

The background of the entire page is a scenic photograph of a mountain range. In the foreground, two cyclists are standing on a grassy ridge, looking out over a valley. The middle ground shows a layer of clouds or mist. In the background, a large mountain range with significant snow cover is visible under a clear blue sky.

NUTRI-GRAIN **THE PIONEER**

RIDE GUIDE
1-6 DECEMBER 2019

WELCOME NOTE

Welcome to the fourth edition of The Pioneer, fueled by Nutri-Grain.

2019 will be a very special edition, as it's the last time we'll be traversing the Southern Alps for a while before we head to the North Island in 2020 for a new adventure. So remember to take the time to look up at the beautiful Queenstown and Central Otago surroundings.

Our founding and returning riders will again find plenty of character on our 2019 course. Expect to see some of the best bits from 2018, with some new trails thrown in. We set out to create a really challenging but rideable course that you will remember as the best week you've ever spent on a mountain bike – so hopefully we've achieved this.

Our first timers will discover the comradery and welcome that makes The Pioneer one of the most memorable experiences of people's lives.

We're looking forward to awarding a few more Epic Legend medals at the finish line. Epic Legends are riders who have completed all three of the week long Epic Series races – Swiss Epic, Absa Cape Epic and The Pioneer. Finishing one Epic Series race is a remarkable achievement, but completing three is truly special.

Our team has been working hard to develop pairs racing at our MTB events in Australia too. Our four day Aussie MTB series includes Reef to Reef, Cape to Cape and Port to Port. These races are so much fun and the perfect build up to The Pioneer so check them out next year. Complete all three, and you'll become a Triple Crown Legend.

Thank you to New Zealand Major Events, Kellogg's Nutri-Grain and all our other partners, land-owners, councils and stakeholders who make this event possible. A reminder to please always respect the land you are traversing.

Good luck to all our riders – remember to enjoy the stunning scenery, stay true to your team-mate, respect the land you are riding through and ride hard!

DAVE BEECHE
MANAGING DIRECTOR – IRONMAN GROUP



EVENT CONTACTS

RACE DIRECTOR, **DANIELLE SHERMAN** ATHLETE SERVICES MANAGER, **MITCH MURCOTT** + 64 27 319 6497
pioneer@ironman.com or call + 64 27 319 6497



@Thepioneerz



The Pioneer



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CONTENTS

Course Overview	page 5
Travel & Transport	page 6
Event Schedule	page 7
Rider Registration	page 11
Rider Identification Material	page 12
Luggage Transport & Storage	page 14
Mechanical Services	page 16
Mandatory Gear	page 16
Race Briefings	page 17
Starting Order	page 18
Aid Stations	page 19
First Aid & Medical	page 20
SPOT Gen3 Trackers	page 22
Timing	page 24
Cut-Off & Maximum Stage Times	page 24
Race Rules	page 27
On Course Signage	page 27
Environmental Care Code	page 29
Race Village Information	page 30
Stage Details	page 34
Daily Awards	page 46
Photos	page 46
Functions	page 47
Epic Series Qualifier Program	page 48
Supporter Guide	page 50
Our Partners	page 52



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COURSE OVERVIEW



TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

You will need to arrive in Queenstown, in New Zealand's South Island, for the event no later than Saturday 30 November.

Your six-day mountain bike journey will take you from Queenstown, through Arrowtown, Alexandra and Bannockburn, before heading back to Queenstown, where you may choose to fly directly out from, unless you stay on to explore further.

Accommodation in Queenstown is at your own arrangement. Our hotel partner, Novotel Queenstown Lakeside, can help with this.

For the safe transfer of you and your bike gear between airports and accommodation in Queenstown we have listed 'bike friendly' taxi services for you to call and pre-book if required.

Queenstown Bike Taxis 0800 BIKETAXI; info@queenstownbiketaxis.co.nz	Vertigo Bike Taxis 0800 VERTIGO; info@vertigobikes.co.nz	Super Shuttle 0800 SHUTTLE; reservations@supershuttle.co.nz
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TRANSPORT

If you're not travelling with a support crew, we can transfer you, your bike, and official gear bag (if applicable) during certain sections of the event. You can book the below service/s from your MyEvents account (see your registration confirmation email for a link), or at the Help Desk at Rider Registration, subject to availability.

TRANSPORT TO PROLOGUE - \$30 NZD

Shuttles to the Prologue at Moke Lake on Sunday 1 December will depart from Athol Street carpark in Queenstown. Those that book this service will be allocated a departure time based on your Prologue start time (to be released 2 weeks prior to the event). Your bike and official gear bag is to be taken with you on the transport. **Limited bookings available.**

STAGE 1 TRANSPORT TO ALEXANDRA - \$60 NZD

Stage 1 on Monday 2 December finishes at Wilcox Green in Arrowtown. If you require transport to the Race Village in Alexandra, then please book this service in advance. **Limited bookings available.**

STAGE 5 TRANSPORT TO ARROWTOWN OR QUEENSTOWN - \$15 NZD

Depending on when you finish Stage 5, you might like to collect your excess luggage (if you have any stored with us) and go back to your accommodation in Arrowtown or Queenstown, before coming back later in the day for the Awards Ceremony. This transport service to central Arrowtown or Queenstown can only be purchased from the Info Desk at the Stage 5 finish line.

AWARDS CEREMONY TRANSPORT - \$25 NZD

Includes return transport from Arrowtown or Queenstown to the Awards Ceremony on Friday 6 December. The Arrowtown pick-up/drop-off point is the bus stop on Ramshaw Lane, while Queenstown is Athol St. **Limited bookings available.**

EVENT SCHEDULE

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
FRIDAY 29 NOVEMBER, 2019 HELP DESK / INFORMATION - QUEENSTOWN		
12:00pm - 5:00pm	Information Help Desk Open	Novotel Queenstown Lakeside Reception
SATURDAY 30 NOVEMBER, 2019 REGISTRATION - QUEENSTOWN		
9:00am - 3:00pm	Rider Registration	Queenstown Events Centre
9:00am - 3:00pm	Excess Luggage Drop Off for Storage	Queenstown Events Centre
9:00am - 5:00pm	Bike Mechanic - Bike Checks & Servicing Open	Queenstown Events Centre
5:00pm - 6:00pm	Welcome Ceremony & Compulsory Rider Briefing	Queenstown Events Centre
SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER, 2019 PROLOGUE - MOKE LAKE		
7:00am	Bike Mechanic Services Open	Race Village, Moke Lake
6:45am - 8:15am	Transport to Prologue Departs (pre-purchased only)	Athol Street, Queenstown
7:00am - 8:00pm	Social Zone & Info Open	Social Zone, Race Village, Moke Lake
8:30am - 10:00am	Prologue Start	Race Village, Moke Lake
8:30am - 1:00pm	Moke Lake Access Road Closure	Moke Lake Queenstown
10:30am - 9:15pm	Massage Services Available	Race Village, Moke Lake
11:00am - 5:00pm	Lunch Vendors Open	Race Village, Moke Lake
6:00pm - 7:30pm	Dinner	Social Zone - Race Village, Moke Lake
7:00pm	Daily Awards & Stage 1 Race Briefing	Social Zone - Race Village, Moke Lake
MONDAY 2 DECEMBER, 2019 STAGE 1 - MOKE LAKE TO ARROWTOWN		
5:30am - 7:00am	Bike Mechanic Services Available	Race Village, Moke Lake
6:00am - 8:00pm	Social Zone & Info Open	Social Zone - Race Villages, Moke Lake & Alexandra
5:00am - 7:00am	Breakfast	Race Village, Moke Lake

EVENT SCHEDULE CONTINUED

7:00am - 7:30am	Stage 1 Start	Race Village, Moke Lake
7:00am - 8:30am	Moke Lake Access Road Closure	Moke Lake Queenstown
12:30pm - 4:30pm	Transport to Alexandra Race Village Departs (pre-purchased only)	Wilcox Green, Arrowtown
12:00pm - 5:00pm	Lunch Vendors Open	Race Village, Alexandra
12:00pm	Bike Mechanic Services Open	Race Village, Alexandra
1:30pm - 9:45pm	Massage Services Available	Race Village, Alexandra
6:00pm	Wash 1 Laundry Drop Off Closes	Social Zone - Race Village, Alexandra
6:00pm - 7:30pm	Dinner	Social Zone - Race Village, Alexandra
7:00pm	Daily Awards & Stage 2 Briefing	Social Zone - Race Village, Alexandra

