

TOUR OF BRITAIN



9 SEPTEMBER

BACK ON DARTMOOR

By Andrew Watson Head of Recreation and Access, Dartmoor National Park



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Cycling fans are in for a real treat when the Tour of Britain makes a return to Dartmoor National Park on Friday 9 September. After a year's absence from The Tour, the Devon Stage is back for a ninth time in ten years, with what is anticipated to be another challenging stage including the race's only summit finish this year – a six kilometre ascent of Haytor. The Tour of Britain attracts some of the world's top riders and teams including Olympic and World Champions and Tour de France stage winners. The riders will take on the 150km race starting from East Devon's Jurassic Coast at Sidmouth, through the Devon countryside before entering the National Park at Whiddon Down. The route then travels along the A382 through Moretonhampstead and on to Dunsford before returning via Haldon and Chudleigh. From Chudleigh the race continues through the centre of Bovey Tracey before finishing with a gruelling six kilometre climb of Haytor, the only summit finish of this year's Tour.

With over 3,000 metres of climbing and fast descents on Devon's narrow roads, this race promises to be a great spectator stage and one not to miss! This year's stage is almost a repeat of the thrilling stage in 2013 between the two locations, when Haytor became the first ever summit finish of the modern Tour of Britain.

The Devon stage of the Tour of Britain is hosted by Devon County Council and Dartmoor National Park is working closely with the County Council, Teignbridge District Council, local communities and other agencies



PHOTOGRAPH © NICK DORMOR

FACT FILE

- 120 riders
- 152.7 km stage
- 3,101 metres of climbing
- Broadcast to 120 countries worldwide
- £5.9m additional spend into local economy (2013)
- Haytor was the first summit finish in the UK

USEFUL WEBSITES

- www.dartmoor.gov.uk
- www.devontourofbritain.co.uk
- www.visitdartmoor.co.uk

to plan for another successful event this year. Hosting a summit finish at Haytor is not without its challenges, with large crowds expected to return this September to watch up to 120 elite riders race to the summit of Haytor.

Due to the nature of the event, road closures will be in place on the day between Hemsworth Gate, and Bovey Tracey with no vehicular access for the public to Haytor. Spectators will be able to use dedicated Park and Ride facilities running regularly from Bovey Tracey and Holwell Down.

Dartmoor National Park Authority is advising those wishing to go to Haytor to allow plenty of time for their journey and to either cycle there or use the park and ride facilities. There will be lots of cycling related activities and things to keep spectators occupied during the morning, including a "Promo Zone" with local food and refreshments and local schools competing in a Hill Climb Challenge.

Camping is not permitted anywhere on Haytor and campers are advised to check the Visit Dartmoor website for accommodation providers, including camp sites.

With extensive TV coverage, broadcast to over 120 countries, The Tour of Britain provides a fantastic opportunity to showcase Dartmoor with its stunning landscape and breathtaking views to a worldwide audience. And if serious road cycling isn't your thing, then Dartmoor National Park has everything you could wish for, from traffic free trails including the Granite Way, Drakes Trail, Princetown Railway and Wray Valley Trail, to quiet forest tracks, challenging bridleways and historic rural lanes to enjoy at your own pace. ■



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