

**The Big Ride 2026**  
**FAQs for Launch**

**CATEGORY – Accommodation and Travel**

**When is the Big Ride taking place?**

The dates of the ride are 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> June 2026 (arrival available from 6pm June 16<sup>th</sup>)

**Where is the Big Ride taking place?**

The Big Ride is taking place at Show field, Culden Faw Estate, RG9 3AS

**Where will I stay?**

All accommodation for the 2026 event will be at the event base camp at Culden Faw Estate

The base camp will be open from 18:00 on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June, until 10:00 on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

All accommodation, food and drink are included once you have been confirmed for the event.

Accommodation will be housed in a premium bespoke campsite with all facilities located on site. You will be allocated a two-man tent that will be for your sole use during the event.

Should you decide not to join us at base camp alternative accommodation and all logistics of getting to and from base camp will be your responsibility and all costs will be your own.

**What's included?**

- Up to 3 nights' accommodation on the ride (16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> June)
- All your meals (breakfasts, snacks, lunches and dinners) from dinner on 16<sup>th</sup> June up to and including breakfast the morning of 19<sup>th</sup> June .
- A fabulous Big Ride Party on the 17<sup>th</sup> June
- Support vehicles and support staff, including a first aider, marshals, bike mechanics and chaperones, all on hand to give you all the practical help and moral support you need
- Shuttle bus service from key locations including Heathrow Airport and VMO2 Reading office for those who opt-in to this service
- Route files – an online route map per day with the option to download to a navigation device
- A high quality, breathable jersey and/or tech t-shirt for each day you take part

**What's not included?**

- Flights and transfers (unless opting-in to one of the event shuttle services)
- A bike
- Personal travel / cycle touring insurance
- Cycling/ running clothes/ kit and shoes/ clips

- Sleeping bag, pillow and towel

### **How do I get to the event?**

**By car:** The event will take place at Show field, Culden Faw Estate, RG9 3AS, around 40 minutes from Heathrow and 1.5 hours from Gatwick. Frequent shuttle bus services will run from several hubs including Heathrow Airport and VMO2 Reading office. These are opt-in services. Locations will be confirmed in due course when the travel survey is released. When registering for the event online, please indicate if you will be driving or if you will require the shuttle service. A travel survey and subsequently a shuttle timetable will then be issued closer to the event. Please note shuttle services will only run to coincide with basecamp opening times. Early arrivals will not be able to gain access to basecamp due to health and safety.

All participants must depart Culden Faw by 10:00 on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Is there parking?**

Yes, plenty of parking available .

### **CATEGORY - Route FAQ's**

#### **What are the routes?**

The Big Ride 2026 will be building on the hugely successful format of previous years. This year will again see all riders start together to complete their individual challenges and finish together to celebrate their achievements. There are one and two-day cycling options, a 10 mile hike on day 1, the option to run or walk a 10km, half or full marathon on day two, or combine two sports to create a Duathlon.

This year the cycling routes are categorised by colours, ranging from an easier blue route to a challenging black route. Distances range from 40km per day to 160km, varying in elevation.

#### **Cycling**

**Blue** - Easy to Moderate - approx 40km - 60km

**Red** - Moderate to Challenging - approx 95km - 100km

**Black** - Challenging to Tough - approx 150km - 160km

#### **Run/walk**

**Yellow** - Half Marathon distance walk/run

**Orange** - Full Marathon walk/run

**Purple** – 10km walk/run

#### **Hike**

**White** – 10 mile

#### **Cycling routes:**

On both days all routes set-off from the picturesque Culden Faw.

The routes will include some hill climbs and so it is strongly recommended that adequate training is undertaken before the event. You will be asked to sign up for your preferred routes at registration but should you wish to change once you get on site this is possible by speaking to one of the onsite reception staff.

