



**St. George Welcomes Spectators & Competitors from Around the Globe
for the 2021 Intermountain Healthcare IRONMAN® World Championship presented
by Utah Sports Commission Next Week**

Top 10 Things to Know about the St. George Race

B-roll content available via [THIS LINK](#). One video file includes footage of the 70.3 IRONMAN World Championship which took place in St. George in September of 2021. Video contains race footage and Greater Zion video content. Second video package includes interviews with local officials, athletes and athletes training. Time codes document included with details.

St. George, Utah – April 29, 2022 – Next week, St. George will welcome the world to [Greater Zion](#) for the 2021 Intermountain Healthcare IRONMAN® World Championship presented by Utah Sports Commission on Saturday, May 7. The IRONMAN World Championship is the most iconic single-day endurance event in the world. Traditionally held in Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i, the race will take place outside of Hawai'i for the first time since its inception in 1978.

"This event is legendary," said Kevin Lewis, director of the Greater Zion Convention & Tourism Office. "There's 44 years of grit and endurance, of people fighting the elements to cross the finish line. We have our own brand of endurance here. You see it everywhere you look – the landscapes, the terrain. But, more important than that, you see it in the people. The people who make this race happen – event organizers, volunteers, spectators cheering on the racers and all who come out on race day to compete."

The people of southwest Utah have successfully put on IRONMAN races since 2010 when the region hosted its first competition. More than a decade later, the sport's ultimate prize will be won in Greater Zion. Following is a list of the top 10 things to know about next week's race:

Top 10 Things to Know about the 2021 Intermountain Healthcare IRONMAN World Championship presented by Utah Sports Commission

1. The Intermountain Healthcare IRONMAN World Championship presented by Utah Sports Commission is expected to deliver \$25-30 million in direct economic impact to the Greater Zion region from the entire event week.
2. Greater Zion's course will be historic in nature, marking the first time the IRONMAN World Championship has ever been contested outside Hawai'i. This will be the first the IRONMAN World Championship held in more than two years. The event also marks the first time a full-distance IRONMAN event has been held in St. George since 2012.
3. The Utah and Greater Zion communities have embraced IRONMAN with more than 4,000 local residents answering the call to serve as volunteers for the event.
4. The long-distance triathlon will require each competitor to swim 2.4 miles in Sand Hollow Reservoir with temperatures hovering around 58-degrees this time of year, bike 112 throughout Greater Zion including a stretch in the scenic Snow Canyon State Park and run a marathon (26.2 miles) with 1,413 feet of elevation gain over two laps for a total of 140.6 miles in 17 hours or less.

5. The bike course is considered one of the toughest in the IRONMAN circuit, as it climbs 7,374 feet over the 112-mile course. Traveling through Hurricane, Washington City, Santa Clara, Ivins and St. George as well as Gunlock State Park before hitting “The Wall” a steep climb located just before the town of Veyo, about 75 miles into the course. Another steep, but iconic, climb comes at approximately mile 100, through Snow Canyon State Park.
6. Athletes have up to 17 hours to finish; professionals will complete the race in about eight hours. The final competitor isn’t expected to cross the finish line until sometime after midnight. Large crowds often gather to welcome the final competitors as they complete the last leg of their journey and reach the finish line in downtown St. George.
7. More than 3,000 competitors are expected, marking one of the largest fields of competitors ever seen at an IRONMAN World Championship.
8. Tens of thousands of spectators are expected for the event. Diagonal and Main Streets in St. George will offer prime viewing with opportunities to see athletes whiz by on the bike and on both laps of the run course.
9. St. George has a wealth of public art, including two pieces that honor the area’s connection to IRONMAN. Located at the roundabout at Tabernacle and Main Streets, the IRONMAN M-Dot statute, is a three-dimensional piece designed by Utah father and son duo Richard and Josh Prazen. A new Land of Endurance mural by local artist and professional cyclist T.J. Eisenhart is located on the south side of the Hometown Lenders building at 61 North Main Street.
10. Athletes to watch include Utah resident Skye Moench who is among the professional female athletes. While Moench has stacked up plenty of wins, this will mark her debut in an IRONMAN World Championship. Reigning Olympic gold medalist, Kristian Blummenfelt of Norway is among the men’s professional athletes to watch at the race. If he wins, Blummenfelt will be the first triathlete to hold both titles at the same time.