TUESDAY 3 DECEMBER, 2019 STAGE 2 - ALEXANDRA TO ALEXANDRA

All Day	Bike Mechanic Services Available	Race Village, Alexandra
6:00am - 8:00pm	Social Zone & Info Open	Social Zone - Race Village, Alexandra
6:00am - 8:00am	Breakfast	Social Zone - Race Village, Alexandra
8:00am - 8:30am	Stage 2 Start	Race Village, Alexandra
11:00am - 5:00pm	Lunch Vendors Open	Race Village, Alexandra
1:30pm - 9:45pm	Massage Services Available	Race Village, Alexandra
6:00pm - 7:30pm	Dinner	Social Zone - Race Village, Alexandra
7:00pm	Daily Awards & Stage 3 Briefing	Social Zone - Race Village, Alexandra

WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER, 2019 STAGE 3 - ALEXANDRA TO BANNOCKBURN

7:00am - 8:30am	Bike Mechanic Services Available	Race Village, Alexandra
7:00am - 8:00pm	Social Zone & Info Open	Social Zone - Race Village, Alexandra
6:00am - 8:00am	Breakfast	Social Zone - Race Village, Alexandra

EVENT SCHEDULE CONTINUED

8:30pm - 9:00am	Stage 3 Start	Race Village, Alexandra
11:00am - 5:00pm	Lunch Vendors Open	Race Village, Bannockburn
12:00pm	Bike Mechanic Services Open	Race Village, Bannockburn
1:30pm - 9:45pm	Massage Services Available	Race Village, Bannockburn
6:00pm	Wash 2 Laundry Drop Off Closes	Social Zone - Race Village, Bannockburn
6:00pm - 7:30pm	Dinner	Social Zone - Race Village, Bannockburn
7:00pm	Daily Awards & Stage 4 Briefing	Social Zone - Race Village, Bannockburn

THURSDAY 5 DECEMBER, 2019 STAGE 4 - BANNOCKBURN TO BANNOCKBURN

All Day	Bike Mechanic Services Open	Race Village, Bannockburn
6:00am - 8:00pm	Social Zone & Info Open	Social Zone - Race Village, Bannockburn
6:00am - 8:00am	Breakfast	Social Zone - Race Village, Bannockburn
8:00am - 8:30am	Stage 4 Starts	Race Village, Bannockburn
11:00am - 5:00pm	Lunch Vendors Open	Race Village, Bannockburn
1:30pm - 9:45pm	Massage Services Open	Race Village, Bannockburn
6:00pm - 7:30pm	Dinner	Social Zone - Race Village, Bannockburn
7:00pm	Daily Awards & Stage 5 Briefing	Social Zone - Race Village, Bannockburn

FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER, 2019 STAGE 5 - BANNOCKBURN TO QUEENSTOWN

5:00am - 8:00am	Social Zone & Info Open	Social Zone - Race Village, Bannockburn
6:00am - 7:30am	Bike Mechanic Services Open	Race Village, Bannockburn
5:30am - 7:30am	Breakfast	Social Zone - Race Village, Bannockburn
7:30am - 8:00am	Stage 5 Starts	Race Village, Bannockburn
12:00pm	Bike Mechanic Services Open	Finish Line - Frankton, Queenstown

EVENT SCHEDULE CONTINUED

12:45pm - 5:45pm	Massage Services Available	Finish Line - Frankton, Queenstown
12:00pm - 5:00pm	Shuttles - Finish Line to Arrowtown & Queenstown Departs (pay at the info tent on the day)	Finish Line - Frankton, Queenstown
12:00pm - 5:00pm	Excess Luggage Collected from Storage	Finish Line - Frankton, Queenstown
6:00pm	Transport to Awards Ceremony Departs (pre-purchased only)	Ramshaw Lane, Arrowtown / Athol St, Queenstown
7:00pm	Awards Ceremony Dinner	Finish Line - Frankton, Queenstown
9:30pm	Transport to Arrowtown & Queenstown Departs (pre-purchased only)	Finish Line - Frankton, Queenstown
SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER, 2019 INFORMATION HELP DESK		
9:00am - 11:00am	Information Help Desk Open	Finish Line - Frankton, Queenstown
9:00am - 11:00am	Excess Luggage Collected from Storage	Finish Line - Frankton, Queenstown

Event schedule is draft and subject to change.

RIDER REGISTRATION



All riders must register as a team at the Queenstown Events Centre, on Saturday 30 November, between 9.00am – 3.00pm. Please ensure you bring photo ID with you to Registration. You will not be able to register without photo ID, and only the registered rider can collect their race pack.

At Rider Registration it is compulsory to have your bike and helmet checked with the certified bike mechanics. There will also be a mandatory gear check to ensure you have everything on the gear list required for this event. Please see the Mandatory Gear section of this Ride Guide if you are unsure of what is required. Once all items have passed the check you will be given your race pack, which includes bike plates, jersey numbers, ID wristbands, bag labels and elevation sticker books, before getting your Pioneer Day Bag and 110L Marmot Gear Bag.

At this point you will be given your timing transponder. It is your responsibility to ensure the transponder is securely fastened to the front fork of your bike (using the zip ties provided within your pack). Each team will also be given a SPOT Gen3 tracking unit to be carried by one member of the team at all times during the race. Both the timing transponder and tracking unit must be returned at the completion of the event. If either are damaged or unreturned you will be charged to replace it.

RACE PACK CONTENTS

- PURE Gel (6 per rider)
- Nutri-Grain product
- Mercedes gift
- Drink Bottle (2 per rider)

BIKE CHECK

A bike check will be carried out initially at Rider Registration. You are responsible for the maintenance of your own bike for the duration of the race.

In all cases of maintenance and repair, you are required to complete the full distance of the stage and must complete the stage within the maximum stage time. Time spent on maintenance and repair will not entitle you to any extension of the maximum stage time.

You should check your equipment at the end of each stage.

You must wear a helmet at all times while riding during the race. All helmets must comply with international 'ANSI' standards.

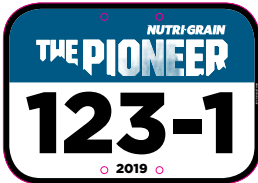
It's a good idea to bring a spare derailleur hangar with you as well.

Appropriate riding attire, including a shirt, must be worn at all times.

RIDER IDENTIFICATION MATERIAL

At Rider Registration you will be given the following material that will need to be worn for the entire duration of the event. All material has a unique 'race number' identifier.

- **Handlebar Race Plate** – All riders need to ensure their Race Plate is secured (using the zip ties provided within your pack) prior to each Stage race start
- **Bike Sticker** – This is your secondary bike identifier, and is to be attached to the seat post of your bike.



- **Jersey Race Number** – All riders need to ensure their Race Number is secured to the back of their jersey (using the safety pins provided within your pack) prior to each Stage Race Start.



- **Rider Wristband** – Your ID wristband must be worn at all times during race-week as this grants you access to Race Village facilities. 'P' (Prologue transport), 'A' (Alexandra transport), 'C' (Awards Ceremony transport), 'M5' (5-day Massage), 'M6' (6-day Massage) will be printed on your wristband to indicate if you have purchased these Add-On Packages.



- **Bag Labels** – You will be given 2 labels per rider to go on the handles of your Day Bag and Marmot Gear Bag.



Your tent will also be clearly numbered with a label similar to that of the bag labels pictured above. We encourage you to bring a flag or ribbon to help you identify your tent.

- **Supporter Wristband** – If you have purchased any of the Supporter Add-On Packages then your race pack will also include wristband accreditation for them. These must be worn at all times in order for them to access the facilities they have booked.



LUGGAGE TRANSPORT & STORAGE

You will receive your official Marmot Gear Bag at Rider Registration. You will need to pack all the gear (i.e. clothes, sleeping bag, mattress etc.) you wish to take with you during race-week into the official Marmot gear bag. The bag is 110 litres in size, 1587g in weight, 88cm long, and 35cm wide and deep. No gear can be taken separately to the official gear bag.

SURPLUS LUGGAGE STORAGE

Your excess gear can be stored securely for you. This must be dropped off at the Queenstown Events Centre on Saturday 30 November during Rider Registration between 9:00am - 3:00pm. Your excess luggage will be available to collect from the Stage 5 finish line in Frankton, Queenstown between 12:00pm - 5:00pm on Friday 6 December or between 9:00am - 11:00am on Saturday 7 December.

LUGGAGE TO PROLOGUE

All riders who have purchased the Prologue Transport package (\$30.00) will be transported with their bike and Marmot Gear Bag from the Athol Street carpark in central Queenstown to Moke Lake on Sunday 1 December, departing between 6:45am and 8:15am.

