

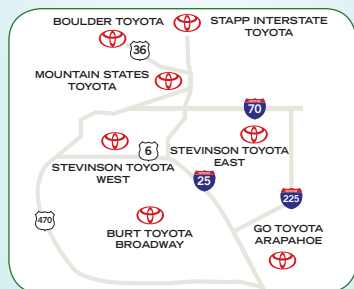
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"The fact we were out there together, going through this challenge together, that was the romantic part"

FOR THE LOVE OF RUNNING

By Matt Draper

A pair of Colorado newlyweds spent their honeymoon competing at a Costa Rican adventure race

Andrew Frevert and Rachel Busetti of Frederick haven't exactly followed a traditional path when it comes to celebrating their relationship. The couple, who exchanged vows in Las Vegas before running the Vegas Marathon in December, decided to honeymoon in February at The Coastal Challenge (TCC), a six-day staged running race that traverses more than 135 miles of tropical terrain in Costa Rica.

How and where did you meet?

Andrew: We met in Boulder. We were both training for marathons with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team In Training. So we met out running. Our first date was a hike.

Rachel: The first hike (date) was in Boulder up Bear Peak, where I twisted my ankle, and he had to walk slowly down the mountain with me. I refused his help the entire way. You know, independent-woman syndrome.

Whose idea was it to honeymoon at The Coastal Challenge?

Rachel: I got an e-mail about it and sent it to Andrew and he said, "Let's do it; let's sign up." I wasn't sure I wanted to, but he said, "You can't tease me like that." We kept looking into it and decided it was something we could do. We honeymooned at TCC because we love to travel and we enjoy staying fit and, mostly, being together. We thought it would be a great way to do it all in one trip, and we were right.

Your route led you through southwest Costa Rica. What was the scenery like?

Andrew: Absolutely beautiful. From running along the ocean and up the mountains and through the rainforest... it was amazing. It was picturesque. It was paradise. It was incredible to be in the ocean and a couple of hours later to be up about 1,000

meters [in the mountains] peering out to see all of Costa Rica.

You conquered more than 135 miles—nearly a marathon each day—in some pretty intense heat and humidity, all while sleeping in a tent. Was it in any way romantic?

Rachel: No (laughing). The romantic part came when Andrew was helping me down some of the hills, or if I fell he'd extend his hand and help me up. By the time we got into camp, we were so sweaty and tired and just sore that all we could think about was eating, taking a shower and going to bed so we could function the next day. The fact we were out there together, going through this challenge together, that was the romantic part.

Any ideas on how you're going to celebrate your 25th wedding anniversary? Maybe a relaxing Ironman or ultramarathon?

Rachel: Something like that. We joke that we're going to take some all-inclusive vacation with margaritas on the beach. But when it boils down, we're always scheming for the next adventure.

Andrew: Somewhere high up. Maybe at a base camp at 18,000 feet?

The 2010 edition of The Coastal Challenge, the "Route of Fire," takes place January 30–February 1 in northwest Costa Rica.

Thecoastalchallenge.com

Andrew Frevert and Rachel Busetti compete in the 2009 Coastal Challenge.



Photos by J. Andres Vargas