

SPORTING EVENTS

WESTERN CAPE

CAPE ARGUS CYCLE TOUR, Cape Town, 13 March 2011



The Cape Argus Pick 'n Pay Cycle Tour is the largest timed cycling event in the world. Attracting in excess of 35 000 cyclists from around the globe each year, this prestigious event is definitely a unique experience for participants and spectators alike.

Based in Cape Town, the Cycle Tour represents 109 km of some of the most scenic spots around the Cape Peninsula.

TWO OCEANS MARATHON, Cape Town, 22-24 April 2011

A marathon with global appeal is the Two Oceans Marathon. The Two Oceans marathon attracts some 20 000 participants who willingly take on 56 kilometers of open road and challenging mountain climbs.

Runners will begin their journey in Newlands and head out towards Noordhoek. It's then that the most spectacular portion of the marathon begins - Chapmans Peak. The toughest part of the Two Oceans Marathon, is undoubtedly the mountain climb known as the 'Suikerbossie Pass'.

After you've enjoyed the scenery of Chapmans peak and passed through the relative flats of Hout Bay, every ounce of remaining energy will be used to climb this monstrous hill. The screams of supporters edge people on to the top of this hill where they're greeted by the welcome sight of the Atlantic Ocean.



ABSA CAPE EPIC, Western Cape, 27 March – 3 April 2011



One of the most famous natural landmarks in Africa, Table Mountain, marks the beginning of this pioneering, tough and beautiful mountain bike race. The race heads into the Overberg region in search of the most exciting, beautiful and challenging routes. The route changes every year, and leads aspiring amateur and professional mountain bikers from around the world through approximately 900 kilometres of the unspoilt nature of the Western Cape (interior and along the garden Route) and up approximately 16 000m of climbing over some of the most magnificent passes in South Africa.

EASTERN CAPE – GARDEN ROUTE



BILLABONG PRO, Jeffreys Bay, 15-25 July 011

Africa's most prestigious surfing event, the Billabong Pro J-Bay, brings the world's top 45 ranked professional surfers to the renowned waves of Jeffreys Bay. For those fortunate enough to attend the Billabong Pro and watch the action live in the natural amphitheatre on the dunes overlooking the liquid runway known as Supertubes, there is also the legendary party atmosphere in J-Bay with live music shows and other entertainment functions throughout the event.

TALISMAN HERALD KAROO TO COAST 100KM MOUNTAIN BIKE CHALLENGE, Garden Route (Union Dale to Knysna), September 2011

The 100km off-road race from Uniondale to Knysna via the Prince Alfred's Pass 100 km off-road Race and is not for the faint-hearted.

The race starts in Uniondale and riders tackle the notorious "ou wa pad" right in the beginning of the event. The route then includes the Prince Alfred's Pass hills and valleys and is very scenic. There is no single track and riders will enjoy the change of scenery from Karoo to Coast as they enter the Knysna Forestry Roads before finishing in Knysna. The Knysna indigenous Forest through which the Herald Karoo to Coast is ridden is thousands of years old.



KWA-ZULU NATAL



MIDMAR MILE, Pietermaritzburg, 12-13 February 2011

The Midmar Mile held at the Midmar Dam north of Pietermaritzburg in Kwa-Zulu Natal. The Midmar Mile is the world's largest open water swimming event. The Midmar Mile draws thousands of competitors each year, both serious international athletes and Olympic medalists to recreational swimmers. In order to handle the vast number of competitors, the swimmers swim out in several groups at two-minute intervals in 8 batches over two days.

DUSI CANOE MARATHON, Between Pietermaritzburg and Durban, 17-19 February 2011

The Dusi is South Africa's longest running canoe race, having been contested for the first time in 1951. The first four editions of the race were contested on a non-stop basis, but in 1956 the race was changed to its present three-stage format, bringing an end to non-stop racing, through-the-night paddling and sleeping out in the open.

The first day is 45 km which includes roughly 15 km of portaging with the canoe, with shorter portaging sections on day 2 and 3. Day 2 is also 45 km and ends with a 10 km stretch on flat water on the Inanda Dam. Day 3 is 35km of clean cold water let out from the dam. There are several sections with large rapids, particularly on day 2 and 3.





COMRADES MARATHON, Kwazulu Natal, 29 May 2011

The Comrades Marathon is the world's greatest ultra-marathon and this 90 kilometres long race is a South African institution, internationally recognised for the body-sapping challenge it poses and the camaraderie it fosters among its thousands of participants. Run between the capital of Kwazulu Natal, Pietermaritzburg, and the coastal city of Durban, the race alternates annually between the up run from Durban and the down run from Pietermaritzburg.

MR PRICE PRO, Ballito, 2-11 July 2011



The internationally recognized Mr Price PRO Ballito surfing competition takes place just 30km north of Durban at Ballito's Salmon Bay and Surfers beaches. In between the action packed surfing event, an impressive number of SA popular bands will entertain the public to a two day concert.



VODACOM DURBAN JULY, Durban, 31 July 2011

Africa's greatest horseracing event takes place on the 31st of July 2011. The excitement of Vodacom Durban July Day surpasses that of any other event on the African continent. 56,000 people are expected at Greyville to witness South Africa's best thorough-breds storm down the home straight to the finish.



GAUTENG

MOMENTUM 94.7 CYCLE CHALLENGE, Johannesburg, 21 November 2010

Started by Midrand Country Cyclists (MCC) in 1997 with a field of just 5 500 cyclists, the event has become the biggest cycling race in Gauteng. Last year 27 082 Cyclists took to the roads and for 2010 nearly 30 000 Cyclists is expected. This year organized have introduced a new urban loop into the race, which will take cyclists on a 5.6km route through the heart of the Johannesburg CBD.



MPUMALANGA

FOREVER RESORTS LOSKOP 50 KM MARATHON, Middelburg, 17 April 2011



The 50km Loskop Marathon from Middelburg to Loskop Dam has been rated as the top ultra marathon for 2009, outperforming both the Comrades and the Two Oceans Marathons.

Race participation is limited to 3500 runners for the Ultra. The 50km ultra marathon route is from Middelburg to Forever Resorts Loskopdam Resort. This event is an occasion of competitive racing coupled with sportsmanship and camaraderie.

THE BIG INDUNA MOUNTAIN BIKE RACE, Hazyview, 16 June 2011

The Big Induna Mountain Bike Race in Hazyview Mpumalanga is an opportunity to ride in a unique and spectacular environment. The race includes hand cut trails snaking through indigenous forest, a mix of short sharp climbs, rock shelves, rooty drops and fast bermed switchbacks, throw into this a few shallow water crossings and even some single tracks beaten flat by hippos and you will not regret taking up the challenge! There are 3 races to choose from; the 10 km (Just for fun), the 45 km (Handcut trails through natural forest, orchards, hippo trails and river crossing) and the 75 km.



NORTH WEST

NEDBANK GOLF CHALLENGE, Sun City, 2-5 December 2010



The Nedbank Golf Challenge is an annual golf tournament played over the Gary Player Country Club Course in Sun City, South Africa. It was inaugurated in 1981 and has had several previous names. Like most high profile unofficial tournaments in professional golf it takes place between the conclusion of the PGA Tour and European Tour official schedules in early November, and Christmas.



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