**Options include:**

**2-day challenge: Cycling**

- Cycle Blue + Blue
- Cycle Blue + Red
- Cycle Blue + Black
- Cycle Red + Red
- Cycle Red + Blue
- Cycle Red + Black
- Cycle Black + Blue
- Cycle Black + Red
- Cycle Black + Black

**2-day challenge: Duathlon:**

- Duathlon Blue cycle + Yellow run / walk
- Duathlon Blue cycle + Orange run / walk
- Duathlon Blue cycle + Purple run / walk
- Duathlon Red cycle + Yellow run / walk
- Duathlon Red cycle + Orange run / walk
- Duathlon Red cycle + Purple run / walk
- Duathlon Black cycle + Yellow run / walk
- Duathlon Black cycle + Orange run / walk
- Duathlon Black cycle + Purple run / walk

**2- day challenge: Hike + Cycle**

- Hike White + Blue Cycle
- Hike White + Red Cycle
- Hike White + Black Cycle

**2-day challenge: Hike + Run / walk**

- Hike White + Yellow run / walk
- Hike White + Orange run / walk
- Hike White + Purple run / walk

**1-day challenge:**

- Cycle day 1 – Blue
- Cycle day 1 – Red
- Cycle day 1 – Black
- Hike day 1 - White
- Cycle day 2 - Blue
- Cycle day 2 - Red

- Cycle day 2 – Black
- Run / walk day 2 – Yellow
- Run / walk day 2 – Orange
- Run / walk day 2 - Purple

It is recommended that adequate training is undertaken before the event.

*Routes will be provided closer to the time.*

### **Timings of the challenge**

You may start at your leisure anytime within the relevant start window shown below. Please be at the start line, ready to go, at least 15 minutes prior to your desired start time to collect your bike and listen to the route briefing. Please allow more time if you need to drop valuables, adjust your bike, fill up water bottles and so on.

#### *Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June*

*09:00 – 09:30 Black route cyclists start window*

*10:00 – 10:30 Red route cyclists start window*

*11:00 – 11:30 Blue route cyclists start window*

*10:00 – beginner hike group starts*

*10:30 – intermediate hike group starts*

*11:00 – advanced hike group starts*

#### *Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June*

*09:00 – 09:30 Black route cyclists start window*

*10:00 – 10:30 Red route cyclists start window*

*10:30 Runners & Walkers group warm up*

*10:45 Runners & Walkers start*

*11:00 – 11:30 Blue route cyclists start window*

If you are arriving on site on the morning of your event, please arrive at least one hour prior to your allocated start time in order to:

- Register (if not done previously)
- Collect your jersey(s)/t-shirt (if not done previously)
- Drop off any valuables for secure storage
- Make a final check of your kit
- Have breakfast
- Fill your water bottles
- Go to the toilet
- Make your way to the start area
- Join the start pens for the start line briefing

For safety reasons, participants are briefed and then released onto the route in groups of 30-40 so please be patient during this process. Additionally, there will be some speeches prior to groups setting off.

### **Are there toilet facilities on route?**

There will be toilets at each designated pit stop as well as full facilities in all areas of the base camp.

Hike toilets are available at the car park where the hike starts and finishes

### **Will there be mechanical support on the route?**

There will be mechanical support available out on the road and at the pit stops.

The mechanical teams will have a wide range of supplies to ensure everyone has the best chance of finishing the route. If you have a problem with your bike they will aim to fix it for free, but any components needed to fix the bike will be at a charge.

Please bring cash and a bank card with you to cover this should you need parts replaced on your bike during the event.

We ask all riders to bring the following and also to be able to fix a puncture:

- Pump
- x2 new inner tubes (check they fit your bike)
- A puncture repair kit including tyre levers

If you have a problem out on the road then you can call the emergency number on the back of your bike number and the mechanical support team will come and find you as soon as possible.

Please note you must be able to fix your own punctures and will be expected to do so during the event.

### **How will I know where to go?**

Downloadable route files - select your challenge and find your route.

Please note; the route is subject to change up until the day due to road works and diversions and so please follow the route signage.

While on the route

- Follow the highway code when crossing roads
- Please stop at Pit Stops and don't get waylaid in local cafes or pubs
- Inform EVENT CONTROL if you leave the event for any reason

### **Chaperones and broom wagon**

Whilst riding you will see cyclists with an armband and jerseys marked Chaperone. These are experienced cyclists who'll provide key support and motivation and ensure everyone stays safe.

