

DISCOVERY 947

**ride**  
**JOBURG**



# Discovery 947 Ride Joburg **Race Brochure**

23<sup>rd</sup> edition



Discovery

**947**



@947RideJoburg



@947RideJoburg

# Message from Discovery

Congratulations – you are almost at the start line of the Discovery 947 Ride Joburg! As one of this year's riders, you have already shown your dedication, strength and perseverance by making it this far. Now, it is you, the streets of Joburg, thousands of supporters cheering you on, and Discovery behind you all the way.

At Discovery, we're proud to be sponsoring the 23rd year of Joburg's greatest cycle race.

From the unrelenting and exciting challenge of taking on 94.7kms of Joburg city's streets to the new 40km 947 Vitality Short Ride and the variety of mountain bike and kids' rides, Discovery 947 Ride Joburg has something for everyone to move more.

Moving more is not just a campaign objective: it's a global health priority. A lack of physical activity among both adults and children leads to millions of premature deaths each year, according to the World Health Organization. But there's hope. Knowing that diseases of lifestyle are largely preventable through healthy behaviours like regular exercise, we introduced the short ride to make the event more accessible – a goal which aligns with Vitality's pledge to help make 100 million people 20% more active by 2025.

We wish every rider the greatest success in reaching their personal goals this year. We also recognise the many people who make this event a success: the local communities who help behind the scenes and line the route in support; the City of Joburg who makes the route possible and keeps cyclists safe; the many companies that commit resources and capital to the event. And, most importantly, to you – the cyclists who take on the challenge, ride for a purpose and aim to be your best.

Good luck!

Iona Maclean  
Head of Experiential Marketing, Discovery



# Message from 947

It's with great pride that we welcome you to the 23rd edition of Joburg's most iconic cycling event. This year marks another exciting chapter in the history of this event as we not only welcome a new sponsor on board but launched with a new name, new look and an additional route – all driven by the same purpose. We are thrilled that you have saddled up to be part of the Discovery 947 Ride Joburg experience!

We couldn't have found a better partner than Discovery, whose values and mission embody the spirit of the event. Their global commitment to get people to move more and live happier, healthier lives wedges directly into this iconic cycling race, where we at 947 believe that a happier Joburg, is a healthier one.

Welcome to all the new cyclists! The creation of the Discovery 947 Vitality Short Ride is for you! It's a way for you to step into the world of cycling. The short ride is your first step towards eventually tackling the full, 94.7km route. 947 loves Joburg and we continue to connect people to the city. Discovery 947 Ride Joburg is the ultimate way to explore the diverse urban landscape and fascinating landmarks of the city. It is also about how the event brings people together and it shows in the growing community of supporters that line the streets every year to cheer cyclists on. The vibe and motivation they bring really gives cyclists that extra push to keep going.

We love our cycling community and that is why we push hard behind the scenes to give you a world-class event. Discovery 947 Ride Joburg is the culmination of nine months of intensive planning and collaboration with key stakeholders. It is the only event that shuts down the city's streets on this massive scale and we couldn't do it without the support and investment from the City of Joburg.

Discovery 947 Ride Joburg continues to be a force of good and we are proud to provide a platform to charities through Ride for a Purpose that helps them to raise awareness and funds. At the same time, we

are grateful that the event gives the local economy a massive boost, which in turn benefits the local communities that help us throughout the event. Whatever your move – whether you're riding for the challenge or in support of a good cause in Ride for a Purpose – we can't wait to see you move more on Sunday, 17 November.

Alexia Poulos  
Group Events Manager, 947





# Message from the City of Joburg

The longevity of the relationship between the City of Johannesburg and Primedia bears testimony to our shared vision of making South Africa's economic giant one of the best cities in the world.

When hundreds of professional and amateur cyclists line up for the starter's gun in the Discovery 947 Ride Joburg on Sunday, 17 November 2019, they will be let loose on some of the most picturesque and iconic sights around the 122-year-old City of Johannesburg.

The Discovery 947 Ride Joburg is also a key tourism generator. Tourism is the "new gold" for the City of Johannesburg. Not only does it create much-needed jobs, it is also one of the key instruments towards ensuring the City of Johannesburg achieves 5% economic growth by 2021.

The Discovery 947 Ride Joburg is held under the auspices of the City in partnership with Primedia Broadcasting and Century Property Developments. Multinational financial services group Discovery has taken over sponsorship rights for this tough cycling event, which starts in Fourways.

As the world's second-largest timed sporting race that attracts over 30 000 cyclists each year ranging from beginners to elites, the Discovery 947 Ride Joburg serves as a catalyst for the City to be recognised internationally as a top sporting hub.

Discovery aims to get 100 million people globally active by 2025 through its Vitality programme. With this in mind, it has expanded the race with a brand new 40km route to make it accessible to novice cyclists. This dovetails with our vision of encouraging Johannesburg residents to lead healthier lifestyles and fend off opportunistic diseases.

I extend a warm welcome to all pedal power enthusiasts to our vibrant City. A Johannesburg that works is a South Africa that works.

Cllr Herman Mashaba  
Executive Mayor of The City of Johannesburg





# Message from our Race Director

2019 marks THE 23RD EDITION of what was the 947 Cycle Challenge. The event has been privileged to have 4 title sponsors over the years, namely Slow Mag, Pick n Pay, Momentum, and Telkom, each bringing their particular brand and stamp to the event. This year, we welcome one of South Africa's premier and well-known brands, Discovery. I welcome Discovery and their dedicated sponsorship team on board, and trust they will find value synergy in being aligned with Joburg's iconic cycling event.

