



GBDURO MANUAL V.1 JAN 2019

THE RACING COLLECTIVE

GBDURO IS A 2000KM NO-FRILLS 4-STAGE SELF-SUPPORTED GRAVEL ESCAPE FROM LAND'S END TO JOHN O'GROATS.

It is run by The Racing Collective, a not-for-profit road and gravel bikepacking club for self-supported racers. Inspired by races like the Transcontinental and The Tour Divide, we set out to construct a series of trials that carried the same spirit of self-sufficiency, but which could be completed closer to home.

We seek the freedom and feral mindset that comes from riding fast and far. Meanwhile we are all too aware that the environment we ride in needs protecting. With that in mind, our long-term aim as a club is to buy a shooting estate in the UK and rewild it through the restoration of natural forests for wildlife and our adventurous ancestors to enjoy.

This manual contains enough information so you can decide if you wish to enter #GBDURO19, but no more. More detailed info will only be provided to those who have been accepted to ride.

We'd like to thank the countless people who have chipped in to create an ace route (particularly Ed Wolstenholme) and Tom Probert for logos etc – The Racing Collective is in good hands.

Good luck x

Philippa and Miles

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GBDURO is a 2000km no-frills 4-stage self-supported gravel escapade from Land's End to John O'Groats.

It will take in some of the best riding the UK has to offer and is designed to test the versatility of rider and bike. Much of it is on road so you'll need a setup that rolls well, whilst also dealing with the rough stuff. A gravel/adventure bike with minimum 35mm tyres is recommended.

It will be run with a no-frills ethos. Riders will be given a GPX file of the route, plus details of the checkpoints, and that's about it. At all times riders are expected to embrace the self-supported nature of the ride, meaning they don't receive any form of support (including drafting) from other riders or friends/family or make bookings in advance of the ride; all food, repairs, etc, must be acquired from commercial sources or from the kindness of strangers.

The clock will stop at 3 checkpoints (CPs) on route (three campsites with pubs nearby in mid-Wales, North England, and the Highlands) so riders can decompress, socialise and be merry. The 4 stages will each be approximately 500km in length (give or take 100km). Validation at the start and end of each stage is done by posting a timestamped photo on Instagram. The lowest aggregate time over the four stages 'wins'... nothing. No one has yet ridden the route in full so this first edition will be somewhat of an experiment but riders are expected to average ~200km/day to reach the Finisher's Party on time. Dress code is charity shop neon.

We'll start out from Land's End on **22 June 2019** and end at John O'Groats on **2 July 2019** for the Finisher's Party.

ENTRIES

1-7 JANUARY 2019 - Entries open; must be submitted by 11.59pm (GMT) on 7 January

BY END OF JANUARY 2019 - Entrants notified if they have a place or not; successful applicants must confirm their place within 48 hours of notification

PREP

BY 1 MAY 2019 - Barebones details released to riders (e.g. CP location, how tracking will work, start/end times, etc)

BY 1 JUNE 2019 - Riders notified to register on tracking site and GPX route released

SHOWTIME

21 JUNE 2019 - Beers on the beach (time tbd, afternoon/evening)

22 JUNE 2019 - START - Time TBC (most likely 8am) at Land's End

2 JULY 2019 - END - 8pm Finisher's Party at John O'Groats

HANGOVER

BY 7 JULY 2019 - Riders submit GPX track of their route and provide feedback (i.e. within 5 days of the Finisher's Party)

BY END JULY 2019 - Final results published, dates for 2020 confirmed (most likely starting on 20 June 2020)

BY 1 JAN 2020 - The route will be tweaked based on feedback from #GBDURO19 riders and publicly released on www.GBdivide.net

SOLO RIDERS:

1. **Don't be a dick** - Leave no trace (bring a trowel and know how to use it), be nice, and endeavour to #bemoremike
2. **Complete the entire route, under your own power** - No drafting or motorised transport. If you leave the route then re-join it at the exactly same spot. If your bike breaks beyond repair you may take motorized transport to get it fixed, then you must ride back to the exact spot you left the route
3. **Be self-supported throughout** - No support crews, no accommodation booked in advance of the start, no food or gear caches, no gear sharing, and sleeping indoors except in bothies is discouraged (this is GB not Uzbekistan)
4. **Show evidence of your ride:**
 - 4.a) **Timing** is done by posting a timestamped photo on Instagram at the start and end of each stage
 - 4.b) **Tracking** (i.e. transmitting your live location) is done via the MAProgress site, through your own tracker or using the MAProgress app on your phone
 - 4.c) **Validation** (i.e. proof you followed the route) is achieved by recording your daily GPX tracks on your navigation device and submit them to The Racing Collective, plus any accompanying explanations if necessary, within 5 days after the Finisher's Party
5. **Protect the integrity of the ride** – you must report any incidents where either yourself, or other riders, have broken the rules, via the form on the GBDURO Riders webpage

