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RIDELONDON FREECYCLE RETURNS ON SUNDAY 29 MAY!

- Free event for riders of all ages, abilities and backgrounds
- Established by the Mayor of London, RideLondon returns after two-year absence
- New eight-mile route passes some of London's most famous sights and includes four Festival Zones
- First 10,000 people to register get free RideLondon FreeCycle tabard

RideLondon FreeCycle is back! The incredible *free* event, part of the RideLondon festival of cycling, returns on Sunday 29 May with a new eight-mile route that gives riders of all ages, abilities and backgrounds a unique opportunity to cycle round central London on traffic-free roads.

The route for the 2022 edition of FreeCycle, which has been unveiled today, includes some of London's most famous streets and, for the first time in the event's history, will travel south of the Thames, with a stretch between Westminster Bridge and Waterloo Bridge, including the Southbank.

The route passes many of London's most famous streets and iconic landmarks including:

- Bank of England
- Guildhall Yard
- Holborn Viaduct
- London Eye*
- Piccadilly*
- Pall Mall*
- Somerset House
- Southbank
- St Paul's Cathedral
- Strand
- Trafalgar Square
- Waterloo Bridge*
- Westminster Bridge*
- Victoria Embankment

*new for 2022

RideLondon FreeCycle will start at 10:00 and finish at 15:00. The event will also include four Festival Zones at Lincoln's Inn Fields, Waterloo Place, Guildhall Yard and St Paul's Churchyard and Paternoster Square.

These are areas on the route where cyclists can stop to enjoy fun activities designed to celebrate cycling and active travel and to inspire more people from all backgrounds to cycle more often.

Hugh Brasher, Event Director of RideLondon, said: *"RideLondon FreeCycle is a unique day. It's wonderful and uplifting to see London's most famous streets handed over to bicycles with riders of all ages and backgrounds on all sorts of different bikes enjoying traffic-free roads."*

"We're passionate about inspiring activity and getting more people onto bikes. For anyone new to cycling or who hasn't cycled for a while, FreeCycle is a brilliant opportunity to give cycling a go without traffic in central London. People can cycle as far or as little as they wish on the eight-mile route. It's a rare chance for everyone to cycle on traffic-free streets in one of the world's busiest cities, to enjoy the Festival Zones and to see some of our most famous landmarks on the way."

London's Walking & Cycling Commissioner, Will Norman, said: *"RideLondon's FreeCycle is a fantastic event that offers people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds the unique opportunity to cycle through central London on traffic-free roads. It's a wonderful day to try out cycling for the first time, check out the Festival Zones or just enjoy taking in some of the city's most glorious landmarks. It's important that we increase participation in cycling from more diverse groups, and I urge people to get involved and take part in this free event."*

The Festival Zone activities will focus on increasing participation among women, those from under-served communities and disability groups.

Charities, community groups and organisations will be based in these Festival Zones to showcase cycling as an inclusive activity, including [Wheels for Wellbeing](#), [Bikeworks](#), Tomcat Special Needs Innovations and Van Raam Bikes.

Isabelle Clement, Director of Wheels for Wellbeing, said: *"At Wheels for Wellbeing, we work tirelessly throughout the year to ensure disabled people get access to the joy and health benefits of cycling. Every year RideLondon is a special event which Wheels for Wellbeing and our partners Bikeworks have been delighted to be part of, helping more disabled people to take part every year."*

"At this year's FreeCycle, we'll be running an inclusive cycling hub at the Lincoln's Inn Fields Festival Zone, where people can come to try out all kinds of different cycles – such as trikes, tandems and handbikes – and can also find general information about year-round accessible cycling opportunities."

To encourage cyclists from across London to join RideLondon FreeCycle, there will be [Led Rides](#) starting from a location in each of the London boroughs. Organised by London Cycling Campaign (LCC), an experienced ride leader will take a group from each borough to FreeCycle. Riders interested in joining a Led Ride will need to register before the event.

It is not necessary to own a bike to take part. TfL's Santander Cycles will also be available to hire at docking stations across the city with their bikes serviced throughout the day.

Entry to FreeCycle is free with [registration open now](#). The first 10,000 people to register will be sent a free RideLondon FreeCycle cycling tabard. The brightly designed piece of outerwear is designed to help riders be clearly seen while out on their bikes in all seasons and weather.

RideLondon was established by the Mayor of London in 2013 as a legacy event from the 2012 London Olympic Games. Over its first seven annual editions, from 2013 to 2019, RideLondon grew into the world's greatest festival of cycling enjoyed by more than 467,000 participants, from beginners to the world's best professionals. The event could not be held in 2020 or 2021 due to the pandemic.

In addition to RideLondon FreeCycle, three other mass participation rides will take place as part of the festival on Sunday 29 May: the RideLondon-Essex 100, 60 and 30.

Also taking place this year is the RideLondon Classique, a three-day UCI Women's World Tour stage race (Friday 27 May to Sunday 29 May), which will feature the best women's cyclists in the world. The first two stages will take place in Essex before the final stage is held on a circuit in central London on Sunday 29 May between 15:45 and 18:00, enabling those who have taken part in FreeCycle to stay on and watch the race.



The 2022 RideLondon FreeCycle route map

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NOTES TO EDITORS

- [RideLondon](#), the world's greatest festival of cycling, was developed by the Mayor of London and his agencies. It was first held in August 2013 and is a legacy event from the London 2012 Olympics.
- In the first seven years of the world's greatest festival of cycling (2013-2019) more than 467,000 participants have taken part including more than 140,000 new or lapsed cyclists who were inspired to start cycling. More than £80 million was raised for more than 1,000 charities.
- RideLondon will partner with Essex County Council in 2022. Surrey County Council previously partnered with the event from 2013 to 2020.
- London Marathon Events gifts its surplus each year to The London Marathon Charitable Trust.
- Since 1981, The London Marathon Charitable Trust has awarded grants totalling in excess of £95 million to more than 1,500 projects in London and across the UK.

For further information, please contact:

Ryan Goad | Head of Communications & TV | London Marathon Events Ltd
e ryan.goad@londonmarathonevents.co.uk | m +44 (0) 7950 708574



MAYOR OF LONDON