Discovery's global mission to get more people moving, coupled with our ever present desire to grow the sport of cycling, has given rise to a new event in 2019: the 947 Vitality Short Ride. With its mission to create more opportunity for people to participate in this iconic event, the shorter distance lowers the barrier to entry and allows more people to enjoy the thrill of closed roads around Joburg.

The City of Joburg remains our trusted host city and big thanks to the City for all they contribute to Ride Joburg, allowing us to showcase the City and prove that this city is able to host world class events. Behind the scenes we thank all the city agencies pulling together to make this great event a safe, secure and compliant race for the residents of Joburg to enjoy, with Joburgers making up 90 % of the field, making this event in the city for the city and by the City?

We welcome another new and exciting development this year by way of Steyn City hosting the Discovery 947 Ride Joburg Kids and MTB events on the first week of the fortnight. This beautiful and serene lifestyle estate is a true oasis, providing us with a lush backdrop for both events. The wildlife, greenery and dams soften the harsh Joburg landscape, all the while providing awesome facilities and trails for us to host you. Thank you Steyn City for your vision, and for welcoming the Discovery 947 Ride Joburg so warmly.

To our loyal participants, who trust us year on year to produce this magnificent event, thank you. To our 111 23-year riders – I applaud you! You have seen all iterations of the route, venues and sponsors, and you have enjoyed Joburg on your bicycle in every way.

Here's to a safe and enjoyable ride to all!

Race Director - Tanya Harford



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# Ride Joburg route

## What to look forward to

In 2018, a radical change was made to the now well-known route of Joburg's biggest race, the 947 Cycle Challenge: the route was flipped! Now, with a new name, Discovery 947 Ride Joburg, the route remains flipped and fabulous.

At first, the buzz about the change had some apprehension behind it, but it soon became more enthused. Many a rider did dry runs of sections of the flipped route, created Strava segments and reviewed climbs with other cyclists over weekend coffee rides. But the proof was in the pudding for all participants on race day! With the bulk of the climbs coming early on, and the most challenging of them mostly done by the halfway mark (as you pass Wits University on the M1 South), there was a whole new dynamic within both the licensed racing bunches and within the bulk of the field. The strategy had to change. You had to be fresh at the beginning, giving a lot to get through the first 1 000m of climbing within 45km! But – you also had to keep something in the tank for the few little stings in the last half, including the magnificent Kyalami Grand Prix Circuit and Blue Hills. Here are some learnings and considerations to take to heart while preparing for your ride:

### A STRONG START

The initial 20km following Waterpoint 2 sees the bunches settling to take on the main altitude, gaining trek to town. Get settled and work with your bunch to maximise the time you can make up without emptying the tanks too much. Homestead up to Waterpoint 3 is of particular interest to strong riders wanting to move up through a few groups. This road presents a tough challenge to those who went out too hard in the beginning, but if the fitness is there, the opportunities abound.

### THE BIG CLIMBS

The real racing and where the top dogs will show their mettle will be on the double whammy: Hyde Park and the Zoo climb (known to the regular early morning Joburg club cyclists).





Hyde Park suits the strong all-rounder cyclist who has a kick. The climb is steady but rolls nicely till the last bit up to Hyde Park, when it kicks really hard. Your legs may be screaming for a rest, but so will everyone else's! After Waterpoint 4, the steeper and more brutal Zoo climb on Jan Smuts awaits. With a similar profile but over a shorter distance means you can expect a greater gradient. This requires hanging onto your pace and proving your grit!

The effort to halfway will feel like you have done the whole 94.7km, but that's why you need to maximise the personal best time opportunity. Take comfort in knowing you've done the bulk of the hard yards, and start to settle in and enjoy the last half.

### **FREEWHEELING**

The reward is now for the taking. Get together with the other riders and make the most of the slipstreaming advantage as you head down the M1 at 40 to 50km/h with the wind in your hair! Take every opportunity to catch your breath because although most of the climbing is done, a few stings remain for your legs to deal with.



### **HOME STRETCH**

Kyalami Grand Prix Circuit is short, silky smooth and has two vicious little climbs that will bite you if you don't manage them properly. Expect to climb out from Kyalami on the R55 with naught but a quick glance at the breath-taking scenery of the Blue Hills area. The final approach is a site to behold: Riversands Commercial Park in all its glory waiting to welcome you home!

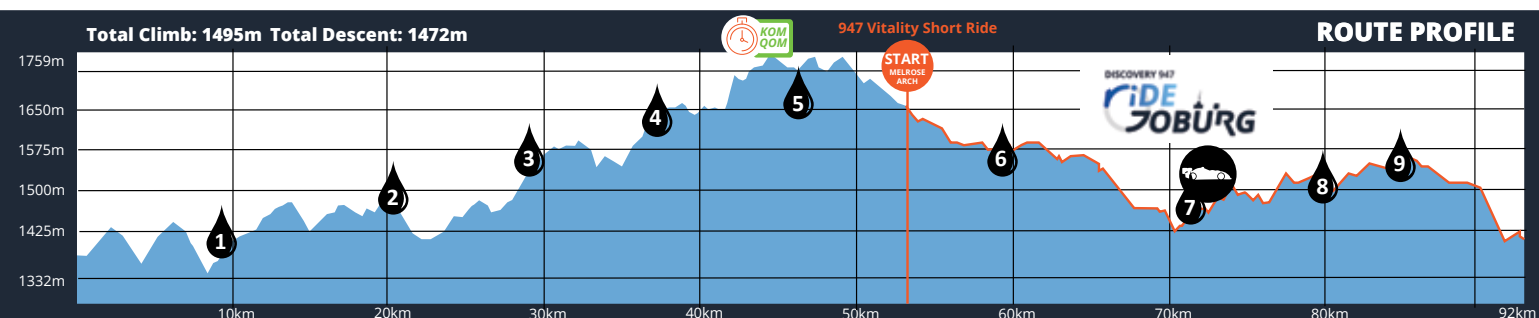


The Discovery 947 Ride Joburg is all about getting people to move more and make the most of traffic-free city streets for a day. The event is proudly hosted by the City of Joburg and will take place at Riversands Commercial Park on Sunday 17 November.