LUGGAGE TO ALEXANDRA, BANNOCKBURN AND QUEENSTOWN

Your Marmot Gear Bag will be transported for you from Moke Lake to Alexandra, from Alexandra to Bannockburn, and from Bannockburn to Frankton, Queenstown. There will be a luggage transporter that you will need to take your bag to before the start of Stages 1, 3 & 5. The bag will be waiting for you in your tent – which will be labelled with your race number – on your arrival into the next Race Village. Only your Marmot Gear Bag will be transported between Race Villages for you and it MUST carry the official bag label.

DAY BAGS

There will be a bag drop at the start line of each stage, so you can wear warm layers right up until race start. This bag will be available at the Finish Recovery area when you reach the finish line. Your official Pioneer Day Bag (given to you at Rider Registration) is the only bag that can be used for this bag drop service. Your bag must carry the official bag label.



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MECHANICAL SERVICES

Our Bike Mechanic team from Bike Therapy will have everything on hand to fix any issue! Given the remote nature of this event, Hazen and the team will be well equipped with mechanical supplies across race week to ensure you can continue riding, regardless of any mechanical fault you may incur. They do recommend that each rider carries a spare derailleur hanger on their bike for the race.

ON-COURSE

Basic mechanical support and technical assistance will be available for 'running repairs' at all Aid Stations on course. Running repairs are issues that require a 'quick-fix', minor work or simple adjustment. If considerable time is spent and spare parts used, then your race number will be recorded and you will need to arrange payment at the end of each day.

AT REGISTRATION & RACE VILLAGES

For those that have pre-purchased the package, Bike Therapy will be set-up and operating mechanical services at Rider Registration in the Queenstown Events Centre, and throughout event-week at all subsequent Race Villages. For simple repairs and adjustments there will be no charge. However, if considerable time is spent fixing your bike (or part) and specialist tools are required, there will be a charge. A mechanical services price list will be available at the Bike Therapy mechanic stand.

MANDATORY GEAR

The mandatory gear list contains what we believe, and in consultation with our Safety Team, is the absolute minimum to keep you safe in the alpine environment. Unlike some other global mountain bike stage races, this is a remote backcountry event where protection from the elements and medical/support services could be some time/distance from riders needing assistance. It is therefore imperative that mandatory gear is carried at all times. A gear check will be carried out initially at Rider Registration on both your mandatory basic gear and your additional mandatory gear. Random checks will be made at the start chute each morning, at any time during the race and after crossing the finish line.

MANDATORY BASIC GEAR

This gear must be worn or carried on every stage. All category place getters will also have their gear checked at the finish line.

- Helmet
- Beanie or buff (buff must be wool/merino)
- Windproof jacket with sleeves (a hood is optional, but recommended)
- Tool kit (1 per team) – must contain two spare tubes (if using tubeless ensure sealant is refreshed every 2 months and carry at least 1 tube

as an emergency back-up), a bike pump, a multi-tool, tyre levers, patch kit and a chain breaker. A speed link/spare chain link is also useful.

- First Aid kit (1 per team) – including bandages, plasters, tape, gauze, whistle and two survival blankets. We also recommend carrying pain relief medication for headaches, sunscreen and electrolyte replacement powder for cramps, along with other medications you might need (e.g. prescription or hay fever medication).

ADDITIONAL MANDATORY GEAR (ADVERSE WEATHER)

Additional gear will only be required if advised by race organisers at the Race Briefing the night before. This will be in cases of impending weather or climate changes or other reasons at the sole discretion of the event organisers. To be carried in addition to basic mandatory gear:

- Long sleeve thermal torso layer
- Warm tights (merino or polypropylene) or leg warmers
- Full fingered gloves
- Waterproof jacket with hood, sleeves and tape sealed seams

RACE BRIEFINGS

OPENING CEREMONY BRIEFING

It is compulsory for all riders to attend the main race briefing at the Opening Ceremony at the Queenstown Events Centre, on Saturday 30 November at 5.00pm.

EVENING BRIEFINGS

Compulsory briefings will be held every evening following dinner and daily awards. These will be held in the Social Zone of the Race Villages and it is a requirement for you to attend.

At the daily briefing you will be informed of:

- Ride conditions for the next day
- Any weather updates
- Gear requirement updates
- Course changes or updates due to weather conditions
- Any other important information for the day ahead

RACE MORNING BRIEFINGS – ONLY IF REQUIRED

Should the weather play a part in making necessary changes to the course, and these have not been obvious during the prior evening, a briefing will be held in the morning pre-race start. Please be aware that if the need arises, and the weather dictates, you may be required to alter your gear for that day.

STARTING ORDER

PROLOGUE -MOKE LAKE

Note: The Prologue is located at Moke Lake, located 15km (20min drive) outside of Queenstown.

We do not recommend riding to the Prologue, as it is a narrow gravel road, and will be busy with event traffic. Bike taxi transport to the start line can be booked as an Add-On Package through the event website or at the Help Desk at Rider Registration. Plan to arrive a minimum of 30mins prior to your race start time, noting that Moke Lake Road will be closed from 8:30am.

The Prologue is a time trial event where teams will be sent off in 25 second intervals over a 90min period. Start times will be published on the Info Board at Rider Registration, as well as on the event website and app. These start times are based on the estimated finish times submitted by riders in advance. It is important to register a reasonable time for you team to ensure the best possible experience for all riders. It is your responsibility to know your start time.

STAGE 1 - STAGE 5

The start protocol for Stages 1 – 5 will follow a zone (wave) start format.

All teams will be allocated a start zone based on the current overall rankings. The provisional start order for the following day will be published after the daily awards on the Info Board in the Social Zone. The final start order will be displayed from 6:30am on the morning of the race on the Info Board in the Social Zone. Start lists will also be posted on the Epic Series App as soon as they are made available.

Every start follows the same procedure – riders will be divided into five to seven start zones depending on the Stage (Zone A,B,C,D,E,F,G). The zone starts will take place over a 30min period, with 5mins between each zone start. Start zones will open 30mins prior to the start time and riders will be able to take their positions. Riders must access the start zones with their bikes. Start zones will close 10mins before the start time. Latecomers will be placed in the rearmost start zone.

If the start procedure deviates from the above, the Race Director will communicate this to riders at the daily briefing.

AID STATIONS

There will be up to three Aid Stations (which will also be Checkpoints) on each stage. We recommend you bring your own supplies to compliment what is offered at the Aid Stations.

AID STATIONS WILL PROVIDE

- Water (note that while there will be sufficient water for riders to rehydrate and fill bottles, we are in remote mountain environments and will be trucking all water into aid stations, therefore we will not be allowing any water usage for non-essential needs)
- Fruit
- Cake / chips / lollies
- Marmite sandwiches
- Cold boiled potatoes with salt flakes
- Basic mechanical support/bike repair
- Basic First Aid
- Radio access to medical and race officials
- PURE electrolyte

BOTTLE DROP

While we will have water at all Aid Stations on course to refill your bottle each day, you also have the option to hand your bottle into the Info Desk NO LATER than 1 hour prior to the race start time on Stages 1 – 5, and this will be available at Aid Station 2. Make sure you clearly label these with your name and race number, ideally on the top and sides. Please note: Only one bottle is allowed to be dropped per person. Your bottle will be available to collect post-race from the Info Desk as soon as the Aid 2 crew get off-course. Aid Stations will be self-serve so riders must remember what bin they dropped their bottle into.

APPROXIMATE DISTANCES TO THE AID STATIONS (AS) FOR EACH STAGE

Prologue	A1 at 17km	Stage 1	A1 at 23km A2 at 52km A3 at 64km	Stage 2	A1 at 36km A2 at 61km A3 at 81km
Stage 3	A1 at 31km A2 at 46km A3 at 62km	Stage 4	A1 at 22km A2 at 38km A3 at 56km	Stage 5	A1 at 19km A2 at 42km A3 at 54km

FIRST AID & MEDICAL

Should you require any medical assistance, there will be qualified medical staff on site. We have a range of expert medical services throughout the course and at the finish line. Medical staff will be out on-course and in the Race Village throughout the race-week. There will be basic First Aid available at each Aid Station. If you require medical assistance or come across an accident please make your way to the nearest Aid Station or Checkpoint and report the accident.

ACCIDENT RESPONSE

Given the number of riders on course relative to the number of support crew, and the nature of the terrain you are riding over, it is likely that in an accident or emergency you as a fellow rider may reach that person before the support crews do. If so, you should proceed as follows:

1. **First On Scene:** If you are the first on the scene please stop and assist the injured/distressed competitor and gather as much information as possible.
2. **Next On Scene:** Talk to first on scene then proceed to the nearest radio (Aid Station / Medic / 4WD / Tail End Charlie / some Marshals) to report the situation (even if that means returning the way you came) so we can get expert help on the scene ASAP.
3. **Others On Scene:** Stop and offer assistance and proceed if not required.

