

Santos TOUR DOWN UNDER



JULY 17, 2025

EXCITING NEW STAGES FOR 2026 SANTOS TOUR DOWN UNDER

The 2026 Santos Tour Down Under (TDU) race routes have been described as the most exciting ever, with the return of an inner-city prologue, double the fireworks up Corkscrew Road, a triple treat on Willunga Hill and final day showdown in Stirling to open the men's and women's UCI WorldTour seasons.

The 10-day Santos Festival of Cycling will begin with a teams presentation in Victoria Square/Tarntanyangga on Friday January 16, followed by the women's race from January 17-19 covering more kilometres than ever, and a revamped men's race from January 20-25.

Further race programming will be confirmed in coming weeks but popular participation rides including the Adelaide Epic, RADL GRVL, Health Partners Family Ride and the Carpark Climb will return with further details to follow, along with the City of Adelaide Tour Village and Bike Expo.

Features of the 2026 women's race include:

- The first time all 15 WorldTeams are set to be on the start line, racing the longest ever women's TDU at 395km.
- A 137km opening stage starting and finishing in Willunga and taking in Port Willunga, McLaren Vale and Aldinga.
- For the first time in history, the peloton will race up the Corkscrew climb twice on a thrilling last day on Hyundai Stage 3.
- Fan-friendly locations Norwood and Magill on the city fringe and picturesque Willunga to host stage starts for the first time.

Features of the 2026 men's race include:

- A 3.6km twilight prologue taking riders from the heart of the CBD to Victoria Park.

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- Idyllic seaside suburb Henley Beach hosting a stage start and the Mount Barker Council town of Nairne hosting a stage finish – both for the first time with Ziptrak Stage 3.
- Two ascensions of the fan-friendly Corkscrew on Health Partners Stage 2.
- Riders tackling the iconic Willunga Hill climb three times on the queen stage THINK! Road Safety Stage 4 and penultimate day.
- A thrilling finale in Stirling for efex Stage 5 to test the peloton over eight laps of an undulating 21km circuit.

Quotes attributable to Santos Tour Down Under Race Director Stuart O’Grady:

“Next year’s race routes look like the most exciting we’ve ever had, based on a number of changes we believe will make for more entertaining racing.

“Feedback from men’s teams was they wanted a more attacking race, so we have brought the prologue back which creates an opportunity for riders targeting the ochre jersey to take time from the very first day.

“And I’m sure the atmosphere from the city to Victoria Park will rival any time trial anywhere in the world.

“We’ve also added some new challenges like two climbs up Corkscrew Road that will be a real GC shaker, and the final day has moved from a sprint-friendly stage in the city to a really hard circuit around Stirling where anything could happen.

“The peloton will do eight laps of a 21km circuit with plenty of short, punchy climbs which means the race for the ochre jersey could go down to the very last kilometre.”

Quotes attributable to Santos Tour Down Under Assistant Race Director Carlee Taylor:

“The level of women’s racing at the TDU continues to improve every year, and like the men, the feedback from riders and teams has been they want longer and harder stages.

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“So from day one of the season we start with our longest ever women’s stage with 137km in Willunga which will be a great spectacle.

“Health Partners Stage 2 is our first ever start in Magill followed by an uphill finish in Paracombe which is sure to create some fireworks and suit the all-rounders.

“But the most exciting addition to the race is Hyundai Stage 3 which starts in Norwood for the first time and includes two climbs up Corkscrew Road, the second ascent coming 5km before the finish in Campbelltown so we expect that to be very popular among spectators and the riders.”

Quotes attributable to City of Charles Sturt Mayor Angela Evans:

“Our City is known for its beautiful coastline and our support of sport and recreation for all. We can’t wait to share this world-class event with our community.

“The Santos Tour Down Under is the biggest cycling race in the southern hemisphere and this is an opportunity to showcase our wonderful City on a national and international stage.”

SANTOS TOUR DOWN UNDER WOMEN’S RACE:

Ziptrak Stage 1: Willunga to Willunga (137.4km), Saturday, January 17

Health Partners Stage 2: Magill to Paracombe (130.7km), Sunday, January 18

Hyundai Stage 3: Norwood to Campbelltown (126.5km), Monday, January 19

SANTOS TOUR DOWN UNDER MEN’S RACE:

PROLOGUE: Adelaide (3.6km), Tuesday, January 20

Stage 1: Tanunda to Tanunda (120.6km), Wednesday, January 21

Health Partners Stage 2: Norwood to Uraidla (148.1km), Thursday, January 22

Ziptrak Stage 3: Henley Beach to Nairne (140.8km), Friday, January 23

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THINK! Road Safety Stage 4: Brighton to Willunga Hill (176km), Saturday, January 24

efex Stage 5: Stirling to Stirling (169.8km), Sunday, January 25

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