# Ride Joburg

Route profile and cut-offs

## Route profile



## Cut-off times

	Point on route	Distance	Time
	1st Water Point on Cedar Rd	8,00	9:47
A	2nd Water Point on Witkoppen Rd	21,00	10:39
B	3rd Water Point on Bram Fischer Rd	29,00	11:19
C	Hyde Park Corner on Jan Smuts Ave	35,00	11:49
	4th Water Point at Rosebank - 7th Ave	37,00	11:59
D	Jan Smuts Ave and St Andrews Rd (Short Cut)	41,90	12:24
	5th Water Point on M1 South at Empire Rd	46,50	12:42
E	6th Water Point on M1 South at Marlboro Rd	58,00	13:28
F	7th Water Point at KGPC (Short Cut)	70,00	14:16
G	R55 and Kyalami Blvd (Business Park)	75,60	14:38
	8th Water Point at R55 and Mimosa Rd	80,00	14:56
	9th Water Point at Summit Rd and London Rd	84,00	15:12

\*details subject to change



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It's also the club with the best perks, as we strive to reward our members for getting active and making exercise a part of their daily lives. With hundreds of events on the Team Vitality race calendar, our members stay active all year long – and get rewarded for doing so – by getting **50% cash back** on race entry fees, premium quality running and cycling kit, exclusive access to our expert workshops, podcasts and newsletters which are jam packed with tips and tricks to help you strive for your new personal bests.

**Team Vitality** runners and cyclists also enjoy the best in **VIP hospitality**. It's a great place to relax and recover after a race event and to interact with the Team Vitality community, while enjoying an array of post-recovery refreshments.

**Whatever your move – move more** with **Team Vitality** and experience the joy of exercising with the support of a strong, passionate community.



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50% cash back on other  
race events on our  
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Access to VIP hospitality



Visit **discovery.co.za** for more information.



# Ride Joburg 2018 in pictures







# Road safety tips



There are areas along the route where cyclists must take extra care. The route teams will mark hazards and warnings of hazards in yellow paint or yellow tape. We urge you to remain alert during your race, especially in the following areas:



**2km: Speed bumps in Steyn City**



**8.5km: Left turn onto R114, uneven tar surface**



**12.5km: Rumble strips on Malibongwe Rd**



**20km: Witkoppen Rd at Prichard Rd, uneven tar surface**



**24.8km: Sharp left turn on Moray Ave**



**26.3km: Raised tar on Cumberland Ave**



**44.4km: Sharp right turn onto M1 South**



**83km: Rumble strips on Summit Rd**



**87.6km: Fast downhill on Mnandi Rd, uneven tar surface**



**91km: harp left turn into Riversands Blvd, uneven tar surface**







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# Riversands Commercial Park

Offering both commercial and residential components

A Century Property Developments' estate is synonymous with unsurpassed lifestyle facilities. This is evident from all the high-end residential developments where investors build their dream homes. This philosophy can now be experienced at all of Century's rental developments too, and nowhere is this more evident than at Riversands Commercial Park. The Parks Lifestyle Apartments @ Riversands is the sought-after residential apartments within this area and the Riversands Outlet Park follows suit by raising the benchmark for corporate showrooms and warehousing.

**The Parks Lifestyle Apartments enjoy free uncapped internet which includes their monthly Showmax subscription**

The apartment-rental market has entered a new era that is defined by value added benefits and great value for money. Lifestyle is key – and no-one does it better than Century Property developments. Traditionally, this property developer was seen to only develop high-end residential developments, such as Waterfall Estates in Midrand. In recent years, they have widened their portfolio to offer corporate rentals as well as residential rental opportunities on a wide platform of options – ranging from studio apartments (33m<sup>2</sup>) to three bedroom garden apartments (74m<sup>2</sup>) with pricing from R3,980pm to R9,000pm. Century Property



developments' intensive market research allows for these units to have luxury fittings and finishes, be larger than the average apartment in the same area, all at an extremely competitive price range.

But that is not the revolutionary concept. Century Property Developments have made a conscious effort to bring a distinctive lifestyle offering to these apartment developments without escalating the price range that these units fall under. For example; tenants at The Parks Lifestyle Apartments enjoy free uncapped internet which includes their monthly Showmax subscription. Apart from this offering, Century Property Developments also provide residents with weekly classes, such as free hip-hop dancing on Mondays, free Tennis coaching on Tuesdays,





free arts-and-crafts classes for children on Thursdays and free boot-camp sessions on Saturday mornings. In December 2019, the colossal lifestyle hub will open its doors, giving residents access to a comprehensive double-storey gym, a wellness spa, an executive lounge with boardrooms, a family restaurant, a cinema and even a games room.

**Roaming guards patrol the entire development to monitor the inside as well as the outer perimeter of these developments.**

The Riversands Outlet Park offer a functional space for storage, warehousing or manufacturing, as well as a showroom out of which to trade. Phase one of this development is nearing completion, and is already more than 60% let – illustrating the demand for this unique product.



Units range from 350m<sup>2</sup> to 3000m<sup>2</sup> and the office suites are completely customisable. Seeing as Century is synonymous with unmatched lifestyles in all their developments, occupants of this Outlet Park will enjoy the benefit of a tenant centre with restaurant, boardrooms and free WiFi.

