RAVE RUN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY Darko Todorovic RUNNER Andrew Dawson THE LOCATION Hovsgol National Park, Mongolia

→ THE EXPERIENCE Nicknamed the "Dark Blue Pearl" of Mongolia, Lake Hovsgol lies at the foothills of the Sayan Mountains, which divide Siberia from northern Mongolia. In the region's brief summer, the countryside is carpeted in wildflowers – that's why the Mongolia Sunrise to Sunset 100km or 42km race is one of the most beautiful courses on the planet. Equipped with torches, runners kick off under a dome of stars following a lakeside singletrack, and traverse windblown lowlands before climbing 700 metres into the mountains. "The Mongolian landscape is truly inspiring," says second-place 100K finisher Andrew Dawson of Melbourne, Victoria. "Experiencing the diversity of the mountains, woodlands, lake and meadows of the national park is something special." – ultramongolia.com

32 100 km 2012 HOVSGOL