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FIND IT IN THE BREAKFAST AISLE

ATHLETE SPOT GEN3 TRACKERS

All teams will be issued with a SPOT Gen3 tracking unit at Registration (1x per team). The SPOT Gen3 is a satellite tracking device that transmits a breadcrumb trail of GPS points every 5 minutes, enabling the event team and supporters to have 'real-time' tracking of each team on course. Rider tracking can be accessed from The Pioneer website, app, or from the personalised link MAPProgress will send you. The device work when presented with a clear view of the sky.

ACTIVATING THE DEVICE	
1.	You will be issued the SPOT Gen3 at registration and it will be turned on at this time. From this point the unit will remain on for the duration of the event. Is does not need to be switched off at night. Should your unit transmit a low battery signal, SPOT staff will provide replacement batteries.
2.	Prior to starting each stage check that the device is still on and tracking, the GPS light and the Footprint button will be flashing green.
3.	Place the unit in either the back pocket of your cycling jersey or on your hydration pack (high up on the shoulder), securing with cable ties. The SPOT logo should be facing outwards with the flashing side up.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **SOS button is used only in the case of a medical emergency.** Ensure there is good line of sight to the sky, open the SOS flap and hold down the button until it flashes green. The SPOT Gen3 sends the message "I need immediate medical support at this location." This is to be pushed for a medical condition you are unable to treat yourself. The nearest Pioneer medical staff will be directed to your location and call for an evacuation if required. If there is mobile reception at your location **DIAL 111 in addition to pressing the SOS button** and identify yourself as part of The Pioneer race.
- **HELP button is used if you are withdrawing from the race but, it is NOT a medical emergency** and you merely require transport off the course. Ensure the device has good line of sight to the sky, open the HELP flap (hands symbol) and hold down the button until it flashes green.
- Ensure the device has good line of sight to the sky.
- If either of these buttons are pressed by mistake, you can hold either button down again until it flashes red, this will cancel the help request.
- If a competitor's transponder or SPOT Gen3 is lost or damaged during the event, the SPOT tracking crew will provide a replacement. You will be charged \$250NZD for the non-return of any SPOT Gen3 device at the conclusion of The Pioneer event.



TIMING

All timing at The Pioneer is provided by Sport Splits New Zealand. Stage results and General Classification (i.e. overall cumulative times) for each category will be published on www.thepioneer.co.nz and the event app, as well as the Info Board in the Social Zone at the end of each day.

All riders are timed via a transponder attached by a zip tie to the front fork of your bike. If a transponder is lost during the race, you will need to inform event personnel at the beginning of that stage, so that timing providers can organise a replacement. **Your transponder must be returned at the conclusion of the race in Frankton, Queenstown.** If you withdraw at any stage, you must return your transponder to event personnel. Unreturned timing transponders will incur a \$70 NZD fee for replacement.

CUT-OFF & MAXIMUM STAGE TIMES

Riders are given a maximum amount of time allowed to officially complete each stage of the race – this is referred to as the Maximum Stage Time. The Maximum Stage Time differs from day to day, as it takes course distance, amount of climbing, as well as the nature of the terrain into account. In addition, for safety reasons each stage features dedicated cut-off points on route, that must be reached by the time specified.

The Race Director reserves the right to amend cut-off times for any stage and at any time if it is in the interests of the safety of the riders.



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STAGE	DETAIL	STAGE	DETAIL
Prologue	Maximum Stage Time 4:00hrs	Stage 1	Cut-off 2:30pm at 52km Maximum Stage Time 9:30hrs
Stage 2	Cut-off 3:00pm at 61km, 5:00pm at 75km Maximum Stage Time 11:30hrs	Stage 3	Cut-off 2:00pm at 46km Maximum Stage Time 11:00hrs
Stage 4	Cut-off 1:00pm at 30km, 4:00pm at 47km Maximum Stage Time 11:30hrs	Stage 5	Cut-off 11:00am at 19km, 1:00pm at 42km Maximum Stage Time 10:00hrs

Please note: all course cut-off times are subject to change due to weather or any other reason at the discretion of the event organisers.

PROCEDURE FOR BEING TAKEN OFF THE COURSE

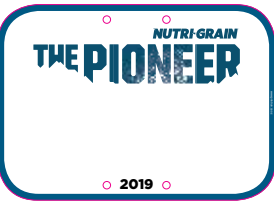
Any teams that have not passed an advertised Checkpoint by the prescribed time, or are still on course when the Maximum Stage Time is reached, will be prevented from continuing to ride, removed from the course, and classified as Did Not Finish (DNF) for that stage.

A rider van and trailer will transport you to the Race Village. There will also be rider retrieval points if you need to exit the course early. Please note that while this transport is provided, you may be required to wait for this service at the retrieval point until the next shuttle is available.

BLUE BOARD RIDER

Any rider who does not start a stage, or does not complete a stage within the Maximum Stage Time, for the first time will be classified as a Blue Board Rider. Blue Board Riders may continue the Race (i.e. they may start the following stage), but will not be allocated a stage time for the incomplete stage or classified as an official race finisher. Blue Board Riders will be allocated a new Handlebar Race Plate.

If any Blue Board Rider fails to finish a second stage within the Maximum Stage Time, he/she will not be allowed to continue the race. The team-mate of a Blue Board Rider will (provided that such rider has completed all stages within the Maximum Stage Times) be entitled to continue riding in the race and may qualify as a finisher, but will not qualify for any rankings. This rider will be allocated an Individual Finisher sticker that is placed on their Handlebar Race Plate.



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RACE RULES

- Only mountain bikes in good working order and race ready at the start of each stage will be allowed to start that stage. (Rule 5)
- You must wear a helmet at all times while riding during the race. All helmets must comply with international 'ANSI' standards. (Rule 6)
- You must ride with your team partner at all times, and must remain within the maximum allowable separation time, namely 2 minutes. (Rule 8)
- If your partner did not finish a stage but you did, you still qualify as a finisher, however, you will not be eligible for prize money or prizes. (Rule 16)
- You must report at the entrance to the start zones at least 15 minutes before the start time. Start zones will close ten minutes before the start time. (Rule 11.2)
- Teams that are not detected when passing the Checkpoints may be disqualified. (Rule 19)
- The race will not always have exclusive use of any public or private roads or tracks. You must assume roads are open and obey all road rules. You must also use proper trail etiquette and keep left on cycle trails. (Rule 18) (Please note in New Zealand we drive on the left-hand side of the road).
- You retain the ultimate responsibility to carry enough water and nutrition with you. (Rule 20)
- The race organisers may abandon any stage at any time, in their sole discretion, for safety concerns or any other reason which they consider appropriate. (Rule 17)
- You must respect the environment at all times, absolutely no littering or damage to the environment will be tolerated. This will result in time penalties and may result in disqualification and removal from the race. (Rule 25)
- Teams or riders that cannot continue the race for whatever reason must immediately inform the race office. This can be done at the race start, the finish, Checkpoints or by calling the Pioneer emergency hotline, +64 (0)27 311 8218 (Rule 24)
- The interpretation of any rule by the Race Jury will be final and binding on all race participants. (Rule 2.5)
- Mandatory gear must be carried at all times. Failure to do so will lead to time penalties and repeat offenses will lead to disqualification (Rule 7). Spot checks will be carried out at the start and finish lines.

A full copy of the race rules can be found on the event website and are also available at the Race Office.

ON COURSE SIGNAGE

Direction arrows indicate the route to be followed showing changes to the course, intersections, and all potentially dangerous situations.

A clearly visible "X" sign is used to mark wrong directions.

In a potentially dangerous situation, one or more arrows pointing downwards are placed 10 - 20 metres before the obstacle or potential danger, and also where the obstacle or potential danger is.

Two arrows pointing downwards are used for a more dangerous situation.

A serious hazard requiring great caution will be marked with three arrows pointing downwards.

Changes of direction will be marked by three arrows;

- ← a right or left arrow 20 - 50 metres before a corner indicating direction
- ← a single arrow on the corner indicating direction
- ↑ a single vertical pointing arrow 50 metres after corner confirming direction

All athletes must strictly adhere to these markings and signs and to the instructions of the course marshals. Individual explanations of the marking and signposts can be found below.



Right or Left Arrow

A single arrow on the corner indicating direction



Caution, slow down

Indicates a major hazard, e.g. a very tight, blind bend or a particularly difficult section with risk of falling. **Overtaking is strictly prohibited!**



Kilometre's to finish line

The remaining kilometres to the finish line will be indicated at 10 km, 5 km, 1 km.



Two downward arrows = HAZARD, slow down

Indicates a hazard that requires riders to slow down, e.g. a difficult section in the course



X = Wrong way

If athletes take the wrong way at crossroads, they will come across a sign marked with an X after approximately 20 to 50 metres.