With both of these Riversands developments an on-site maintenance team is on-duty on a permanent basis, to ensure all maintenance issues are taken care of. This could range from the simplest of tasks, to more complicated projects. There is also a permanent garden maintenance team that consist of landscapers and horticulturalists. It reinforces

the benefit of renting a property as opposed to private ownership, where the occupant would be responsible for these mundane tasks. Security at these developments are also implemented at the highest levels to ensure everyone's safety. A well-lit, high boundary wall that is topped with electric fencing stretches all the way around the developments to the main entrance where access control is monitored 24 hours a day. Roaming guards patrol the entire development to monitor the inside as well as the outer perimeter of these developments.



The rentals consultants for The Parks Lifestyle Apartments are Joy (066 471 9818), Thato (063 693 3201) and Sphiwe (066 477 8831). They are available 7 days a week from 9am till 5pm.

Alternatively, more information can be found on the website [www.houss.co.za](http://www.houss.co.za)

The rental consultant for Riversands Outlet Park is Nick Garden (066 477 8955) and he is available Monday to Friday from 9am until 5pm.

Alternatively, more information can be found on the Commercial section of the website [www.century.co.za](http://www.century.co.za)





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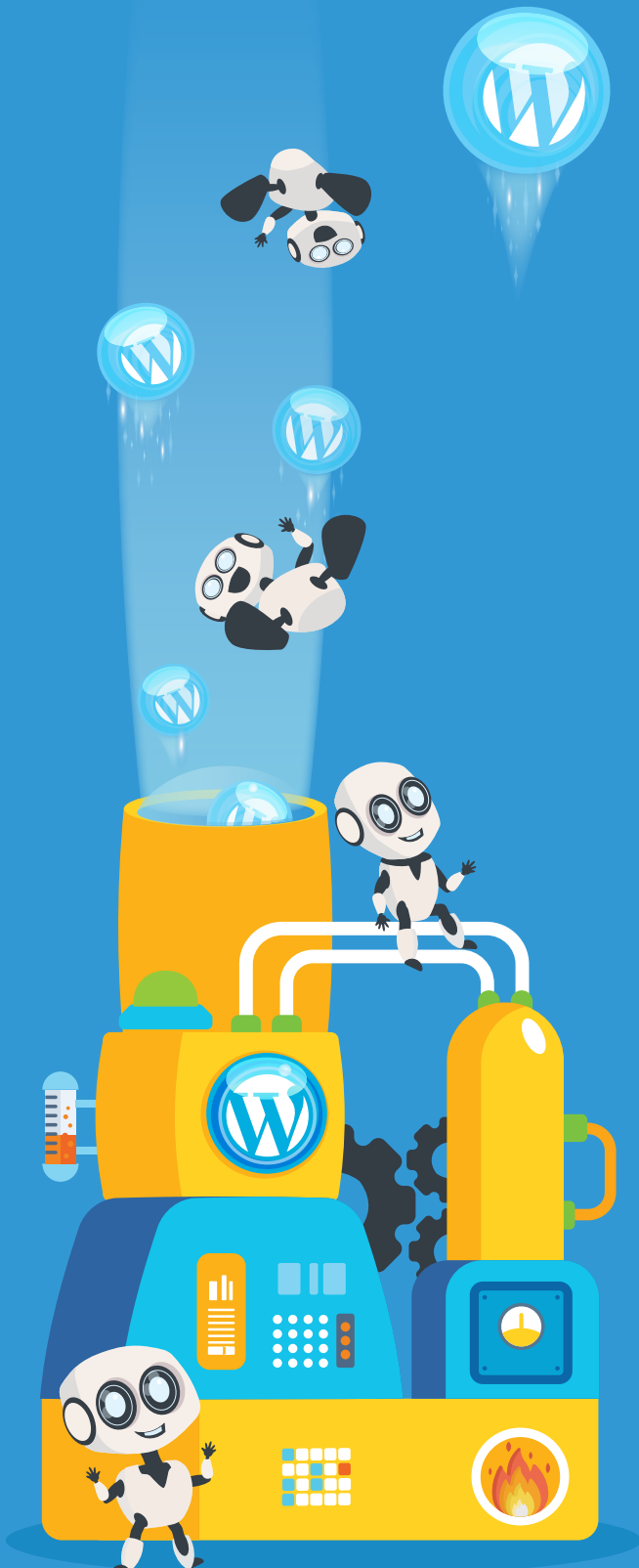
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# Ride Joburg MTB

Is mountain biking for you? Give it a shot to find out!

Mountain biking is a refreshingly different discipline of cycling. While road cycling can seem colour-coded, fastidious and A-type, mountain biking is the 'wild kid on the block'.

Riding off-road, on hand-cut tracks, man-made bridges, and through water crossings offers a sense of freedom and childishness that can become rarer as we grow up. The adrenaline rush as you descend a purpose-built section with berms, turns and drop-offs can give you a sense of joy unmatched by road cycling.

This year, the Discovery 947 Ride Joburg MTB and Kids Ride weekend has changed venue to offer exciting new terrain. Starting and finishing in Steyn City has allowed the route designers and builders to invest time and resources into building sustainable trails that will ultimately be utilised by the residents of the estate.



For the first time, the 25km riders will get to experience riding in Steyn City, with a good mix of both single tracks, climbs and some golf-cart tracks, with a short foray into the untamed and rugged Helderfontein Estate just outside Steyn City.

The 55km route mixes it up well, using some beautiful cultivated trails from previous years, along with some new, purpose-built sections before heading out through Heron Bridge College and into Northern Farm, forming a now-famed reverse-traverse through the much-loved mountain bike heaven.



