

# 2023 Tour de Pologne - Stage details

## Stage 1 POZNAŃ - POZNAŃ - 183.7 km

The jubilee edition of the Tour de Pologne will kick off in Poznań, where the race returns after 16 years. The start is set at St Mark's Square, in the Poznañ International Fair headquarters. After covering more than 180 kilometres in the Wielkopolskie Voivodeship, the riders will finish the stage at the Automobil Klub in Poznañ, where they will race in a 4-kilometre lap. There will be six primes along the route for the points classification, the climbers' classification and the most active rider ranking. Three LOTTO Intermediate Sprints will take place in Suchy Las, Murowana Goślina and Kostrzyn. In Suchy Las the riders will also compete for the only GPM PZU KOM (3rd cat.) of the stage. Two special sprints will be held: Special Sprint SOUDAL - 95 Years of the Tour de Pologne in Pobiedziska and the Special Sprint in Środa Wielkopolska, Środa District.

#### Stage 2 LESZNO - KARPACZ - 202.9 km

The second stage is the only one with a distance of over 200 kilometers. The start is in Leszno in the Wielkopolskie Voivodship, which the riders will leave after a few kilometers into the race to fight for the only LOTTO Intermediate Sprint of this stage, set in Góra in the Lower Silesian Voivodeship. After a relatively flat first half of the stage, a demanding climb will kick up, with two 2nd cat PZU KOMs at Przełęcz pod Średnicą and Sosnówka. The grand finale of the stage will take place in Karpacz and the winner will be the rider who first reaches the top of the final 11-kilometre Orlinek climb, known as the 'Wailing Wall'. There are also two other special sprints along the route: the Special Sprint SOUDAL - 95 Years of the Tour de Pologne in Świerzawa and the Lake Hill Special Sprint.

#### Stage 3 WAŁBRZYCH - DUSZNIKI-ZDRÓJ, COS - 163.3 km

The third stage starts in Wałbrzych, the second largest town in Lower Silesia. It is a typical mountain stage with a total elevation gain of more than 3,000 metres and a distance of 163 kilometres, finishing in Duszniki-Zdrój. The stage will feature three 2nd category PZU KOMs in Walim, on the Jugowska Pass and in Zieleniec, as well as the Special Sprint SOUDAL - 95 Years of the Tour de Pologne - in Pieszyce. The spectacular finish will take place in the Biathlon Arena of the Central Sports Centre.

#### Stage 4 STRZELIN - OPOLE - 198.6 km

This 198 km stage will see the peloton return to slightly flatter terrain, giving the sprinters a chance to test themselves. The riders will start from the Lower Silesian town of Strzelin and head west to Sobótka before turning back to Opole, the capital of this voivodeship. The Tour de Pologne last visited Opole in 2020, when the second stage started here. The stage features one cat. 3<sup>rd</sup> cat. PZU KOM in Strzegomiany and three LOTTO Intermediate Sprints in Sobótka, Strzelin and Grodków.

## Stage 5 PSZCZYNA - BIELSKO-BIAŁA - 198.8 km

The stage - almost 199 kilometres long - is a typical mountain stage, with an elevation gain of over 3,000 metres. The riders will start in Pszczyna and finish in Bielsko-Biała, which has hosted the Tour de Pologne in the past. Before the finish, however, the riders will have to tackle several tough climbs: a 2nd-category PZU KOM at Zameczek (Little Castle) and two 1st-category PZU KOMs at Ochodzita and Salmopol. The latter

GPM is named after Joachim Halupczok, Poland's 1988 Olympic medalist. There will also be three LOTTO Intermediate Sprints in Ustroń, Istebna and Wilkowice along the route of stage five.

### Stage 6 KATOWICE - KATOWICE - 16.6 km

The second last stage is a 16.6 kilometre individual time trial in Katowice. The route in Katowice traditionally winds through the streets of the city centre, featuring the transformation of the Silesian capital, including the Market Square with its characteristic palm trees and the Cultural Zone, where years ago the Katowice Mine operated. It has been replaced by the Silesian Museum, the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra and the International Congress Centre. The riders will also have a chance to race through the unique Nikiszowiec district and the Valley of the Three Ponds, which illustrate how green the city is. The finish line will be at the Katowice Spodek.

# Stage 7 ZABRZE - KRAKÓW - 166.6 km

The peloton will cover almost 167 kilometres from Zabrze to Krakow, where the race traditionally ends. The finish line will be in Krakow's Błonia after the riders have completed three laps of the circuit on the city's streets. Before arriving in Kraków, there will be the LOTTO Intermediate Finish in Wilamowice, the cat-3 PZU KOMs in Witanowice and Kaszów, and the Special Sprint SOUDAL - 95 Years of the Tour de Pologne in Budzyń. Finally, the podium ceremony for the protagonists of the 80<sup>th</sup> Tour de Pologne will take place in Krakow's Błonia.