

# Spectators Notes Tour of Britain 2022

The Tour of Britain is an 8 stage professional cycle race that crosses the UK every September. Live coverage will be on ITV4 and there is a popular highlights programme in the evening. The race is broadcast to over 150 countries around the world.

The race is free to watch at any point along its length.

The race starts at 11am in Aberdeen and is expected to finish at Glenshee Ski Centre around 3.30pm.

The route and timings can be found [here](#). Please note that these timings are estimated and can vary greatly depending on the weather and team tactics.

It is possible to watch the race anywhere on its route but the places outlined below offer some of the best places.

If you are driving to spectate please do not park on the course.

Do not stand on the road or lean out into the road to take photos when the race passes by and ensure other spectators around you are not on the course. Cyclists will use the full width of the road and travel at high speed.

Please ensure children and dogs are supervised and away from the road.

A map showing the location of public toilets can be viewed [here](#)

A list of car parks can be viewed [here](#)

## Places to watch

### **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**

The excitement will begin on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September with the Getabout Aberdeen Cycling Festival with a day of cycling activities including the Scottish Criterium Championships where the very best of Scottish talent will be on display. Activities will be based on a loop taking in Union Street and Union Terrace and more detail can be found [here](#).

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September**

#### **Aberdeen**

Stage 1 of the Tour of Britain starts at 11am in Aberdeen on Union Street close to Union Terrace. This stage, known as the Grand Depart, is sponsored by TotalEnergies. The race can also be seen on the Beach Esplanade as it begins its journey to Glenshee Ski Centre.

## **Inverurie**

The first sprint takes place at Blackhall Road in Inverurie and there will be additional activity for spectators at an event in front of Inverurie Town Hall from 10am to 2pm. This event is provided by Inverurie Events, a local group.

There are a range of facilities and shops making Inverurie an ideal place to spectate, most shops and cafes will be open from 11am to 4pm at least on the day. Additional free parking is available at Gordon House, at the Westfield Road overflow car park not far from Blackhall Road and accessed via Victoria Street/Westfield Road, and all parking in Inverurie Town Centre is free on Sundays.

Free 'Protected' Cycle Parking will be available in The Kellas Partnership Car Park on High Street.

## **Bennachie**

The first King of the Mountain climb is found between Chapel of Garioch and Blairdaff close to the entrance of the Bennachie Visitor Centre. Paid for parking is available at the Bennachie visitor centre but if the car park is full, spectators should not park on the roadsides and find a different location to spectate.

## **My Lord's Throat**

The second KoM is soon after the first at My Lord's Throat. This is a narrow road and parking is limited and we are therefore asking spectators not to drive this section. Spectators on bikes are encouraged.

## **Suie Hill and Clatt**

The third KoM climb is up the steep northern side of Suie Hill. This spot is expected to be a popular spectating spot. Parking at the summit is limited and we recommend people use parking which will be provided by the Clatt community association. Parking is available at Clatt Village Hall and in a field at the bottom of Suie Hill on the North side. Car parking is £3 (cash only) with proceeds going to the Clatt Community. There will also be a barbecue at Clatt Village Hall approximately 1pm to 3pm and spectators are welcome.

## **Alford**

As the Tour of Britain descends from the pivotal climb of The Suie, it will enter Alford past Haughton Country Park towards Montgarrie Road where the riders will contest the second sprint section of Stage 1, a short distance from one of the area's most recognisable tourist attractions at the Grampian Transport Museum. Before and after the stage passes and as part of the "Cycle Aberdeenshire" programme, the museum will be hosting a number of cycling related activities, with families able to book a session on the outdoor track and bring their bikes with them for a safe and

traffic free ride. In addition, the museum holds a fine collection of bicycles from across the last century and beyond and that option will be combined with Live Life Aberdeenshire's Outdoor attractions being available, as the outdoor cycle track and climbing wall will be available free of charge. As always the museum's wide and varied displays and activities, junior driving school, gift shop and tea room at the Grampian Transport Museum will provide an amazing base to take in Stage 1 of the Tour of Britain.

With parking available at the Grampian Transport Museum and Houghton Park, additional parking is also available at the [Alford Community Campus](#) which is a short walk from the village centre and local amenities.

### **Tarland**

The race will come through the village centre at Tarland. Street parking is available but please ensure you park away from the course and are considerate to residents.

### **Ballater**

The final sprint stage before the finish is in Ballater on Tulloch Road. Ballater has a wide range of shops and facilities and is a great place to watch the race.

### **Braemar**

The race goes past Braemar before heading up to Glenshee. Braemar has a range of shops and facilities. Please allow ample time to get to Braemar if you plan to watch.

For cyclists wishing to park their cars in Braemar and cycle to the finish, there is free car parking in the field (the same one used for Braemar Games parking) as you enter the village before the petrol station.

### **Glenshee**

#### **Please be aware that parking at the finish area is limited and must be purchased in advance**

The finish of Stage 1 is situated at the Glenshee ski centre and the whole race will be broadcast from here live on 2 large screens. With limited availability, parking must be booked if you wish to drive and park at the finish. Tickets can be purchased [here](#). Overnight parking for motorhomes is also available and the café will remain open until 8pm in the evening to serve refreshments. With the race starting in Aberdeen at 11am there is sufficient time for those wishing to watch both the start and finish of the race to watch the start and then travel to Glenshee.

Please note, the road to Glenshee will close at the snow gates on both sides of the hill at 11am. After this time only cars with pre-purchased tickets, displayed correctly in their window shield, will be allowed access. This is to ensure the race route remains clear. Cyclists are not subject to the Glenshee road closure and can continue to use the road until the race convoy arrives. Cyclists are not required to purchase any tickets, and the cycle time from Braemar to Glenshee (15km) is

between 30 minutes – 1 hour and similar from the Spittal of Glenshee to Glenshee ski centre (10km) depending on ability.

Spectators arriving from the Braemar side are advised to pass the snow gates by 1.30pm to ensure they are not held up in any rolling closures and have enough time to park and walk to the finish area (travel time to Glenshee 15 minutes). Spectators with pre-purchased tickets arriving from the South will not be held up in further road closures connected to the race and can arrive anytime, travel time from the Spittal of Glenshee is 10 minutes with a 2 minute walk to the finish area.

Please be aware that the car park is made up of a hardcore surface and care should be taken when parking.

Food and drink will be available at the finish.