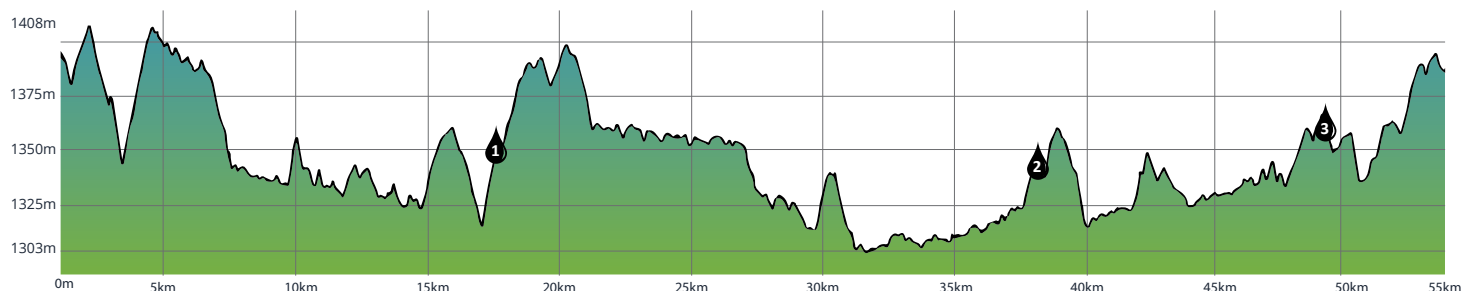
The 10km route, seen as the introduction to the fun side of cycling, is made up of some of the best sections Steyn City has to offer, including some bridges, a single track and the soon-to-be-discovered flowing 'river run'. This route is sure to win you over to the thrills of mountain biking, but if not, don't let that deter you from moving more – try out a spinning class instead!



# Profiles

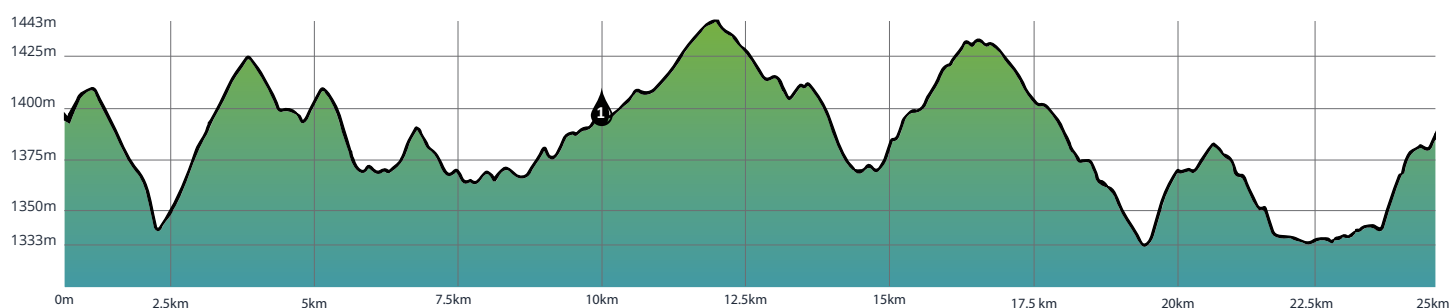
## 55km

Elevation Gain: 750m



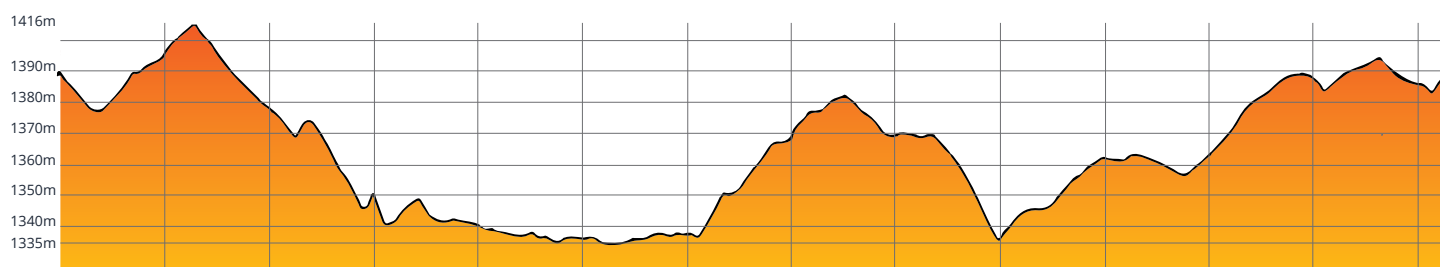
## 25km

Elevation Gain: 440m



## 10km

Elevation Gain: 180m



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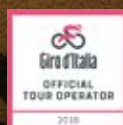
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# ASG Guardians

Helping angels along the route

In 2017, a group of very kind individuals put their hands up to be 'guardian angels' to the final four groups starting in what was then the 947 Cycle Challenge. Creating a big stir by helping, encouraging, and even pushing some back markers, they have now become a staple in making many a rider's day, and helping them to the finish line.

For two years, this group of individuals were known as the Trek Troopers, and while we wave goodbye to Trek, we say a big thank you to them for their vision in supporting us in starting this project. In 2019, we welcome to the Discovery 947 Ride

Joburg the "ASG Guardians". This group of 25 riders will continue the legacy that we have built around shepherding riders to the finish line, encouraging and helping where they can. Look out for them on the road, shake their hands, give them a pat on the back – they are true heroes.

Thank you to ASG for kitting them out, and making them stand out in the sea of cyclists with their bright suave FTECH kit, and thank you to each and every ASG Guardian that is contributing to the immense camaraderie that makes this event so special.