There will be a broom wagon vehicle that will follow the route at the back of the rider field, travelling at an average speed of 9mph to pick up any riders that are injured or medically unable to continue.

The broom wagon will leave the start after the last cyclist. It will pick people up if they fall behind the required pace to complete the challenge by the route closing time at dusk.

### **What happens if I get lost?**

If you believe you are lost please follow this procedure:

- Stop and try to work out where you are by reference points
- Try to make your way back to your last known point
- If you are still lost call EVENT CONTROL on the emergency contact numbers

### **Is it a race?**

The event is an adventure ride rather than a race.

### **What are the roads like for cycling?**

The road surfaces for the whole trip are suitable for all bike types including road bikes. We have planned the routes to be a balance between quiet roads, beautiful scenery and good road surfaces. However, the nature of long distance cycling means that there are short periods when you may need to cycle on a busier road.

### **What happens if I can't complete the ride/run?**

If you have trained, the Big Ride is achievable for people of all fitness and experience levels. We have different routes to challenge people of all abilities – please choose the right one for you. Should day 1 be tough then you are free to choose a different route for day 2. If you are struggling the support vehicles can help you out. We suggest you check out our training pages for lots of tips and advice on how to get Big Ride fit.

## **CATEGORY – Bike Support and Logistics**

### **How do I get my bike there?**

There is a complimentary bike transport service, this will be run by a specialist cycle transfer company and will run from the locations on the registration form. This is an opt-in service that riders must book when registering.

Further details and drop off dates of this service will be communicated pre-event.

The bikes will be checked in and checked out to the owner of the bike unless you give consent for another person to pick your bike up, please ensure that you have written documentation to this effect on drop off or pick up.

**IMPORTANT: Due to regulations over the temporary movement of goods into and out of the EU, all bikes that are transferred into the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland must also return on the service back. Should you wish to take your bike elsewhere after the challenges (e.g. on holiday), private arrangements to the UK should be made for your bike. Similarly, if you transport your bike to the event, you must also transport it home as it cannot go on the transport.**

*Bikes are placed fully assembled in heavy duty polybags before being loaded and further protected with blankets to prevent damage. Locks and bike boxes/ bike bags are not required. As there will be limited space in the transport vehicles, please refrain from bringing*

*them to the bike drop location. **All pedals need to be removed and carried with participant's luggage.***

Bikes are insured up to £10,000. This cover is for event organised transportation only.

Should you wish to arrange your own bike transport please ensure you rack it within the dedicated area as soon as you arrive on site in order for it to be stored securely during the event.

### **Should I bring my own bike?**

We advise that you bring your own bike so that it is optimised to you and your body shape although it is up to you if you would prefer to hire a bike. Please note that the hiring and returning of bikes must be arranged by you.

### **What type of bike is most suitable?**

The ideal bike needs to:

- Be lightweight and stiff enough for efficient power transfer.
- Have a comfortable saddle for a long day perched on it.
- Have a wide range of gearing to ensure that you can take on significant climbs.
- You can use a road bike or a hybrid bike on this route but we would not recommend a mountain bike unless you put on thinner road tyres.

### **Can I hire a bike?**

We do encourage everyone to bring their own bikes as we don't have any rental bikes on site. If you would like to hire a bike, this must be organised by individual participants.

### **Do you have any spare bikes?**

We will carry a few spare bikes for emergencies but will be loaned on a first come first served basis.

### **Bike Maintenance**

Please ensure you do the following:

1. Go to a decent bike shop and get it set up so that it is optimised for your own body shape and size. Minor changes can make a big difference.
2. Get the bike serviced before you go.
3. Make sure your tyres and inner tubes are good quality and in good condition.
4. Make sure your brakes and brake pads are in good working order and condition. On the red and black routes there are significant hills along the route with long steep descents. If in doubt install new brake pads before the event.
- 5.
6. Thicker tyres help prevent punctures. You can also buy slime that you put into your tyres and it repairs small punctures automatically.
7. Learn to change an inner tube and carry everything with you to enable you to do so. This is important.