6. **Understand and obey all local laws**, and act responsibly with regards to other users, especially walkers who may feel vulnerable to fast moving bikes

7. **Buy your fellow riders a beer** – tradition has it that the first home buys the second place finisher a drink, the second place rider buys the third place rider a drink, and so on

PAIRS:

As per solo riders above but drafting and gear sharing is allowed within the pair:

- 8.a) Each rider in a pair must submit an entry
- 8.b) Each rider in a pair must post timestamped photos at the start and end of each stage; the longest time between either riders' start photo and either riders' end photo will be used to calculate the stage time
- 8.c) If a rider who starts a new stage before their partner has finished the previous stage, both riders will not be listed in the General Classification.
- 8.d) Similarly, if a rider cannot complete the ride in the category they start in, (e.g. because their pair drops out or they ride together in co-operation with another rider) then they will be able to finish the ride and be given a time but they will not be listed in the General Classification

The Rider Contract is an agreement between The Racing Collective and the Rider (whose name, address and contact details are specified in the individual's application for this ride). It sets out the terms and conditions that the Rider must agree to when accepting a place to ride. It should be considered carefully; a Rider that breaks the terms of the Rider Contract could be excluded from the ride.

The Rider accepts GBDURO (the Ride) is a reliability trial not a race or a sportive, run on an informal basis by The Racing Collective (a not-for-profit road and gravel bikepacking club) and whilst The Racing Collective has advocated following a particular route in a particular style, ultimately the Rider is responsible for his or her own actions. Each Rider agrees to the following:

1. The Rider must attain cycle insurance covering 'liability insurance and personal accident insurance' (e.g. BC Race Gold) at their expense prior to entry.
2. The Rider accepts that safety is the paramount consideration for GBDURO and takes priority over any feelings of peer pressure during the ride.
3. The Rider is fully aware and acknowledges that riding GBDURO involves a serious risk of harm.
4. The Rider must be over the age of 18 at time of the start of the ride.
5. The Rider confirms they are in good health and know of no reason, physical or mental, why they could be unable to participate in the Ride.
6. The Rider must take measures to be seen by traffic during the day and night. This includes riding with at least two sets of lights (two on the front and two on the back), reflective gear and bright clothing.
7. The Rider accepts the route covers everything from riding on busy roads (including in cities) to riding in remote areas on rough terrain and technical descents. If the

Rider feels unsafe or uncomfortable about riding any part of the route for whatever reason (technical, busy road, access rights, other) then they should detour around it and join back onto the route where they see fit.

8. The Rider acknowledges and accepts full responsibility for checking and maintaining all equipment in their possession for the duration of the Ride to ensure its safe use (including by way of example, wheels, brakes, and tyres).
9. The Rider understands that no safety provisions are provided by The Racing Collective. Riders are advised to carry with them a mobile phone in case of emergency in addition to the one used for navigating, tracking, or recording. Be aware that reception will be limited in many locations. In the case of an emergency, riders should call 999.
10. The Rider must be aware that the nearest hospital or medical facility may be hours from them should they suffer any injury and that there may be a lack of helicopter assistance in some areas.
11. Under no circumstances shall The Racing Collective be liable for any actual or alleged indirect loss or consequential loss howsoever arising suffered by the Rider including, but not limited to, loss of profits, anticipated profits, savings, business or opportunity or loss of publicity or loss of reputation or opportunity to enhance reputation or any other sort of economic loss. Similarly none of The Racing Collective volunteers shall be liable to any Rider for death or personal injury, damage to property or other loss or damage of any nature whatsoever suffered by the Rider whether arising from participation in the Ride or otherwise.

In recognition of these facts the Rider elects voluntarily to enter GBDURO and assume all risks of loss, damages, injury or death that may be sustained, and the Rider will participate in the Ride in accordance with the text above entirely at their own risk.

To keep costs as low as possible we are providing two options:

OPTION 1 - £60 BASIC ENTRY

OPTION 2 - £100 BASIC ENTRY + FINISHER'S PARTY

Option 1 covers the cost of basic camping at the three CPs on route and our organiser's liability insurance¹. It does not include anything else e.g. any food or drink at the CPs and so on.

Option 2 includes the basic entry as above, plus a 'bed/dinner/breakfast' combo deal at The Seaview Hotel in John O'Groats on the evening of 2 July 2019 for the Finisher's Party².