Two left or right arrows

A double arrow to the left or to the right indicates a dangerous bend that requires to slow down.



DANGER - cars / highway or road

Athletes must watch out for cars when moving from a trail to a road. The race takes place on freely accessible roads so the presence of other vehicles must be taken into account.



The Pioneer Course Tape

Course tape will be used on the race course. The tape will be used in some instances on course and will be tied to fence posts, trees, gates to indicate that riders are on the correct route.

RACE VILLAGE INFORMATION

Each Race Village offers full service facilities for you and your bike. Once you cross the finish line you will receive your recovery food/refreshments, be able to access bike mechanic services, bike wash facilities and bike storage, before collecting your Day Bag.

Tents will be set up for you in the Marmot Tent City and, on the days we move Race Village, your Marmot Gear Bag will be delivered to your tent. Showers and plenty of toilets will be available for your basic needs. Enjoy the Social Zone; purchase yummy food and drinks from vendors; book in a time for a massage; check the race results at the Info Desk; and on set days organise your laundry (this must be pre-booked).

FOOD VENDORS

Each race village will provide a different local experience as we traverse the backcountry of the South Island, and the locals are very excited to welcome us to their towns. As they are small communities with limited outlets, we have organised some fantastic food vendors to be on-site at the Race Villages to ensure you are well fed. These include: Francesca's Pizzas, Men Love Berries, Espresso To Go, Southern Fare, Two Wild Sisters, Suma Sushi, Mocha Rocka Coffee, Wild Az, PitaPit, PURE. Please ensure you have NZ cash or Eftpos with you to purchase from these vendors.

BIKE ZONE

In each Race Village there is a Bike Zone where you need to wash your bike, have your bike serviced and checked (please note any parts are to be paid for at the conclusion of the event) and store your bike overnight. This is monitored overnight by our security team.

MASSAGE FACILITIES

A team of qualified masseuses will be on-site at The Pioneer Race Village. The Massage Add-On Package includes 1 x 25 minute massage appointment each day (5 or 6 day options available) and must have been pre-purchased.

Riders who have pre-purchased the package must book a time slot each day. This booking can be done either at the Info Desk before the race starts, or at the massage tent once you have completed the stage. **We strongly advise you to choose a time that is within an hour of crossing the finish line to ensure there are enough slots available for the later riders.**

If you haven't pre-purchased the package you may be able to make a booking on the spot, or for later that evening (subject to availability). Booking priority will be given to riders who have pre-purchased the package.

SOCIAL ZONE

There is a chill out zone right next to the Dining Area for relaxing and catching up on the day's adventures. In the Social Zone you'll find the Info Desk, where you can check on results, local information, course updates and generally anything you need to know! Additionally USB banks with multiple ports will be set up for your convenience to charge phones, watches etc.

WIFI / INTERNET

As much of The Pioneer course takes you through quite remote parts of NZ, there will be times when there will be no mobile coverage and therefore internet services. In some extreme circumstances there will be **NO PHONE OR DATA COVERAGE** at all.

International riders should consider purchasing a local NZ Sim Card to get 3G data. These can be purchased from SPARK or VODAFONE stores as outlined below.

For SPARK users here is a link to use to test your phone compatibility - <http://www.spark.co.nz/shop/mobile/whyultramobile/joinultramobile/phonecompatibility>



SPARK QUEENSTOWN
Shop 4, 13 Camp Street, Queenstown 9300
P: +64 (03) 441 1750
Open: Mon - Fri 9.00am - 6.00pm / Sat - Sun 10.00am - 5.00pm

QUEENSTOWN AIRPORT
603-05, Sir Henry Wigley Drive, Frankton, Queenstown 9300
P: +64 3 442 4445
Open Mon - Sun 8.30am - 7:30pm
Located on the ground floor of the airport, next to the currency exchange.



VODAFONE QUEENSTOWN
42 Beach St, Queenstown 9300
P: +64 3 4411 490
Open Mon - Sun 10.00am - 6.00pm

VODAFONE FRANKTON
19 Grant Road, Frankton, Queenstown 9300
P: +64 (03) 428 2620
Open: Mon - Sun 10:00am - 6:00pm

RACE VILLAGE MEALS

Breakfast

Will be served in the Dining Hall between 5:00am - 7:00am on Monday, 6:00am- 8:00am on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, and 5:30 - 7:30am on Friday.

Breakfast options will include a buffet of: Nutri-Grain®/porridge/muesli selection, yoghurt & tinned fruit, grilled ciabatta/seeded bread/bagels, eggs, breakfast sausages, baked beans, and tea & coffee.

Lunches

We will provide a recovery bag when you cross the finish line, but there is no formal lunch. However there will be ample opportunity to either visit the local host town or take advantage of the food vendors in the Race Villages.

Dinner

Will be served from 6:00pm - 7:30pm in the Dining Hall each day from Sunday to Thursday.

Dinner options will include: red and/or white meat, carbohydrates, vegetables, salads, fresh fruit, and dessert.

Awards Ceremony

The Awards Ceremony held at 7:00pm on Friday 6 December, at the Stage 5 finish line in Frankton, Queenstown, will include a gourmet BBQ dinner.

Check the event website for full menus.

BAR SERVICE

There will be a bar located in the Social Zone each evening to purchase soft drinks, Cargo beer and Tiki wine. NZ Eftpos is available.

LAUNDRY FACILITIES

Your pre-paid laundry package includes one laundry bag: 47cm x 60cm with a zip top. **For an effective wash for all riders, please make sure your bag is no more than 2/3 full.** The drop off and collection point for all laundry will be at the Info Desk, located inside the Social Zone at the Race Villages.

The laundry timetable is as follows:

Wash 1: Riders must **drop off laundry by 6:00pm, Monday 2 December** at the Race Village in Alexandra. Laundry pickup is from 7:00pm, Tuesday 3 December at the Race Village in Alexandra.

Wash 2: Riders must **drop off laundry by 6:00pm, Wednesday 4 December** at Race Village in Bannockburn. Laundry pickup is from 7:00pm, Thursday 5 December at Race Village in Bannockburn.

If you have not pre-arranged this service you may organise it at the Help Desk at Rider Registration or at the Race Village Info Desk, subject to availability. Please have NZD \$50 to pay for this service.

DRIVE TIMES BETWEEN RACE VILLAGES

FROM	TO	DISTANCE	TIME
Queenstown	Moke Lake Campsite	15km	30 mins
Moke Lake Campsite	Molyneux Park, Alexandra	106km	1 hr 30 mins
Molyneux Park, Alexandra	Anderson's Property, Bannockburn Road	37km	30 mins
Anderson's Property, Bannockburn Road	Queenstown (Frankton)	54km	45 mins

See the event app for Race Village locations.

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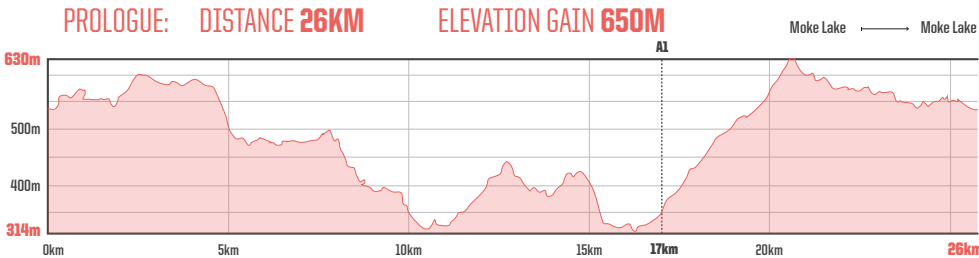
6 - 9 AUG 2020



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And so your journey begins...

The prologue course is a Queenstown local's favourite, using some of the best single-track in the area.

The anticlockwise loop starting and finishing in the stunning backcountry location of Moke Lake compromises of a fast start on some flowing tracks along the shores of Moke Lake and Lake Dispute before dropping down a well bermed twisty descent on the Phoenix track and into the single-track mecca of 7Mile where some pinchy climbs and tight forested trails will test your bike handling at race pace.

From there the drag back up to the Moke Lake race village begins with a long but not overly demanding single-track climb through rocky forest trails before popping out onto the access road for a full gas run into the finish.

Prologue address: Moke Lake, entrance off Moke Lake Rd, Queenstown

HOST TOWN: QUEENSTOWN

The tourist mecca of NZ! Here you will find pretty much everything you need - all major banks, petrol stations, postal services, supermarkets, shops, bike shops and outdoor sports shops, restaurants and cafes galore and many many opportunities to make the most of your Pioneer time. The aquatic centre in Frankton has some awesome facilities for recreation and rehab!