### **Will there be support crew?**

There will be plenty of support crew on hand in support vehicles, including a first aider, marshals, and bike mechanics. There will also be bike chaperones throughout the route to help encourage you throughout the day.

### **CATEGORY – Cancellation**

#### **What if I want to cancel?**

Contact details to withdraw from The Big Ride: [events@street-child.co.uk](mailto:events@street-child.co.uk)

#### **Charges if you pull out**

If you pull out of the event after midnight on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026, you will be charged a cancellation charge of £850. We cannot refund your sponsors if you pull out or are forced to cancel. We cannot refund your sponsors if the event is cancelled or shortened for unforeseen circumstances.

Contact details to withdraw from Big Ride Email: [events@street-child.co.uk](mailto:events@street-child.co.uk)

### **CATEGORY – Event Guide**

*For all information on the ride download the event guide here (coming soon).*

### **CATEGORY – Health and Safety**

#### **How should I prepare for the challenge?**

We encourage people from all backgrounds and of all shapes, ages, sizes and fitness levels to sign up to The Big Ride. What we do ask is that you follow a training plan before you embark on the event so that you are able to actually enjoy the experience rather than huffing and puffing your way through it!

There are different types and lengths of routes on both days, so pick a route that will challenge not defeat you!

Any participant unsure of their physical ability to take part in the ride must seek medical advice from their GP prior to booking and/or taking part in the challenge. It is not advisable for pregnant women to participate in the ride and doing so is at your own risk and you should follow your GP's recommendation.

#### **Do I need insurance?**

It is compulsory for all cyclists to be covered by their own travel insurance. It is important that you check the cover of your travel insurance as some standard policies don't cover cycling holidays and you may need to get specific cycle travel insurance. We also recommend that you take out insurance for your belongings, including your bicycle and any equipment that you bring with you. Companies such as Cyclosure offer policies aimed at cyclists travelling abroad but there are plenty of other companies out there, so please shop around for the policy that suits you the best.

#### **Medication/health issues**

During the registration process, we require you to disclose any health issues you may have and/or medication you may be taking. This information will be kept confidential and only shared with the appropriate members of support staff. Please make sure you make any



dietary requirements clear on the registration form and we will ensure we inform the caterers of your requests.

We require any participant who has an existing medical condition to seek medical advice from their GP prior to booking and/or taking part in the challenge. Similarly, any riders who are unsure of their physical ability to take part in the challenge must consult their GP before booking and taking part in the ride.

### **What happens if it's wet weather at base camp?**

We are obviously hoping that the weather will be warm and sunny for the event however all contingencies will be in place to ensure you get warm and dry as soon as you finish your days challenge. Staff will be on hand to assist with bike racking, space blankets and hot food and drink. Also available onsite will be drying rooms for shoes and clothes.

Most communal areas will be heated and weather proof. Tents are of the highest quality and therefore 100% waterproof.

Out on the road, routes will be constantly checked for safety and alternate routes will be used if necessary. Warning signs will be placed if required stating wet surfaces, reduce speed etc. It is always sensible to pack in anticipation for wet weather to ensure you have dry clothes for each day and in the evening.

### **CATEGORY – Packing**

#### **What do I pack?**

We recommend layering up so that you can add or remove items of clothing to keep you at a comfortable temperature. Always make sure you carry waterproof layers with you and buy clothes made from a fabric that is designed specifically for exercise that will absorb sweat and dry out quickly.

#### **Travel / Evening Wear**

It is very important that you keep baggage to a minimum as there is limited space within your personal tents. Pack warm and comfortable, casual evening-wear for when we kick back and relax in the evenings. Please note that although the event takes place in the summer, evenings can become cool.

