

## **The Freedom Ride Joburg 2014: Information Pack**

23 June 2014

### **Let's make Joburg a cycling city**

It's the final countdown to the Freedom Ride taking place on Sunday 20 July 2014. As the organisers we are as excited as we are sure you are about this historic event.

You will be riding through suburbs of Joburg that are rich in heritage and which have a very special place in our history. This ride is very much our 'Madiba moment' as the cycling community.

We also hope to be leaving a more permanent memento of the ride, in the form of a Bicycle Empowerment Centre in Orlando, Soweto. In the build up to this ride the Shova Kulula programme has been distributing bikes to high schools in Orlando and we want to leave these learners with a support facility that can repair and maintain their bikes and promote cycling in all its forms in the community. If you have not already done so, read more about how these centres work on the BEN website: [www.benbikes.org.za](http://www.benbikes.org.za).

### **The weather**

It is winter, but hopefully the prospect of snow is low. Early morning temperatures are cold but we expect it to warm up considerably during the morning. We advise you to bring light layers of clothing that can be removed and carried. Do bring hydration with you, although there will be 3 water points.

### **At the start of the ride**

Please aim to be in place on the Nelson Mandela Bridge by 8.30 am. Parking is supplied for free by the City of Joburg, but there are also a number of commercial parking facilities in Braamfontein that you can use. Cyclists should make their way towards the Nelson Mandela Bridge, where you will be directed onto the off-ramp to the Queen Elizabeth Bridge and round onto the other side of the Nelson Mandela Bridge. There will be a short opening ceremony before the ride starts, at which the Mayor will welcome all of you and talk about how we can make Joburg friendlier for cyclists. We will then set off on our ride. It would be best to enter from the north on Jan Smuts, west along Jorissen and east along Wolmarans. If you're coming from the south, come on the M1 north and take the Braamfontein offramp and then go up Eendracht to Jorissen. Do not drive to the Nelson Mandela or Queen Elizabeth Bridges, they will be closed to traffic. A couple of cafés will be open for coffee and a rider breakfast, including Post on the corner of Juta and de Beer streets.

### **Parking**

1. Thuso House 66 Stiemens Street, no charge

2. Metro Centre, Loveday Street, no charge
3. Arbour Square Parking, 86 Juta Street, R12.00 per vehicle. Better positioned but may be tricky with cyclists around.
4. Parking on the street has proved to be generally safe.

To get to the start, either come down Biccard Street or down de Korte, left into Bertha, left onto Queen Elizabeth Bridge, right into Carr Street and right onto the Nelson Mandela Bridge.

### **The route**

The ride will start and end in Braamfontein and is approximately 35km. From the start in Jorissen Street the route ravel west along a planned bicycle lane that goes through Brixton. The route then follows the route of the Rea Vaya bus and one of JHB's Corridors of Freedom. It goes past Newclare Cemetery where Walter Sisulu, another struggle icon and one of Mandela's fellow freedom fighters, is buried. The route carries on straight into Soweto, and passes the historic Orlando Stadium, then along Vilakazi St, past the Tutu and Mandela houses and the Hector Pieteron memorial, before returning up Klipspruit Valley Rd. It then returns to the JHB CBD via the N17, Nasrec Rd, Mayfair and Fordsburg. The ride ends on the Nelson Mandela Bridge.

### **Safety on the ride**

This is a social ride, not a race, but we still need to take some basic precautions. For your own safety, we insist that all riders wear helmets. Also, in case of emergency, please make sure that you are carrying some form of identification on you. Please also put an ICE (in case of emergency) number in your cell phone contacts so that we know whom to contact. If you have a cell phone that automatically locks, please put an ICE number on a sticker and put it on your phone or bike. You could also put identification on your bicycle.

### **Support facilities**

There will be a full road closure along the route of the ride, and there are roving bike mechanics who can help with any breakdowns along the way. Their services are free, but you will need to pay them for any parts that are used, so please carry some money with you.

There are water points approximately every 8 km, where you can get refreshments and revitalise your spirits. We have put banners up at each of the water points that describe the history of the area; please pause for a moment and read these.

The following cut off times will be applied at water point locations along the route:

1 Newclare cemetery, 8.2 km from start: 09h00

2 Hector Petersen memorial 17.5 km from start: 10h00

3 Langlaagte Station 28.9 km from start: 11h00

4 Nelson Mandela bridge 35.0 km from start: 12h00

Marshals at the Hector Pieterse memorial will be able to direct you to the station. You may also use any Rea Vaya bus along the route with your bicycle for R25.00. This is also an option to get to and from the start. Metrorail is also available.

### **At the end of the ride**

At the end of the ride there will be some refreshments and a few mementos of the ride.

Cyclists will be directed towards De Korte and De Beer streets, which will be closed to traffic and where there will be food and goodies on sale. The Bannister Hotel will be offering light meals and there will be some food trailers as well. Please use the opportunity to hang out with your friends and the rest of Joburg's cycling community.

There will be a bicycle park - a closed off and secure area where cyclists can leave their bicycles at Arbour Square Parking. Shops in the vicinity will be open, including: Hunter Cycling, Kitcheners, The Banister, Post, and Father Coffee. There will also be a Food market with various licensed food trucks setup in designated areas