Race Village address: Moke Lake, entrance off Moke Lake Rd, Queenstown

- 4% - Cycle Trails
- 65% - Single Track
- 11% - 4WD Farm Track
- 1% - Sealed Road
- 19% - Gravel Road

Courses are subject to change up until race morning briefing.

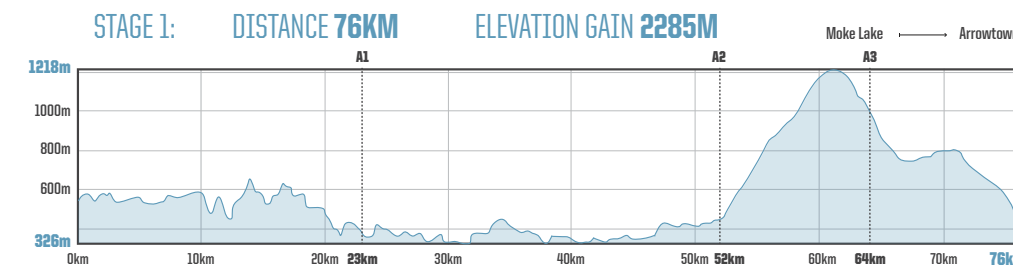
STAGE 1 - MONDAY 2 DECEMBER 2019, START TIME 7.00AM - 7.30AM

ELEVATION GAIN: 2285M, AID STATION: 23KM, 52KM, 64KM, MAX STAGE TIME: 9:30HRS



• 25% - Cycle Trails • 37% - Single Track • 16% - 4WD Farm Track • 14% - Sealed Road • 8% - Gravel Road

Courses are subject to change up until race morning briefing.



A new stage for 2019, this point to point ride encompasses some of the Queenstown basin's amazing cycle trail network, backcountry trails and the epic single-track on Coronet Peak.

Riders are treated to a relatively easy start on the Moke Lake road towards the Moonlight Trail, with the course using this trail in the opposite direction from 2018. The climbs up to the highpoint of the moonlight trail will well and truly stretch the field out and allow teams to get settled into their race rhythm for the week.

Once you emerge out of the trail at Arthurs point, the course then hits the banks of the mighty Shotover river for some more single-track riding before connecting up with the Queenstown cycle trail to cover some slightly easier terrain prior to the big challenge of the day, the climb to the Coronet Peak Ski field. The climb to the top here is a mixture of farm road, single-track and sealed road and will give competitors the chance to take in some stunning views of the Queenstown basin. There is plenty of reward for the hard work on the way up with the last 25km of the stage nearly all single-track and including the famous Rude Rock downhill before rolling along the coronet water race trail and then dropping down a newly improved Bush Creek Track and into Arrowtown where your well-earned recovery pack awaits! From here, riders who have pre-purchase transport, will be transported to the next race village in Alexandra.

HOST TOWN: ALEXANDRA

A 1.5km walk/ride into the town centre for a small selection of cafes, bakeries, pubs and restaurants – enough to suit your tastes though! ANZ has an ATM cash machine, but there is no actual bank in Alexandra. There is a New World supermarket for groceries and other takeaway outlets for snacks and meal top ups. Alexandra Health and the Alexandra Physiotherapy Centre caters for any extra massage needed!

Race Village address: Molyneux Park, Alexandra

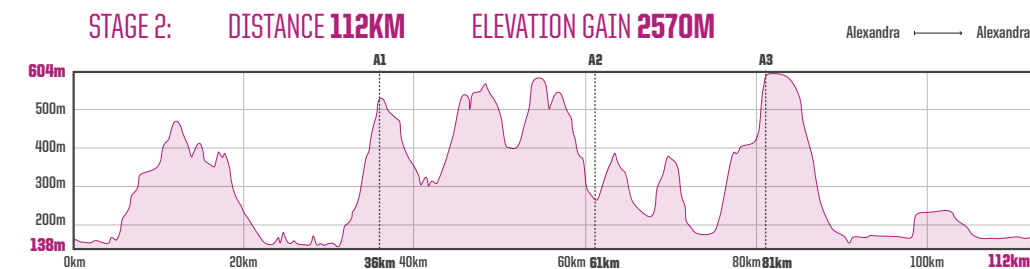
STAGE 2 - TUESDAY 3 DECEMBER 2019, START TIME 8:00AM - 8:30AM

ELEVATION GAIN: 2570M, AID STATION: 36KM, 61KM, 81KM, MAX STAGE TIME: 11:30HRS



• 14% - Cycle Trails • 30% - Single Track • 39% - 4WD Farm Track • 5% - Sealed Road • 12% - Gravel Road

Courses are subject to change up until race morning briefing.



Stage Two unveils the hidden mountain biking gem that is Alexandra. This is a true mountain bikers day with some of the best rocky, dry, dusty single-track in the country. The riding is a real crowd pleaser and although it remains one of the most challenging days you will encounter, the thrill of the trails will leave you smiling all the way to sleep!

The hands-down favourite stage of the 2018 edition of the race, The Queen stage of the race will remain similar, with minor tweaks to make it even better than before. The start from race village uses the iconic Otago Central Rail Trail before heading for the thyme encrusted hills out behind the Alexandra clock. Here we hit some trails newly available for the 2019 course. Known locally as MTB heaven, the extent of the single-track network out in these hills will surprise you and leave you wanting to come back for more, however the course has other places to go and quickly you exit the hills back into the township before shooting along the Clutha River cycle trail down the picturesque Roxburgh Gorge. This track soon turns into the longest climb of the day, the newly built Sphinx Rock Trail, a 6km pure single-track ascent bringing you from the depths of the gorge up to the very top of the Flat Top Hill range. The single-track doesn't relent here with a loop of the Black & Blue descent and Purple Haze climb on the hillside above Butchers Dam.

Finally, we take a break from single-track and cover a large amount of ground (6 climbing) over the farm tracks of Earnsclough Station heading towards the next major challenge of the day at Clyde. The Fraser weir road climb takes you into a remote high country river gorge before you have to grunt out of it up the steepest climb of the day to get to the top of the Clyde Enduro Trail. This 3km flowing downhill trail certainly brings your grin back quickly and will make you forget all the hard work in getting there. The final part of the stage brings you back from Clyde to Alexandra along another short section of the Rail Trail and through the airport and boot hill trail network.

HOST TOWN: ALEXANDRA

A 1.5km walk/ride into the town centre for a small selection of cafes, bakeries, pubs and restaurants – enough to suit your tastes though! ANZ has an ATM cash machine, but there is no actual bank in Alexandra. There is a New World supermarket for groceries and other takeaway outlets for snacks and meal top ups. Alexandra Health and the Alexandra Physiotherapy Centre caters for any extra massage needed!

Race Village address: Molyneux Park, Alexandra

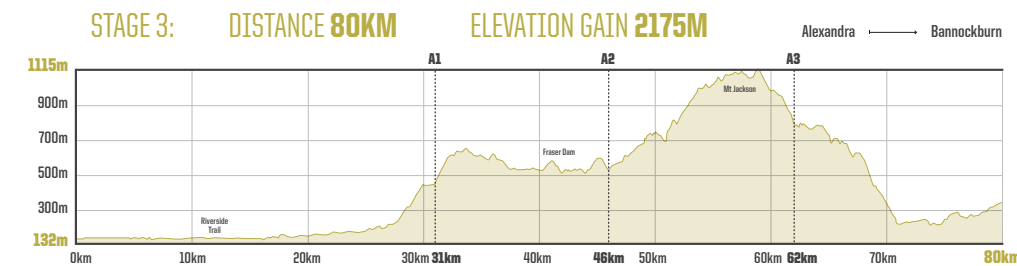
STAGE 3 - WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2019, START TIME 8:30AM - 9:00AM

ELEVATION GAIN: 2175M, AID STATION: 31KM, 46KM, 62KM, MAX STAGE TIME: 11:00HRS



• 39% - 4WD Farm Track • 21% - Single Track • 23% - Sealed Road • 17% - Gravel Road

Courses are subject to change up until race morning briefing.



The stage starts with the ever-popular Alexandra-Clyde Millennium track which winds alongside the Clutha River and brings you out right underneath the massive Clyde dam.

Stage 3 will be ridden as intended for the 2018 Pioneer. Flooding of the Fraser river put a spanner in the works, making the river unsafe to ford and cutting off access to the beautiful private Hawksburn Station. This stage is too good not to give it a second shot!

A loop through the streets of historic Clyde and a once in a year opportunity to ride across the top of the dam itself is an early highlight of this stage. Once out of Clyde the course crosses the Earnsclough flats and heads for the first major climb of the day up to Fraser Dam Road, this climb takes you halfway up the Old Man hill range, and around the back of the Fraser reservoir, where you cross the river and head into Hawksburn Station. Some rolling farm country here leads you into the next big climb of the day to the top of the Cairnmuir range.

