Visitor Information

Stage One of the OVO Energy Tour of Britain starts in Edinburgh and takes in numerous Scottish Borders towns and villages before the finish in Kelso on Sunday 3rd September.

The race loops through Kelso at around 1.30pm ahead of the finish at about 3.20pm, meaning spectators can see the race twice in the town and enjoy its many attractions during the interval.

The town of Kelso lies at the junction of two rivers – the Tweed and the Teviot- and the spacious Kelso Square claims to be the largest town square in Scotland. Visitors to the town can not only enjoy the numerous independent shops but also some fantastic attractions including Floors Castle, Scotland's largest inhabited house.

In the centre of the town are the remains of the 12th century Kelso Abbey, which can be visited for free. Close by is a riverside walk along the banks of the Tweed, which takes in the world-famous salmon fishing spot ‘The Junction Pool’.

For those who want to make a day (or more...) of it and travel by bike, cycling routes in and out of Kelso include:

- Bowmont Forest & Roxburgh (18.5 miles)
- Town Yetholm & Linton (20.5 miles)
- Harestanes (24 miles)
- Four Abbeys (55 miles)

Full route details and accommodation listings can be found online at www.cyclescottishborders.com

If you are planning on watching Stage One from elsewhere in the Scottish Borders there are plenty of visitor attractions along the way. The race passes close to the abbeys of Melrose, Dryburgh and Kelso, which are linked with that at Jedburgh by the Four Abbeys Cycle Route, as well as Hume Castle and Smalsholm Tower.

The Stage One sprints include Coldstream and Melrose, and King of the Mountains points will be on offer at the beautiful Scott's View and the climb out of Melrose on Dingleton Hill.

The Scottish Borders: Scotland's leading cycling destination

The Scottish Borders is the most cycle friendly destination in Scotland, with over 100 Cyclists Welcome scheme members ranging from accommodation, cafes and visitor attractions to bike hire/transfer businesses and repair shops.

Miles of quiet country roads, hills and forest tracks in the Scottish Borders provide interesting routes for keen cyclists and family groups, and the diversity of the region allows recreation to mix with relaxation.

With over 50 developed waymarked long distance cycle routes and shorter routes from towns there is a wide variety of choice for road cyclists, including the cross-region 250-mile Borderloop and the spectacular scenery and historic buildings of the 55-mile 4 Abbeys Route. Details, where to stay and what to see along the way can be found on www.cyclescottishborders.com.

For the adventurous, the area has a number of world renowned mountain bike trails, including the 7stanes network of trails. Cycle Route, as well as Hume Castle and Smailholm Tower.

For more information on the festival, and to view and download a programme, visit www.scottishbordersheritage.com.

VisitScotland/Ian Rutherford
3 September 2017

Tour Facts

Each of the 20 professional cycling teams competing in the OVO Energy Tour of Britain will have six riders, including the team leader, for whom all the riders will work for.

The teams may also have a specialist sprinter and mountain climber, who compete for their respective Tour jerseys.

The remainder of the team are known as ‘domestiques’, outstanding cyclists in their own right, but who support their team leader, sprinter or mountain climber.
STAGE 1 MAP

Mark McNally and Angel Madrazo

Awarded to the best climber in the OVO Energy sponsored by Wiggle, the online cycling retailer.

The OVO Energy Green Jersey
Awarded to the rider leading The OVO Energy Tour of Britain overall, the Green Jersey is what every rider in The Tour seeks to pull on. The Green Jersey is easily identifiable in the peloton, showing you who is currently leading The OVO Energy Tour of Britain.

Recent Winners: Steve Cummings, Edvald Boasson Hagen, Dylan Van Baarle and Sir Bradley Wiggins

The Wiggle Points Jersey
Awarded to the most consistent finisher in the OVO Energy Tour of Britain, the Wiggle Points Jersey is Britain’s equivalent of the Tour de France’s green jersey. The first 15 riders across the finish line are awarded points on a 15 down to 1 basis, with the rider who has accumulated the most points so far wearing the jersey sponsored by Wiggle, the online cycling retailer.

Recent Winners: Dylan Groenewegen, Owain Doull, Michał Kwiatkowski and Martin Elmiger

The SKODA King of the Mountains Jersey
Awarded to the best climber in the OVO Energy Tour of Britain, riders battle for points at three or four designated SKODA King of the Mountains climbs on every road stage of The Tour.

Recent Winners: Xandro Meurisse, Peter Williams, Mark McNally and Angel Madrazo

The Eisberg Sprints Jersey
Each road stage of the OVO Energy Tour of Britain features three intermediate Sprints, where points are awarded towards the Eisberg Sprints Jersey.

Recent Winners: Jasper Boerenhuis, Peter Williams, Sebastian Langer, Angel Madrazo

Tour of Britain Jerseys:

Sprints
- Coldstream High Street (c. 1.04pm)
- Melrose High Street (c. 2.44pm)

King of the Mountains
- Scott’s View (c. 2.30pm)
- Dingleton Hill, Melrose (c. 2.47pm)

Packing restrictions will be in place on the ascent and descent of Scott’s View; however a free shuttle bus will be operating between Earlston and Dryburgh Abbey Hotel to take spectators to and from the King of The Mountains point.

The best Stage One spectating opportunity will be in Kelso, where the race will initially pass through at around 1.30pm, returning for the finish at around 3.20pm.

Free parking will be available at the Border Union Showground, Springwood Park, TDS BLS. This can be accessed from 8am and will be signposted from all sides of the town.

It is a short walk from the free parking to the town centre, where the Tour of Britain’s spectator zone will be based, along with the team buses and the podium for post-race presentations.

Key spectator information:

Tour timings:

Please note the following timings are estimated and are dependent on the speed of the race and therefore by the finish can vary by as much as 30 minutes.

Visit www.tourofbritain.co.uk/stages/stage-one for a full timing schedule, including ‘fast’ and ‘slow’ pace race timings.

Edinburgh – 10.30am
Musselburgh – 10.54am
Haddington – 11.28am
Gifford – 11.51am
Whiteadder Reservoir – 12.14pm
Duns – 12.40pm
Coldstream – 1.04pm
Kelso (1st passage of finish line) – 1.29pm
Stichill – 1.36pm
Gordon – 1.57pm
Smallholm – 2.13pm
Scott’s View – 2.30pm
Gatonside – 2.39pm
Melrose – 2.44pm
Maxton – 3.01pm
Kelso (finish) – 3.21pm