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DISCOVERY 947

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# Your health comes first

Consult your doctor for a check up at least 2 weeks before the race.  
Keep hydrated on the day, do not wait to feel thirsty.

**Seek immediate medical attention if you feel any of the following symptoms:**

- > Extreme Fatigue
- > Fainting or lightheadedness
- > Pain in shoulders, neck, jaw or arms
- > Nausea
- > Sweating (hot flash or night sweats feeling)
- > Shortness of breath with or without chest pain
- > Chest pressure, tightness or heaviness



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# Tips for newbies

- 01 Be accustomed to group riding
- 02 Not sure what to wear? Get to the Expo and check out the Official Merchandise stand
- 03 Check your bike over (brakes, tyres, chain lubed)
- 04 Pack your gear the night before
- 05 Prepare your water bottles and the food you like
- 06 Practice your eating plans for race day on training rides
- 07 Do a gentle ride the day before. Join us at the Twitter Ride on Saturday
- 08 Always eat breakfast
- 09 Get to the venue early with an hour and a half to spare
- 10 Set your target, set your goal time for the day.
- 11 HAVE FUN!



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- 1 Relieves pain
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#### References:

1. Zacher J et al. 2008. Topical diclofenac and its role in pain and inflammation: an evidence based review. *Current Medical Research & Opinion*. Vol 24. No 4 (925-950).

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# Twitter Ride

## Taking on the Twitter Ride

The Twitter Ride was born out of an idea to share with the Twitterverse a ride plan and then invite all and sundry and have a casual ride together. Not everyone who has put out this call anticipates the volume of interested riders and the impact it may have on local traffic, but we do!

Our Twitter Ride started in 2011 and it's now become known as the official-unofficial warm up to the big day on Sunday. The event allows all participants a rare chance for a coffee-ride pace leg-warmer in the company of some big cycling names.

Over the years, we have had some very well-known international riders join us, including Dan Martin, Russ & Dean Downing, Yanto Barker, Chris Froome, Phil Liggett, Stephen Roche, Geraint Thomas, Marianne Vos, the late Sharon Laws, Lotto Lepisto,

Vita Heine, as well as a host of local pro's too.

It gives us great joy to welcome back two great friends of Ride Joburg, current SA Road Champions Daryl Impey and Ashleigh Moolman-Pasio.

With superb rolling road closures – a true rarity in Joburg – the Twitter Ride will offer you the run of the road. You'll also get to end off with the much-loved tradition of coffee and a muffin at the finish, coupled with a chance for a selfie with our incredible athletes and SA champions.

**So if you're able to ride 40km in 1 hour and 45 minutes, join us on Saturday 16 November at the Ticketpro Dome, and – you guessed it – all the details are available on Twitter!**

## Twitter Ride through the years



2011



2012



2013



2014



2015



2016



2017



2018





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# Kids Ride

Officially Joburg's cutest cycle event

Officially Joburg's cutest cycle event, the Discovery 947 Ride Joburg Kids Ride is being hosted in Steyn City for the first time in 2019.

Situated on 2 000 acres between Fourways, Lanseria and Midrand, with 45km of pedestrian paths and walkways, Steyn City offers a completely new way of accessing nature. While we'll just be using a small portion of these trails for the Kids Ride, the surrounding greenery and parks will be sure to nurture your little one's soul while they tackle the biggest race of their year.

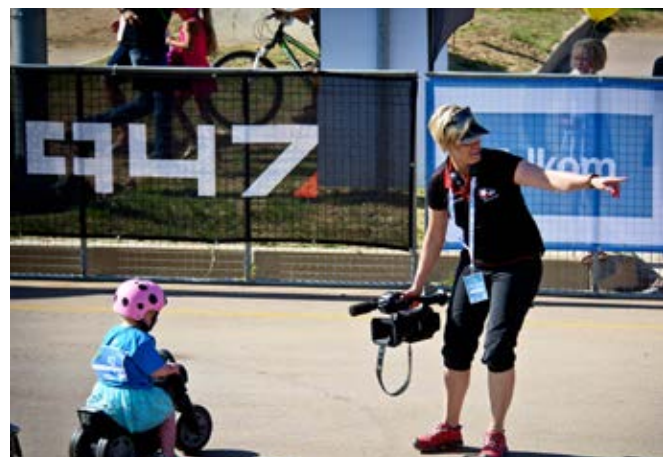
Long seen as the introduction to cycling, the Kids Ride has paved the way to many a little one's dreams of tackling the world by bike. Offering a safe and fun ride to those between 2 and 10 years, the Kids Ride is an annual highlight that encourages kids to get active outdoors and boosts both their gross motor skills and their confidence.

According to the Child Development Institute, riding a bike has a host of benefits: "Cycling will help your child develop their leg muscles and strengthen their bones. The continued exercise will help to build their stamina and improve their cardiovascular development. It will also increase their coordination and balance."

"Most kids want to learn to ride a bike, and it's an easy way to get them into the fresh air and exercising, but cycling could also have more than the obvious physical benefits. It takes time to learn to ride, and the persistence they'll need to succeed will stand them in good stead for learning other difficult skills later in life."

"The experience gives parents a concrete example to refer to when kids need a little encouragement to keep going, and the sense of achievement and increased confidence kids will gain the first time they cycle by themselves is hard to find elsewhere."

So, help instil healthy habits in your bring your young ones, introduce them to a world of joy, confidence and health, all while having the most fun!