On Saturday, May 7, the men’s race starts at 6:15 a.m. MT with the pro women following at 6:20 a.m. The first wave of age group racers start at 6:45 a.m. Enjoy live race-day coverage of the 2021 Intermountain Healthcare IRONMAN World Championship presented by Utah Sports Commission globally via [IRONMAN Now™ available on Facebook Watch](#) as well as on NBC’s streaming service, [Peacock](#).

About Greater Zion

Located in the southwest corner of Utah, Greater Zion is a destination that offers more than 2,400 square miles of adventure and inspiration. Zion National Park, the fourth most visited National Park in the United States, is the premier attraction, but Zion is only the beginning. Four state parks and a multitude of year round recreational lands set the stage for a burgeoning mountain biking scene, some of the best off-highway vehicle riding in the country, scenic and challenging play at 13 top-rated golf courses, world-class cultural performances at Tuacahn Center for the Arts and so much more. The vibrant communities of St. George, Springdale, Hurricane, Ivins and towns in between offer a wide range of lodging options, dining experiences and access to outdoor pursuits through local outfitters and tour companies. Home to the 2021 and 2022 IRONMAN 70.3 World Championship, and the 2021 IRONMAN World Championship, Greater Zion also is a world-class destination for sporting events, conferences and meetings. The Greater Zion Convention & Tourism Office is a transient-room-tax-funded entity of Washington County, Utah. For more information, please visit [GreaterZion.com](#).

About the IRONMAN World Championship

Since its inception in 1978 on the Island of O’ahu, the IRONMAN World Championship has etched its name in history through stellar performances, inspirational participants and emotional memories. In 1981, the race moved from the tranquil shores of Waikīkī to the barren lava fields of Kona on the Island of Hawai`i where it continues to take place to this day. The race now sees over 2,500 athletes embark on a 140.6-mile journey that presents the ultimate test of body, mind, and spirit to earn the title of IRONMAN World Champion. The

most iconic one-day sporting event in the world is the culmination of 40 global IRONMAN events with over 94,000 athletes around the world striving for one of the coveted qualifying slots. The 2021 edition of the event will take place in St. George, Utah in May 2022, becoming the first location to host the event outside of Hawai'i since its origins in 1978. After a two-year hiatus from Kona due to COVID, the race will return to Kona and take place as a two-day event in October for the 2022 edition of the World Championship. For more information, visit www.ironman.com/im-world-championship.

About The IRONMAN Group

The IRONMAN Group operates a global portfolio of events that includes the IRONMAN® Triathlon Series, the IRONMAN® 70.3® Triathlon Series, the IRONMAN® Virtual Racing™ (VR™) Series, 5150™ Triathlon Series, the Rock 'n' Roll® Running Series, the Rock 'n' Roll Virtual Running™ Series, IRONKIDS®, World Triathlon Championship Series, premier running events including the Standard Chartered Singapore Marathon™ and The Sun-Herald City2Surf®, UTMB® World Series events including Tarawera Ultra and Ultra-Trail Australia™, Epic Series™ mountain bike races including the Absa Cape Epic®, road cycling events including Haute Route®, and other multisport races. The IRONMAN Group is the largest operator of mass participation sports in the world and provides more than a million participants annually the benefits of endurance sports through the company's vast offerings. Since the inception of the iconic IRONMAN® brand and its first event in 1978, athletes have proven that ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE® by crossing finish lines around the world. Beginning as a single race, The IRONMAN Group has grown to become a global sensation with hundreds of events across 55+ countries. The IRONMAN Group is owned by Advance, a private, family-owned business. For more information, visit www.ironman.com/about-ironman-group.

About Advance

Advance is a private, family-held business that owns and invests in companies across media, entertainment, technology, communications, education and other promising growth sectors. Our mission is to build the value of our companies over the long-term by fostering growth and innovation. Advance's portfolio includes Condé Nast, Advance Local, Stage Entertainment, The IRONMAN Group, American City Business Journals, Leaders Group, Turnitin, 1010data and Pop. Together these operating companies employ more than 17,000 people in 29 countries. Advance is also among the largest shareholders in Charter Communications, Discovery and Reddit. For more information visit www.advance.com.

###

*For access to hundreds of searchable images in the Greater Zion media library,
please visit media.greaterzion.com.*

Media Contacts:

Kristin Yantis or Amanda McNally, Malen Yantis Public Relations, kyantis@myprco.com or amcnally@myprco.com, (970) 949-7919