- *Passport (or National Identity Card if appropriate)*
- *EHIC Card (formerly E111) - these are free*
- *Flip flops / trainers*
- *Casual trousers*
- *T-Shirts / shirts*
- *Sweater / hoody*
- *Warm jacket*
- *Warm hat*
- *Toiletries*
- *Money for bar / bike parts*
- *Plastic bag for wet / dirty kit*
- *Torch*
- *Sunscreen*
- *Travel adapter and phone charger to charge your phone overnight*
- *Sleeping bag / pillow / roll mat*
- *Towel*

- *Battery pack*

### **Recommended Personal First Aid Kit**

- *Your normal choice of painkillers*
- *Fabric plasters*
- *Blister fabric, e.g. RockTape/ Compeed*
- *Any personal medication (prescription or non-prescription)*

### **Cycling specific list**

#### **Kit**

We will provide you with a Big Ride breathable, high quality cycling shirt for each day of your ride.

Please pack the following:

- *Cycling shorts*
- *Socks*
- *Cycling shoes with clip in pedals / firm-soled shoes or trainers*
- *Bike helmet: Compulsory. No helmet no ride!*
- *LED bike lights with spare batteries (for bad weather / dusk finishes) Compulsory*
- *Waterproof lightweight jacket*
- *Cycling gloves*
- *Cycling overshoes (a good idea if the weather looks bad, but not essential)*
- *Arm and leg warmers (if it looks like the weather will be bad)*
- *Sunglasses*
- *Sun cream*
- *2 x water bottles*
- *2 x bottle cages attached to your bike*
- *Mobile phone (fully charged with your emergency contact saved under Next of Kin)*
- *Medical / First aid kit (see above)*
- *Warm and comfortable, casual evening-wear for when we kick back and relax in the evenings. Please note that although the event takes place in the summer, evenings can become cool.*

### **Cycle Repair Kit**

As the route is circular you shouldn't need a day sack but please ensure you carry the following with you:

- *Mini bike pump*
- *2 new inner tubes (check they fit your bike)*
- *A puncture repair kit including tyre levers*
- *Multi tool (with correct allen keys for your bike)*
- *Chain repair links (contact your local bike shop if you're unsure about chain repair).*
- *Bike/chain lubricant*

### **Run / walk specific list**

### **Kit**

We will provide you with a Big Ride breathable, high quality running shirt for your run.  
Please pack the following:

- *T-shirt*
- *Shorts*
- *Trainers / walking boots (comfortable and worn in)*
- *Pair of socks*
- *Sunglasses*
- *Waterproof jacket (recommend lightweight)*
- *Mobile phone (fully charged with your emergency contact saved under next of kin)*
- *Race belt*
- *Sun cream*

### **Hike specific**

#### **Kit**

We will provide you with a Big Ride breathable, high quality hiking shirt for your hike.  
Please pack the following:

#### **Mandatory**

- *Hiking shoes (recommend hiking boots with ankle support)*
- *Small rucksack (recommend 20 - 30 litre capacity, preferably with a rain cover)*
- *Waterproof jacket & trousers*
- *Spare warm gear (including fleece, hat & gloves)*
- *Waterproof bags (to keep clothes dry)*
- *Water bottles (capable of carrying 2 litres of water)*
- *Mobile phone (fully charged with your emergency contact saved under next of kin)*
- *Sunglasses & suncream*
- *Medical / First aid kit (see above)*

#### **Optional**

- *Collapsible trekking poles (if unsteady on feet or knee injury)*

### **CATEGORY – Fundraising**

#### **How much do I have to raise?**

By joining The Big Ride, you commit to raising at least GBP 3,150 for 2-day challenges, GBP 2,100 for one-day challenges or GBP 1,575 for the 1-day non-camping option.

Liberty Global and please disregard the above costings, your fundraising targets will be communicated internally.

Check out the fundraising section that has everything you need to get you started. If you are struggling to reach the required sponsorship amount before the ride, we'd love to talk to you about how we can help – please get in touch with us at [events@street-child.co.uk](mailto:events@street-child.co.uk).

If your company has a partnership agreement with Street Child then these prices may vary depending on your employer. Your company may also have special fundraising requirements for you that will be communicated to you directly. If you have any questions about these, please contact: [events@street-child.co.uk](mailto:events@street-child.co.uk)