It is expected most riders will go for Option 2 but we wanted to give people the option. Of course it's hard to gauge without seeing the route but you'll need to be averaging ~200km/day to make the party.

Successful applicants will be asked to accept their place by paying the entry fee (either Option 1 or 2). This must happen within 48 hours of receiving notification that your application has been successful. Applications cannot be transferred to another rider, deferred to a later date, or refunded.

1. Note this insurance is for The Racing Collective officials; you still need your own cycle insurance as set out in the Rider Contract.

2. Includes bed in shared room (allocated first-come first-served), a two-course meal, and breakfast the next day.

TIMING

At the start and end of each of the 4 stages riders must:

- take a photo with their phone;
- timestamp it using an app; and
- post it to Instagram using the correct hashtag (specific to that stage).

These timestamps will be used to determine the times for each stage; the lowest aggregate time over the 4 stages 'wins'... nothing.

To timestamp a photo³ download an app like 'Timestamp Photo and Video Free' for Android or iPhone and set the date and time format to:

dd MMM yyyy

hh:mm:ss

E.g. this would give the format: **31 Dec 2018 23:59:59**

Make sure the complete timestamp is visible even when the photo is cropped for posting on Instagram

Note the timestamp will refer to when the photo was taken, not when it was posted. When you start or end a stage you are encouraged to post as soon as you can to keep it entertaining for ride followers / commentators.

TRACKING - TRANSMITTING YOUR LIVE LOCATION

We will be using the MProgress.com tracking site for use either with your own tracker or the MProgress mobile app⁴.

In addition to the entry fee, riders must pay the MProgress tracking fee (expected to be ~£20 if using either the mobile app or your own tracker with active share page (e.g. findmespot or MapShare page)). More details about tracking will be released to successful applicants down the line.

VALIDATION - PROOF YOU FOLLOWED THE ROUTE

In addition to live tracking via MProgress, you must record your daily tracks on your navigation device and submit them to The Racing Collective, plus any accompanying explanations if necessary, within 5 days after the Finisher's Party. A track from your navigation device is required as the resolution (not to say the reliability) of the track from MProgress is not sufficient.

3. Every rider is required to submit a timestamped photo as part of the application process (details are provided in the online application form <https://goo.gl/forms/rvJasFiZNd0Xpy6r2> so read these instructions carefully)

4. If using the app you'll definitely need to charge on the go with a dynamo or external battery pack as transmitting will rapidly deplete the battery.

7. NEXT OF KIN

All riders are required to give details of their next of kin, so that they can be contacted in the case of any incidents or accidents involving riders.

Riders must discuss their entry into the ride with their next of kin prior to entry and make them aware of the risks you are voluntarily taking by entering the ride.

In the event of an incident we will notify next of kin as soon as possible and provide them with as much information as we can.

8. MEDIA AGREEMENT

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The rider agrees to yield the commercial rights of all the media they collect on the ride to The Racing Collective.

If a rider wishes to use their participation in the ride including media captured therein to promote any commercial organisation (including their own), either directly or through a third party, then they must make this clear when submitting their entry.

We welcome interest from third-party media who wish to document the ride (either in full, or restricted to a certain stage or geography) or a particular rider(s), but this will need written permission from The Racing Collective ahead of the ride.

This year the ride will be followed by a media car, plus potentially some independent photographers and volunteers collecting stories at CPs.

We hope to be covered by Dotwatcher.cc who will issue regular updates.

The Racing Collective will primarily be making updates through Instagram: [@theracingcollective](#)

But you can also follow our other channels:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Strava](#)

[YouTube](#)

Entries will be accepted from 00:01am on 1 January to 11.59pm (GMT) on 7 January 2019 via the application form link on the GBDURO webpage.

The field will be restricted in numbers to keep it personal/ manageable, and we are aiming for a 50:50 male:female ratio.⁵

Selection will be based on merit⁶ rather than first-come first-served. However, in a case where two applicants are deemed indistinguishable on merit, the rider who submitted their application first will be selected.

The questions in the application form will require you to jump through a few hoops to see if you understand the ethos of the ride etc.

Your answers should not be shared with fellow riders etc.

Qualifying rides include any big one-day gravel races or ultras e.g. the Transcontinental, TransAtlanticWay, HT550, CTR, AZTR, ACT5, French Divide, TNR, and so on.

It is free to submit an application, only successful applicants will be asked to pay the entry fee.

Applicants will be told by the end of January 2019 whether they were successful or not.

