



For immediate release: 10:00 Tuesday 17 May 2022

RIDELONDON RETURNS TO LONDON ON SUNDAY 29 MAY

- **Hosted by the Mayor of London, the capital welcomes world’s greatest festival of cycling – back for first time since 2019**
- **2022 event includes three inspiration rides: RideLondon-Essex 100, 60 and 30**
- **Family-friendly RideLondon FreeCycle returns with eight miles of traffic-free roads and Festival Zones**
- **Final stage of UCI Women’s WorldTour Classique brings event to a close in heart of London**
- **Road closures will be in place in central London, east London and Essex – visit ridelondon.co.uk to plan your travel**

RideLondon, the world’s greatest cycling festival, returns to the capital on Sunday 29 May for the first time since 2019.

The 2012 London Olympic Games legacy event will see thousands of people, of all ages and abilities, take to bikes in a variety of rides throughout the day.

The event could not be held in 2020 or 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and now returns in an exciting new format and with a new partnership with Essex County Council, which has created new routes for the inspiration rides: the RideLondon-Essex, 100, 60 and 30.

More than 20,000 people will take part in these three rides, many raising vital funds for charity. The events start on Victoria Embankment before heading out on traffic-free roads through the capital to Essex, with the RideLondon-Essex 100 riders doing a 65-mile loop around the county before heading back for a stunning finish at Tower Bridge.

The hugely popular RideLondon FreeCycle also returns. The family-friendly event is completely free and is held over eight miles of traffic-free roads in central London between 10:00 and 15:00. It gives people of all ages and abilities a unique chance to cycle along some of the capital’s most famous roads and past iconic landmarks unhindered by traffic.

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.

You can [register for FreeCycle now](#) or just join the ride on the day and do as much or as little of the route as you like. Landmarks on the FreeCycle route include:

- Bank of England
- Guildhall Yard
- Holborn Viaduct
- London Eye
- Somerset House
- St Paul’s Cathedral
- Trafalgar Square
- Waterloo Bridge
- Westminster Bridge

For the FreeCycle route, [click here](#).

The RideLondon festival concludes with the final stage of the RideLondon Classique, a professional race for the world’s best female riders. Following two days of racing in Essex, the final stage takes place on a multi-lap circuit in central London that starts and finishes on Victoria Embankment. The race will start at 15:45 and finish at approximately 17:45. The multi-lap circuit gives spectators the chance to see the world’s best riders on multiple occasions from one location. To view the route, [click here](#).

Spectators are encouraged to come out and enjoy the day and everyone is urged to plan ahead, as there will be some disruption caused by the road closures. RideLondon has spent the past months engaging directly with communities and businesses on the route to ensure any disruption is minimised as much as possible, with community access plans created for specific locations. These plans can be accessed [here](#).

Kevin Nash, RideLondon Route Director, said: *“We are extremely excited to be bringing RideLondon back for the first time since 2019. Sunday 29 May will be a spectacular day in London with the wonderful sight of the capital full of bicycles.*

“You can still be a part of it too. Our RideLondon FreeCycle event is free for anyone to join and is a unique opportunity to cycle on traffic-free roads in the heart of London. It’s the perfect event to do with family and friends.

“You can also come to watch the final stage of the RideLondon Classique, where you will see the thrilling spectacle of the world’s best female riders racing through London. We hope the weekend will inspire thousands more people to get cycling this summer.

“We also want to encourage residents, businesses and visitors to London to plan ahead for Sunday 29 May. The footprint of the event is considerable, with 100 miles of road closures in London and Essex for the mass participation rides and further closures in the centre of London for RideLondon FreeCycle and the Classique.

information about the community access plans and details about the best places to watch and enjoy the day."

Full details of the road closures can be found at ridelondon.co.uk/road-closures

Detailed event and travel information can also be found on the [RideLondon page of the TfL website](#).

RIDELONDON: THE EVENTS

Friday 27 May: [Stage One of RideLondon Classique](#)

Start: 11:00 Promenade Park, Maldon , Essex

Predicted finish: 14:30-14:50, Maldon High Street, Essex

Stage One of the RideLondon Classique starts and finishes in Maldon, Essex. It heads north to Abberton Reservoir before a two-lap finishing circuit around Maldon and Little Baddow and a finish on Maldon High Street.

Saturday 28 May: [Stage Two of RideLondon Classique](#)

Start: 11:00 Anglia Ruskin University, Chelmsford, Essex

Predicted finish: 14^h30-15:00 Epping High Street, Essex

Stage Two of the Classique starts at Chelmsford's Anglia Ruskin University, which will be celebrating hosting the stage start with a host of bike-themed activities throughout the day. The riders will head north to Essex villages of Finchingfield and Great Sampford before returning south through Great Dunmow and Fyfield before finishing with two laps around Epping and a finish on Epping High Street.

Sunday 29 May

[RideLondon-Essex 100, 60 and 30.](#)

Start: From 06:00, Victoria Embankment

Finish: From 10:00, Tower Bridge

The mass participation rides described as 'the London Marathon on wheels'. More than 20,000 riders will be taking part in either a 100, 60 or 30-mile ride. The longest challenge, the RideLondon-Essex 100, will take riders into Essex via Epping Forest, through Ongar, Fyfield and Great Dunmow before reaching halfway at Felsted. From there, riders will follow a section of the 2014 Tour de France route, travelling south towards the west of Chelmsford and Writtle before returning to central London via Ongar.

[RideLondon FreeCycle](#)

Times: 10:00 to 15:00

Route: [Click here](#).

The free, family-friendly event held on eight miles of traffic-free roads in central London. The event takes in some of London's most famous streets and passes iconic landmarks including Bank of England, London Eye, the Southbank, St Paul's Cathedral and Trafalgar Square. There are four fun-filled, free Festival Zones on route at Lincoln's Inn Fields, Waterloo Place, Guildhall Yard and St Paul's Churchyard & Paternoster Square.

[Stage Three of RideLondon Classique](#)

Start: 15:45, Victoria Embankment

Predicted finish: 1730-1745, Victoria Embankment

Stage three is a multi-lap course held in the heart of London. It starts and finishes on Victoria Embankment and passes some of the capital's most historic landmarks. It is expected to be a fast, frantic final stage which is likely to culminate in a thrilling sprint finish to entertain the spectators.

ENDS

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.
- The RideLondon Classique has been a UCI Women's WorldTour event since 2016. The race was not held in 2020 or 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic
- 2022 is the first year the Classique will be held over three stages, two in Essex and one in London. Previously it has been a one-day race in central London
- The Classique is part of RideLondon, the world's greatest cycling festival. In the first seven years of the event (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

