



Sabie Xperience 2018

Solo Challenge, Team Lite and Xtra Lite

MTB Stage Race

6 – 8 April 2018

Solo Challenge - Day 2 Route Summary: Saturday, 7 April 2018

(This route is subject to change, as at 17 March 2018)

“High Altitude Day: Hartebeesvlakte - Your Lungs will burn”

Summary:

The start and finish will, as usual, be at the Floreat Riverside Lodge. (S 25 5.492' / E 30 46.298')

The direction is again the same as 2016. After reaching “The Oaks” after a fast 12km warm-up along the Sabie Valley floor, the tough Solo riders will now be leading the way on a new “Mbabala” (Bushbuck) Loop under the pines, and challenged to climb an initial 150m in ascent over 3,5km before they reach the base of the 4km HKK climb up to the King/Queen of the Mountains at 1588m, and the Misty Mountain Refreshment Station at 20km.

From there, a recovery ride through the “Awesome Indigenous Forest”, another 2km climb up to 1800m, will bring the riders onto the “Sally and Michelle Highway” which undulates over a the next 10km on a main road contour to reach the next Refreshment Station at 36km, at the start of the Hartebeesvlakte jeep track, before they once again climb past Mount Anderson to reach the “Top of the World” at an altitude of 2160m above sea level. The view on a clear day is endless, if you can see past the sweat in your eyes. The next section is fast, but perilous for the unwary and reckless, with technical sections coming up fast, past “Leopard Run” descent to the lower flats of Hartebeesvlakte. A visit to the Eland Trail is required on the way down to Stables Hut Refreshment Station at 58km, at an elevation of 1782m above sea level. From here it is “Home James!” but be careful of the “Cobble Stone Hell” (slippery in the wet) before turning into the Hiking Trail and out onto a 2km contour jeep track, before a steep 200m descent through the new 2km “Flint’s Single Track”.

The next fast forestry road section spits the riders out onto “Sunlight Liquid” a 300m single track, (very slippery if wet) before reaching the valley floor where a visit to the Lake Olaf Floating Bridge (in reverse) and a few narrow bridges back along the Riverside Single Tracks, and final kilo through Merry Pebbles will bring them out at the finish line at Floreat Riverside Lodge.

Quick Releases:

Total Distance: 80km

Accumulated ascent: 1900m

Tar road: 5km

Forest Road: 28km

Jeep Track: 29km

Single Track: 16km

Three Refreshment Stations:

- 1) At approximately 20km just above the 4km climb to the top of Long Tom waterfall, Misty Mountain. (S25 9.655' / E30.38.936')
- 2) At approximately 43km, as the riders reach the base of Lone Creek Falls. (S25 5.275' / E 30 39.432')
- 3) At approximately 53km, on the main logging road up to Stables Hiking Trail Hut. (S25 3.750' / E 3042.002')

Estimated Fastest Rider Time: 3 hours 20 minutes (Solo Challenge)

Spectator Points:

1. **No.1** - As the riders leave the district tar road to Lone Creek Falls (old Lydenburg Road) (S25 07.139 / E30 43.670')
2. **No. 2** - At the first Refreshment Station at Misty Mountain (S25 09.655' / E30 38.936'). Only accessible by 4x4 or diff-lock vehicles in wet weather. Drive up Long Tom Pass, and 2,31km beyond the Misty Mountain Chalets entrance gate on the left, take the forest road right, into the right fork down the forestry road at S25 09.935' / E 30 38.736'. Very limited parking and access at the refreshment station and KOM/QOM.
3. **No. 3** - As the riders cross the tar road to Ceylon Forestry Village to Bridal Veil Falls on the Riverside Single Track. S25 05.922' / E30 45.038'.

Please be extremely careful approaching these spectator points if riders are on the road!

Unfortunately, the rest of the route is remote not easily accessible by car, or without unduly affecting the safety of the participants.

Please do not drive into the Forestry areas or onto the route without permission.

No outside assistance is permitted, and riders will be penalized if they are linked to spectators in areas "out of bounds" to the public.