The Cairnmuir climb has some early steep pinches and some short sections that riders will likely need to walk but opens out to a steady ridgeline climb that links up with the D.O.C trail along the top. The views here are worth taking in as you leave the Alexandra basin, look down on the Cromwell Gorge and can see all the way down Lake Dunstan and across to the Remarkables.

The descent off of the Cairnmuir ridge will be the first real taste of what backcountry riding in NZ is all about, with obstacles everywhere, these long fast descents require a lot of focus and concentration and while rewarding are often just as demanding as the climbs! Once you hit lake level at the bottom you follow the road around the Bannockburn peninsula and then a short steady climb leads you back to your new home for the next two nights in the Bannockburn race village.

HOST TOWN: BANNOCKBURN

Although beautiful, there is very little actually in Bannockburn! We recommend any supporters head to Cromwell, which is 10 minutes drive from the Race Village. Cromwell's town centre has a small selection of cafes, bakeries, pubs and restaurants - enough to suit your tastes though! BNZ has a bank there, and you'll find an ATM cash machine nearby. There is a New World supermarket for groceries and other takeaway outlets for snacks and meal top ups. Cromwell Physiotherapy, Cromwell Health and Physio & Co caters for any extra massage needed in nearby Cromwell (8km).

Race Village address: Andersons Property Bannockburn Road, Bannockburn

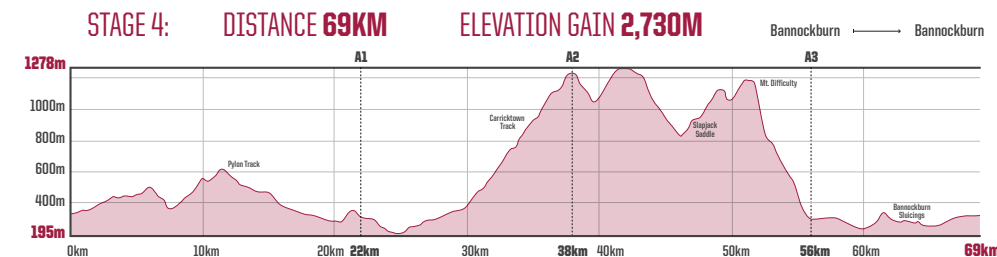
STAGE 4 - THURSDAY 5 DECEMBER 2019, START TIME 8:00AM - 8:30AM

ELEVATION GAIN: 2730M, AID STATION: 22KM, 38KM, 56KM, MAX STAGE TIME: 11:30HRS



• 59% - 4WD Farm Track • 27% - Sealed Road • 4% - Single Track • 10% - Gravel Road

Courses are subject to change up until race morning briefing.



The Bannockburn loop is the shortest stage, but do not be fooled, the majority of this stage is on backcountry farm tracks and has some of the biggest climbs of the race so it will be a testing day for the team dynamic. However, despite its brutality, this stage holds up as a 2018 repeat stage because of the quality of riding and the stunning 360 views atop the ridgelines.

The first half of the stage loops up the Hawksburn road and down the pylon access 4WD track, it is a little more benign and serves as a warm up to the second monstrous loop which includes the climbs of Carricktown and Mt Difficulty. These climbs are where you and your teammate need to work together to establish a sustainable pace for a long duration, the first ascent of Carricktown is nearly 1hr long for the fastest riders gaining close to 1000m over 9km.

The riding from here on is simply breath-taking in terms of scenery and terrain, at one point you can just about see the final finish line all the way up the Gibbston valley in Arrowtown before the track switches back onto the Cromwell side and sends you up to the dizzy heights of Mt Difficulty, whose name appropriately describes the climb up to its high point. The descent from here back down to the Bannockburn valley is as fast as they get and makes the final kilometres through the historic Bannockburn sluicings track nice and enjoyable.

HOST TOWN: BANNOCKBURN

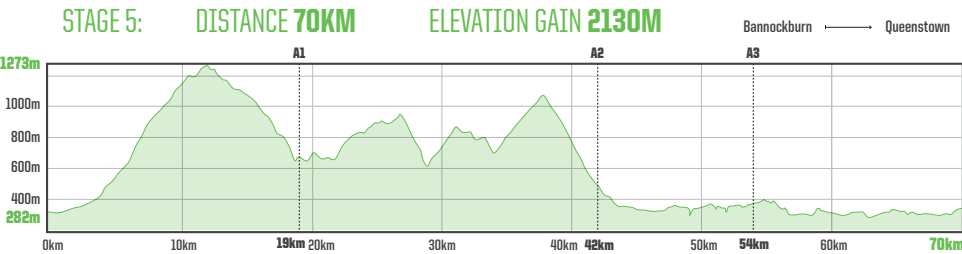
Although beautiful, there is very little actually in Bannockburn! We recommend any supporters head to Cromwell, which is 10 minutes drive from the Race Village. Cromwell's town centre has a small selection of cafes, bakeries, pubs and restaurants - enough to suit your tastes though! BNZ has a bank there, and you'll find an ATM cash machine nearby. There is a New World supermarket for groceries and other takeaway outlets for snacks and meal top ups. Cromwell Physiotherapy, Cromwell Health and Physio & Co caters for any extra massage needed in nearby Cromwell (8km).

Race Village address: Andersons Property Bannockburn Road, Bannockburn



• 23% - Cycle Trails • 42% - 4WD Farm Track • 12% - Sealed Road • 23% Gravel Road

Courses are subject to change up until race morning briefing.



The stage starts with a 1000m climb up the Nevis Rd. This stunning climb is a true NZ epic and takes you over the highest public road pass in the country, though the only traffic you will ever see up here is a few hardy 4WD'ers, hunters and fellow mountain bikers! From there, the descent down the road into the Nevis Valley is like dropping into another world, with a massive valley and wall of mountains in front of you there is not a single sign of civilisation apart from the road you are on.

The exit from the valley is nearly as quick as the descent into it, once you cross the river at the bottom you immediately turn onto a farm track that points in the direction of Gibbston Valley. While a short distance as the crow flies the next section of the stage is tough ups and downs on rugged trails through several river valleys. Home is on the horizon though and from the top of the final climb of Coalpit Saddle, you can just about smell the finish.

A fast, long and technical descent to the Gibbston valley highway is followed by a final stretch along the Queenstown cycle trail heading towards Frankton, Queenstown as our final destination. Arrive, collapse, exhausted, hugely satisfied, proud and ready to look back on one of the most adventurous and enjoyable weeks of your life!

HOST TOWN: QUEENSTOWN

The tourist mecca of NZ! Here you will find pretty much everything you need - all major banks, petrol stations, postal services, supermarkets, shops, bike shops and outdoor sports shops, restaurants and cafes galore and many many opportunities to make the most of your Pioneer time. The aquatic centre in Frankton has some awesome facilities for recreation and rehab! Please note: riders will need to organise their own accommodation in Queenstown.

Finish Line address: Hawthorn Drive, Frankton, Queenstown

DAILY AWARDS

Daily awards will be held after dinner in the Race Village. This will include the awarding of the 'leaders jersey' in each category with the fastest cumulative time for team members after each day. In addition to this, prizes will be awarded for daily stage winners in each category.

OPEN MEN



LEADER

OPEN WOMEN



MIXED



MASTERS 40+ MEN



MASTERS 40+ WOMEN



GRANDMASTERS 50+ MEN



PHOTOS

Every day during the race, the Sportograf photographers will capture amazing images of each rider competing in The Pioneer. The photos will be available approximately 1 week after the race. Digital photos can be ordered online directly from Sportograf. Please note that all photos received are for personal use and are not allowed to be used for commercial applications.

FUNCTIONS

There will be two official functions during the Pioneer.

OPENING CEREMONY & RIDER BRIEFING

This will be held at the Queenstown Events Centre, on **Saturday 30 November at 5:00pm**. It is compulsory for all riders to attend the briefing, where the Race Director will inform riders on what to expect on course, race rules, and rider etiquette.

AWARDS CEREMONY DINNER

The Awards Ceremony Dinner will be held at Ramarkables Park - the Stage 5 finish line in Frankton, Queenstown - on **Friday 6 December at 7:00pm**. Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, & 3rd in each category, prize money will be awarded to the overall winners, and entries drawn for Absa Cape Epic. Tickets for supporters can be purchased from your MyEvents account (see your registration confirmation email for a link), or at the Info Desk until the day prior. Note: the 'Full Supporter' and 'Supporter Catering Only' packages include entry to the Awards Ceremony Dinner.