No feedback will be provided on why applicants weren't successful so please don't ask. However we will keep a record of who applied which will help your case if you chose to apply in future years.

The route and GBDURO Manual will only be released to successful applicants so if you are not successful this time around, please do not ask for a copy of the route – the route itself will be revised following #GBDURO19 and will be publicly released by the end of 2019.

Good luck!

5. See FAQ section for more details on this.

6. See the FAQ section for more details on rough selection criteria e.g. applicants who have helped out on previous The Racing Collective rides will be favoured.

How much time do I need to book off work?

We'll meet for beers on the beach near Land's End on the afternoon/evening before the start, bivvy out, and then start the next day (most likely at 8am but we'll confirm that later). It's not essential you're there to meet up before the start but it would be nice so you'll most likely need to take Friday 21 June 2019 off.

The ride will finish on Tue 2 July 2019 but it is sensible to build in a couple of days contingency, plus the train ride home and general physical recovery is likely to take some time. With that in mind we recommend taking the whole of the week commencing 1 July 2019 off.

*Hint: if your job doesn't give you very many days off, try asking for unpaid leave *comes highly recommended**

How hard will it be?

You'll need to do ~200km/day carrying your own stuff and navigating your way through small lanes/fast doubletrack/the rough stuff/the odd hikeabike/gates/moors/forests/mountains/etc. Riding the WalesDURO, EnglanDURO, or ScotDURO routes will give you a flavour (see [Trials](#) webpage).

If I fall behind schedule on the ride can I cut the route short to get to the CPs/finish on time?

The short answer is...no. If you fail to complete the route you must scratch.

The longer answer is...not everyone will make the Finisher's Party and that is OK. If the wheels come off, so to speak, keep bugging on and complete the route in your own time; it's this battle with oneself that makes ultracycling so captivating. However if you are forced to scratch and are prepared to jump on a train/hitch to get to the finish of course we'd be delighted to see you.

Why are the numbers of riders restricted and why assign 50% of the places to women?

We are a very small team organising the ride in parallel with full time work. With more people comes more responsibility, more stress, more risk, more impact, more visibility. Plus we want #GBDURO19 to feel special and that sense of community is more likely to flourish in a small group. With regards to the 50:50 split, half of the world's population are women, yet men currently dominate bikepacking start lines and we want to change that. If your gut instinct is to ask "why?" this probably isn't the ride for you.

How will riders be selected?

Riders must demonstrate they understand the basics of the ride and the ethos that underpins self-supported riding. Beyond that we're on the lookout for riders who tick one of the following boxes:

- We are looking for people with a 'can do' mindset; what they lack in bikepacking experience, they make up for through their resourceful and optimistic attitude
- We are looking for the best bike riders in all of the land backed by race results
- We are looking for those who give back e.g.
 - i) Riders who can demonstrate they have given back to the bikepacking community for no commercial gain e.g. by volunteering at events etc
 - ii) Riders who are actively trying to reduce their own environmental impact, or working on societal solutions to climate breakdown
 - iii) Riders who have helped shape The Racing Collective since it began in December 2016
- We are looking for people who can tell a good story

Will there be a waiting list in case of rider dropouts?

To be decided but if this is the case you will be informed by end of Jan.

Do you need volunteers?

It would be useful to have one or two volunteers at the end of each stage to collect stories. We will collect your appetite and CP preference for this during the entry procedure if you fail to be allocated a place. Rest assured, your answers to this will not influence the selection process.

Can I use an e-bike/Recumbent/Tandem?

No, we want people to be riding roughly the same kind of bike.

What bike shall I ride?

Ride whatever you want (bar the exceptions in the previous question) but a gravel/adventure bike with aero bars and minimum 35mm tyres is recommended.

What's the route like?

Fun. Embrace the uncertainty.

Where are the CPs? Are there any cut-off times?

There are three CPs en route, all of which are campsites with pubs nearby. They are located in mid-Wales, North England, and the Highlands. There won't be any cut-off times but we do hope the CPs give the main pack a chance to regroup and start off at a suggested time in the morning. Exact locations and details will be revealed down the line

Can I transfer my entry if I can't ride?

No. It cannot be deferred until next year or transferred to someone else.

WTF is the 'charity shop neon' dress code all about?

Charity shop neon is about reflecting the ethos of this ride... i.e. not taking life too seriously, being bright, brash and dressing as you see fit.

For all enquiries before, during, and after GBDURO please use:

GreatBritishDURO@gmail.com

Please avoid social media messages concerning GBDURO to either The Racing Collective or personal accounts of The Racing Collective committee. All ride enquires should be made using the official email address.