



START AND FINISH LOCATIONS FOR 2018 TOUR DE YORKSHIRE ANNOUNCED

The eight host locations for 2018 Tour de Yorkshire have been unveiled today.

The stages for the newly expanded fourth edition will begin or end in:

Barnsley (South Yorkshire)

Beverley (East Yorkshire)

Doncaster (South Yorkshire)

Halifax (Calderdale)

Ilkley (Bradford)

Leeds (West Yorkshire)

Richmond (North Yorkshire)

Scarborough (North Yorkshire)

Organisers Welcome to Yorkshire and the Amaury Sport Organisation (A.S.O.) revealed the locations for the newly expanded four-day men's race which will take place between 3-6 May. The Asda Women's Tour de Yorkshire – which is doubling in size from one to two days - will be held over 3-4 May.

The third edition took place in April and saw the race go from strength to strength once again. A record 2.2 million spectators lined the route and generated £64 million for the Yorkshire economy. The action was also beamed live in 180 countries and attracted 9.7 million global TV viewers on Eurosport and ITV alone.

Sir Gary Verity, Chief Executive of Welcome to Yorkshire, said: "The Tour de Yorkshire is a true success story and in just three years it has grown to become one of the best attended and most dramatic races on the cycling calendar.

"Of course, with the men's race being extended to four days and the women's race now being held over two, it means we can visit more parts of the county and I know our eight start and finish locations will put on a real show."

Christian Prudhomme, Director of the Tour de France at the A.S.O, said: "The Tour de Yorkshire has gone from strength to strength over the last three years and we are delighted to be working in partnership with such a great team at Welcome to Yorkshire.

"The way people get behind the race in Yorkshire is incredible and we are looking forward to another fantastic edition in 2018."

Julie Harrington, Chief Executive of British Cycling, said: "Next year's Tour de Yorkshire is shaping up to be the best yet with more stages for the men's and women's races and, at British Cycling, we're looking forward to working with colleagues and partners across the county to use the inspiration of the world's best riders to get even more people on bikes."

Next year's Tour will once again see the return of the Maserati Tour de Yorkshire Ride sportive and give the chance for Tour Makers to volunteer on the race route and help welcome the millions of spectators.

Many of the host towns announced today are also home to Yorkshire Bank Bike Libraries, a direct legacy of the Tour de France and Tour de Yorkshire, which aim to offer every child in Yorkshire access to a bike. So far 46 libraries have opened across the county and over 5,000 bikes have been donated.

The full 2018 race route will be unveiled on Tuesday 5 December 2017 – this announcement will include exact start and finish locations and the distance and profile of each stage.

Photographs from the press conference will be uploaded here:

<https://yorkshire.box.com/v/2018HostTowns>

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Notes to editors:

- The Tour de Yorkshire was launched in 2015 as a legacy of the 2014 Grand Départ. It is organised by Welcome to Yorkshire and the Amaury Sport Organisation.
- The men's race holds a 2.1 UCI Europe Tour classification.
- The Asda Women's Tour de Yorkshire was awarded 1.2 status in 2016.
- 2.2 million spectators lined the route for the 2017 edition, up from 2 million in 2016.
- The 2017 edition was watched by 9.7 million TV viewers in 180 countries.
- The 2017 edition generated £64 million for the Yorkshire economy.
- The race is supported by Yorkshire Bank, Yorkshire Bank Bike Libraries, Asda, Virgin Trains East Coast, Dimension Data, Doncaster Sheffield Airport and Flybe, Mug Shot, Aunt Bessie's, JCT600, Tissot, Le Coq Sportif and Mavic.

The official Tour de Yorkshire website can be found at www.letouryorkshire.com

More information on Bike Libraries can be found at <http://bikelibraries.yorkshire.com>

To apply to be considered as a Tour Maker visit <http://letour.yorkshire.com/tour-makers>

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