Apr 47
2:20:05	John J. Kelley (USA)	20 Apr 57
2:18:58	Aurele Van den Driessche (BEL)	19 Apr 63
2:16:33	Morio Shigematsu (JPN)	19 Apr 65
2:15:45	David McKenzie (NZL)	19 Apr 67
2:13:49	Yoshiaki Unetani (JPN)	21 Apr 69
2:10:31	Ron Hill (GBR)	20 Apr 70
2:09:56	Bill Rodgers (USA)	21 Apr 75
2:09:28	Bill Rodgers (USA)	16 Apr 79
2:09:27	Toshihiko Seko (JPN)	20 Apr 81
2:08:52	Alberto Salazar (USA)	19 Apr 82
2:07:51	Rob de Castella (AUS)	21 Apr 86
2:07:15	Cosmas Ndeti (KEN)	18 Apr 94
2:07:14	Robert Kipkoech Cheruiyot (KEN)	17 Apr 06
2:05:52	Robert Kiprono Cheruiyot (KEN)	19 Apr 10
2:03:02	Geoffrey Mutai (KEN)	18 Apr 11

(note: 2011 race, a world best performance, had a significant tailwind)

Boston – Women

3:10:27	Nina Kuscsik (USA)	17 Apr 72
3:05:59	Jackie Hansen (USA)	16 Apr 73
2:47:11	Miki Gorman (USA)	15 Apr 74
2:42:24	Liane Winter (FRG)	21 Apr 75
2:35:15	Joan Benoit Samuelson (USA)	16 Apr 79
2:34:28	Jacqueline Gareau (CAN)	21 Apr 80
2:26:46	Allison Roe (NZL)	20 Apr 81
2:22:43	Joan Benoit Samuelson (USA)	18 Apr 83
2:21:45	Uta Pippig (GER)	18 Apr 94
2:20:43	Margaret Okayo (KEN)	15 Apr 02
2:18:57	Rita Jeptoo (KEN)	21 Apr 14

Chigaco – Men

2:17:52	Dan Cloeter (USA)	25 Sep 77
2:14:04	Frank Richardson (USA)	28 Sep 80
2:10:59	Greg Meyer (USA)	26 Sep 82
2:09:45	Joseph Nzau (KEN)	16 Oct 83
2:08:05	Steve Jones (GBR)	21 Oct 84
2:07:13	Steve Jones (GBR)	20 Oct 85
2:07:10	Khalid Khannouchi (MAR)	19 Oct 97
2:06:54	Ondoro Osoro (KEN)	11 Oct 98
2:05:42	Khalid Khannouchi (MAR)	24 Oct 99
2:05:41	Sammy Wanjiru (KEN)	11 Oct 09
2:05:37	Moses Mosop (KEN)	09 Oct 11
2:04:38	Tsegaye Kebede (ETH)	07 Oct 12
2:03:45	Dennis Kimetto (KEN)	13 Oct 13

Chigaco – Women

2:50:47	Dorothy Doolittle (USA)	25 Sep 77
2:45:04	Sue Petersen (USA)	28 Sep 80
2:33:23	Nancy Conz (USA)	26 Sep 82
2:31:12	Rosa Mota (POR)	16 Oct 83
2:26:01	Rosa Mota (POR)	21 Oct 84
2:21:21	Joan Benoit Samuelson (USA)	20 Oct 85
2:18:47	Catherine Ndereba (KEN)	07 Oct 01
2:17:18	Paula Radcliffe (GBR)	13 Oct 02

London – Men

2:11:48	Dick Beardsley (USA) & Inge Simonsen (NOR)	29 Mar 81
2:08:16	Steve Jones (GBR)	21 Apr 85
2:07:55	Antonio Pinto (POR)	13 Apr 97
2:06:36	Antonio Pinto (POR)	16 Apr 00
2:05:38	Khalid Khannouchi (USA)	14 Apr 02
2:05:15	Martin Lel (KEN)	13 Apr 08
2:05:10	Samuel Wanjiru (KEN)	26 Apr 09
2:04:40	Emmanuel Mutai (KEN)	17 Apr 11
2:04:29	Wilson Kipsang (KEN)	13 Apr 14
2:03:05	Eliud Kipchoge (KEN)	24 Apr 16

London – Women

2:29:57	Joyce Smith (GBR)	29Mar81
2:29:43	Joyce Smith (GBR)	09May82
2:25:29	Grete Waitz (NOR)	17Apr83
2:24:46	Ingrid Kristiansen (NOR)	13May84
2:21:06	Ingrid Kristiansen (NOR)	21Apr85
2:18:56	Paula Radcliffe (GBR)	14Apr02
2:15:25	Paula Radcliffe (GBR)	13Apr03

New York City – Men

2:31:38	Gary Muhrcke (USA)	13 Sep 70
2:22:54	Norm Higgins (USA)	19 Sep 71
2:21:55	Tom Fleming (USA)	30 Sep 73
2:19:27	Tom Fleming (USA)	28 Sep 75
2:10:10	Bill Rodgers (USA)	24 Oct 76
2:09:41	Alberto Salazar (USA)	26 Oct 80
2:09:29	Alberto Salazar (USA)	24 Oct 82
2:08:59	Rod Dixon (NZL)	23 Oct 83
2:08:20	Steve Jones (GBR)	06 Nov 88
2:08:01	Juma Ikangaa (TAN)	05 Nov 89
2:07:43	Tesfaye Jifar (ETH)	04 Nov 01
2:05:06	Geoffrey Mutai (KEN)	06 Nov 11

New York City – Women

2:55:22	Beth Bonner (USA)	19 Sep 71
2:46:14	Kim Merritt (USA)	28 Sep 75
2:39:11	Miki Gorman (USA)	24 Oct 76
2:32:30	Grete Waitz (NOR)	22 Oct 78
2:27:33	Grete Waitz (NOR)	21 Oct 79
2:25:42	Grete Waitz (NOR)	26 Oct 80
2:25:30	Ingrid Kristiansen (NOR)	05 Nov 89
2:24:40	Lisa Ondieki (AUS)	01 Nov 92
2:24:21	Margaret Okayo (KEN)	04 Nov 01
2:22:31	Margaret Okayo (KEN)	02 Nov 03

Tokyo – Men

2:09:45	Daniel Njenga (KEN)	18Feb07
2:07:23	Viktor Rothlin (SUI)	17Feb08
2:06:50	Dennis Kimetto (KEN)	24Feb13
2:05:42	Dickson Chumba (KEN)	23Feb14

Tokyo – Women

2:31:02	Hitomi Niiya (JPN)	18Feb07
2:28:49	Noriko Higuchi (JPN)	27Feb11
2:25:28	Atsede Habtamu Besuye (ETH)	26Feb12
2:22:23	Tirfi Tsegaye Beyene (ETH)	23Feb14
2:21:27	Helah Kiprop (KEN)	28Feb16