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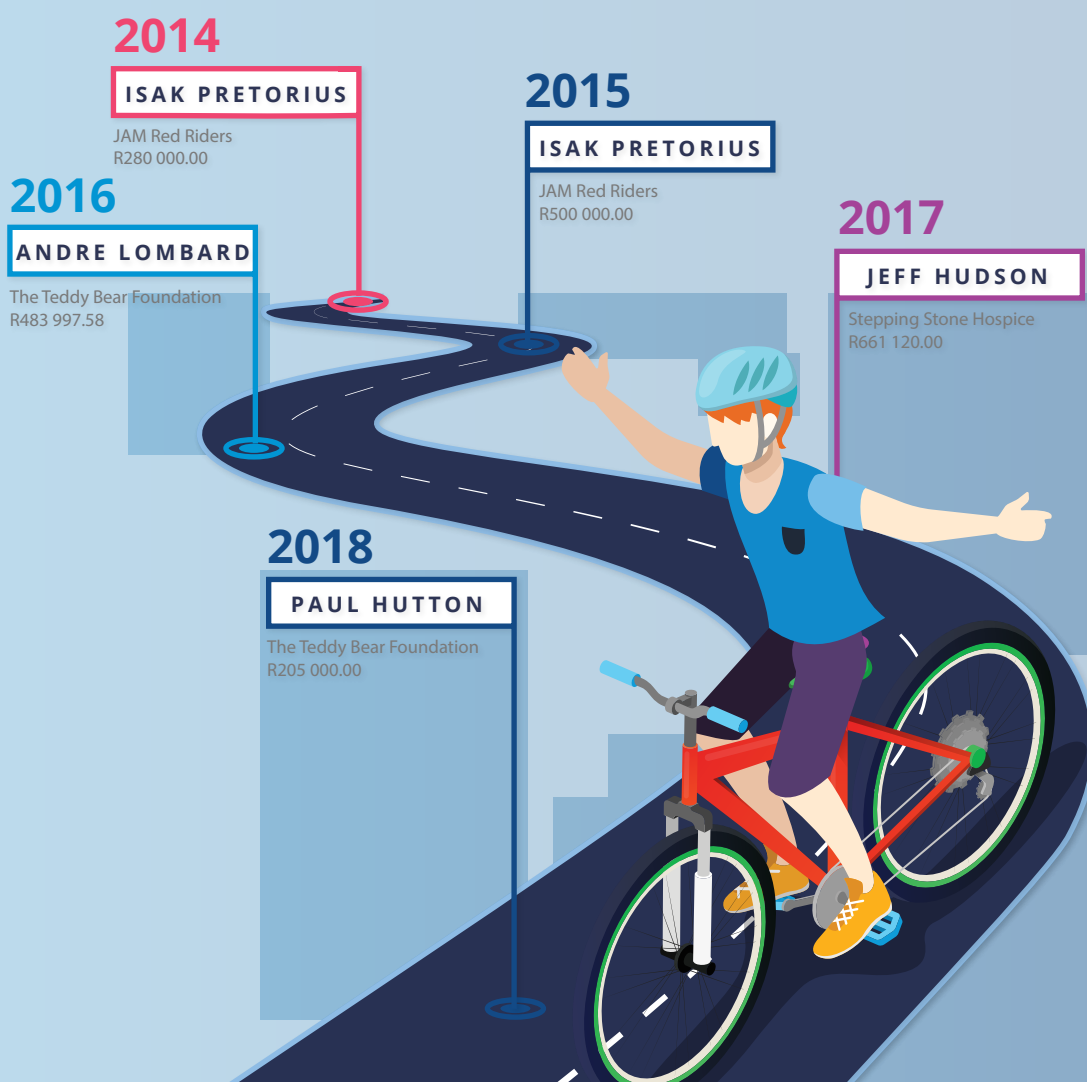




# Ride for a Purpose



## Charity jersey winners





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# Past winners


## Women

2000	South Africa	Mari Rogers (RSA)
2001	South Africa	Mari Rogers (RSA)
2002	South Africa	Wanda Ariano (RSA)
2003	Namibia	Elsa Karsten (NAM)
2004	South Africa	Samantha Bounds (RSA)
2005	South Africa	Lisa Vermaak (RSA)
2006	South Africa	Yolandi du Toit (RSA)
2007	South Africa	Joanna Hotchkiss (RSA)
2008	South Africa	Anriëtte Schoeman (RSA)
2009	South Africa	Joanna Van De Winkel (RSA)
2010	South Africa	Cherise Taylor (RSA)
2011	South Africa	Ashleigh Moolman-Pasio (RSA)
2012	United Kingdom	Sharon Laws (GBR)
2013	South Africa	Ashleigh Moolman-Pasio (RSA)
2014	Netherlands	Marianne Vos (NLD)
2015	South Africa	Ashleigh Moolman-Pasio (RSA)
2016	South Africa	Charlotte Bekker (RSA)
2017	South Africa	Ashleigh Moolman-Pasio (RSA)
2018	South Africa	Carla Oberholzer (RSA)

## Men

1997	South Africa	Nicholas White (RSA)
1998	South Africa	Ryan Cox (RSA)
1999	South Africa	Robert Hunter (RSA)
2000	South Africa	Malcolm Lange (RSA)
2001	South Africa	Malcolm Lange (RSA)
2002	South Africa	Daniel Spence (RSA)
2003	South Africa	Ian McLeod (RSA)
2004	South Africa	Chris Frankiskos (RSA)
2005	South Africa	Darren Lill (RSA)
2006	Slovakia	Martin Velits (SVK)
2007	South Africa	Herman Fouche (RSA)
2008	South Africa	Malcolm Lange (RSA)
2009	South Africa	Arran Brown (RSA)
2010	South Africa	Nicholas White (RSA)
2011	South Africa	Arran Brown (RSA)
2012	South Africa	Reinardt Janse van Rensburg (RSA)
2013	South Africa	Willie Smit (RSA)
2014	South Africa	Till Drobisch (RSA)
2015	South Africa	Stephan Jaco De Bod (RSA)
2016	South Africa	Brendon Davids (RSA)
2017	South Africa	Daryl Impey (RSA)
2018	South Africa	Brandon Downes (RSA)

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# eBikes

Are eBikes allowed in Discovery 947 cycle events – and when?

If you ride, you probably have an opinion about ebikes. While their use is controversial, they have certainly been flying off the shelves, with sales over the last few years surpassing expectations and large amounts of research and development going into fine-tuning the technology.

As an event, the Discovery 947 Ride Joburg has had an eye on this trend for some time. Back in 2017, we conducted an ebike experiment to see if we could safely integrate ebikes into an event that truly is

‘everyone’s race’. Interesting feedback was collected from that year, in both the mountain bike and road events, which allowed us to create a system of seeding people to safely participate in the 94.7km road event in 2018.

The biggest concern from most people is the perception that ebike riders are ‘taking the easy way out’ and that unless you’ve done the event under your ‘own steam’, it’s somehow diminished. Feedback from our graduating class of ebikers tells a different story.

Age and health being the biggest reasons for people participating in ebikes. The ebike this option gave 48 people the chance to complete their ride last year, while still putting in a good and commendable effort – and when the goal is merely to move more for both better health and pure enjoyment or recreation, there is nothing wrong with that.

It goes without saying that ebike riders may not participate in the licensed categories in the Discovery 947 Ride Joburg, but they are certainly welcome in the open groups.

While the experiment carried out in 2017 did in fact have a participating eMTB, there are concerns around the volume of riders on a significantly narrower trail than what the road event offers, coupled with a high volume of riders and varying skill levels. For these reasons, no eMTB rides are allowed in the MTB events.



Only you can decide which route will be your goal. You can choose to share it with friends - or savor it alone. Your choices matter. Because in the end, they will determine how far you will go. Enjoy your ride.

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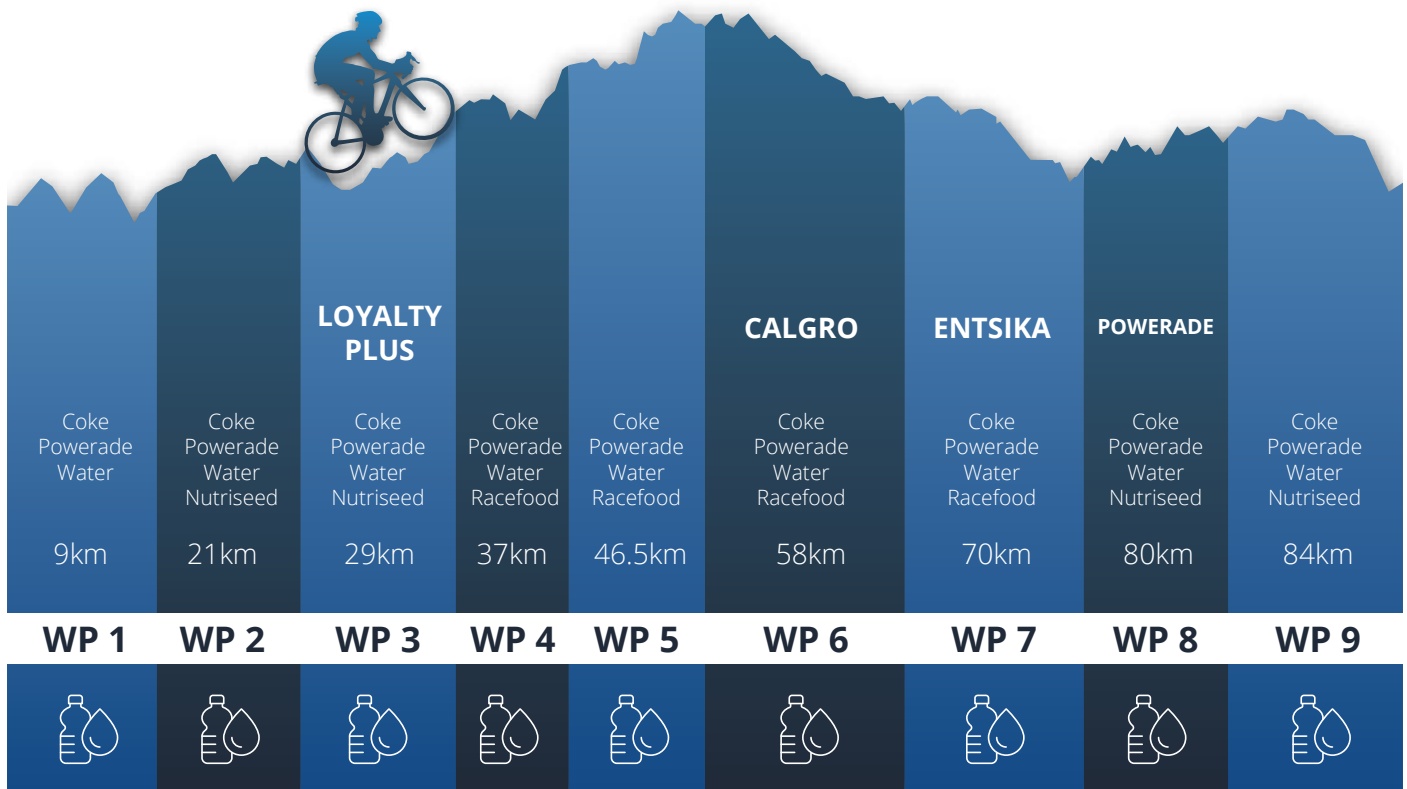
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