EPIC SERIES QUALIFIER PROGRAM

ABSA CAPE EPIC

Held in March every year, the Absa Cape Epic traverses 700km of South Africa's most gruelling trails and climbs 15 000m over eight days. Known as the "Tour de France of mountain biking", the Untamed African MTB Race brings together top professionals and serious amateurs from across the world to race a new route each year. The ruggedly spectacular terrain, unpredictable African elements, limit-testing riding, and premier full-service comforts have made the Absa Cape Epic legendary in the mountain biking world. This is The Race That Measures All.

www.cape-epic.com



SWISS EPIC

5 days | 350km | 12000m climbing - the Swiss Epic is a demanding yet rewarding 5-day stage race. With a fresh new route each year, it's a unique test of endurance, resolve and skill with the staggering beauty of the snow-capped, jagged skyline set as the perfect antidote to the physical and mental demands of off-road racing. Two-person teams, top professionals and ambitious amateurs alike, explore the seemingly endless, magical trails, staying overnight in double rooms in Laax, Arosa and Davos – an unforgettable Alpine experience!

www.swiss-epic.com



DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

ABSA CAPE EPIC QUALIFIER GUIDELINES

To be eligible for the opportunity to purchase one of ten guaranteed Absa Cape Epic entries, regardless whether via performance or through the draw, you will need to register your interest in one of the following ways:

- When entering the event online, or from your MyEvents account at a later date
- At the Info Desk until the evening of Stage 4

A \$10 NZD fee to register your interest will be charged which will be donated to Qhubeka Charity – one of the Absa Cape Epic's official charity partners.

PERFORMANCE ALLOCATION

The Performance Allocation provides the highest ranked teams in their category, who register their interest, the opportunity to purchase one of five guaranteed Absa Cape Epic entries in either the 2020 or 2021 Absa Cape Epic event. Categories are Open Men, Open Women, Open Mixed, Masters Men 40+, Grandmasters Men 50+. [Note: stated categories align with Absa Cape Epic categories, riders will be placed in relevant category for allocation purposes].

- Riders must register their interest during the online registration process or from your MyEvents account in active.com at a later date. A \$10 NZD fee to register your interest will be charged which will be donated to Qhubeka one of the Absa Cape Epic official charity partners
- It is sufficient for only one rider in a team to register his/her interest however, we recommend that both riders register their interest to stand a chance via the draw allocation should they not qualify by performance
- Both team members must be present at the Awards Ceremony on Friday 6 December 2019, Queenstown
- Both team members must be 19 years old as of 31-December of the year in which the Absa Cape Epic takes place
- Should a team decide not to take up their entry or not be present at the Awards Ceremony, the entry will pass on to the next highest ranked team who registered their interest
- Teams must confirm if they are accepting a 2020 or 2021 entry when paying the deposit, this cannot be changed once deposit is paid
- An immediate non-refundable deposit of \$1000 USD per guaranteed entry must be made on Friday 6 December 2019. Deposit will be taken in NZD at the current conversion rate that day. Credit card only, no cash will be accepted
- The remaining balance of the 2020 Absa Cape Epic team entry fee is due by Friday 13 December 2019. 2020 Absa Cape Epic total entry fee is \$6290 USD (VAT inc). Entry fee for the 2021 Absa Cape Epic will be announced in March 2020. Payment to be made online via credit card payment

DRAW ALLOCATION

The Draw Allocation provides the opportunity to purchase one of five guaranteed 2020 or 2021 Absa Cape Epic entries. These will be drawn at The Pioneer's Awards Ceremony presentation.

- The Draw Allocation slots are per individual within a 2-person team. The individual is free to choose any partner, i.e. it is not necessary that his/her partner participated in The Pioneer
- Riders must register their interest during the online registration process or from your MyEvents account in active.com at a later date. A \$10 NZD fee to register your interest will be charged which will be donated to Qhubeka one of the Absa Cape Epic official charity partners

* exchange rate on day of payment applies

- Only official finishers of The Pioneer are eligible for the Draw Allocation which is an opportunity to purchase an Absa Cape Epic entry
- Riders who officially finish but their team mate does not are still eligible for the draw
- Riders whose team already qualified by Performance Allocation will be removed from the draw
- Riders must be present at the Awards Ceremony on Friday 6 December 2019, Queenstown
- Riders must be 19 years old as of 31 December of the year in which the Absa Cape Epic takes place
- Should a rider decide not to take up the entry or not be present at the Awards Ceremony, the entry will be re-drawn
- Riders must confirm if they are accepting a 2020 or 2021 entry when paying the deposit, this cannot be changed once deposit is paid
- An immediate non-refundable deposit of \$1000 USD per guaranteed entry must be made on Friday 6 December 2019. Deposit will be taken in NZD at the current conversion rate that day. Credit card only, no cash will be accepted
- The remaining balance of the 2020 Absa Cape Epic team entry fee is due by Friday 13 December 2019. 2020 Absa Cape Epic total entry fee is \$6290 USD (VAT inc). Entry fee for the 2021 Absa Cape Epic will be announced in March 2020. Payment to be made online via credit card payment

All entries regardless under which allocation are for either the 2020 or 2021 Absa Cape Epic and cannot be transferred to another year once the team or rider has nominated their preferred year at time of deposit payment. Once payment has been received, the standard Absa Cape Epic cancellation policy applies.

SUPPORTER GUIDE

COURSE SPECTATOR ZONES - Refer to the event app for maps

Stage 1 – Spectator Zone: Lake Hayes Rowing Club

Estimated first athlete 9:30am

The rowing club is accessed off of SH6 beside Lake Hayes. There will be event flags marking the turn off with spectator parking located on the upper paddock, to the immediate right after turning off the highway. Foot access only down to the lake side.

Stage 2 - Spectator Zone A: Butchers Dam

Estimated first athlete: 9:30 am

Butchers Dam is a DoC recreational reserve with some great walking and mountain biking tracks. Take a walk across the dam and cheer the riders as they head towards Purple Haze MTB track and back up the ridgeline.

Spectator Zone B: Conroys Dam

Estimated First Athlete: 10:30am

Conroy's Dam is a public reserve within Earnsclough Station. There is limited parking at this location and Campervans aren't permitted in wet weather.

Stage 3 - Spectator Zone: Clyde Township

Estimated First Athlete: 9:00am

Please avoid parking on Sunderland Street as this is part of the course. Side street parking available throughout Clyde. Arrive early so you can watch the race across Clyde Dam.

Stage 4 - Spectator Zone: Tannacrief Wines, 206 Hall Road Bannockburn

Estimated first athlete: 10:00am

Access to the spectator zone is via the course so please plan to arrive between 8:30am - 9:30am. Please reduce speed and obey marshals at all times. Grab yourself a glass of wine and pull up a camp chair and wait for your rider to come through!

QUEENSTOWN

The tourist mecca of NZ! Queenstown is a natural playground that offers plenty to see and do, surrounded by majestic mountains and set on the shores of crystal clear Lake Wakatipu.

EAT & DRINK

The World Bar and Yonder are the official bar and café of The Pioneer. Simply show your athlete or supporter wristband to receive the following deals!

- \$15 bacon buttie and regular house coffee (regular milk) at Yonder.
- \$25 classic burger and house beer at World Bar.

Yonder - 14 Church Street, open from 7:30am

World Bar - 12 Church Street, open from 11:30am

ACTIVITIES & ATTRACTIONS

Ride the Skyline Gondola high above Queenstown to discover a view you'll never forget. Or if you're feeling a little more adventurous, find out why they call Queenstown the adventure capital of the world at the Kawerau Bridge Bungy!

AMENITIES

Supermarkets: Countdown – 30 Grant Rd, PAK'nSAVE – 302 Hawthorne Drive, New World – 1/12 Hawthorne Drive

Bike Stores: H&J Outdoor World – Shopping Centre Remarkables Crescent, Bikeaholic Mountain Bikes – 109A Gorge Road

ALEXANDRA

This town has a golden history, dating back to the 1880s, when huge gold dredges worked the Clutha River. Today it is an attractive hub of eateries, parks, artists' studios and craft markets.

EAT & DRINK

The Courthouse Cafe & Bar is set in Alexandra's original Courthouse built in 1876 and has become well known for its stunning food, great espresso coffee and friendly service.

ACTIVITIES & ATTRACTIONS

Visit one of the many Pinot Noir vineyards in the area, or wonder at the hardship and innovation of early gold mining pioneers at Alexandra's museum – Central Stories, located at Pioneer Park, Centennial Avenue.

AMENITIES

Supermarket: Four Square – 32 Adamson Drive

Bike Stores: Arrow Bikes – 4/9 Bush Creek Rd, Altitude Bikes – 88 Centennial Avenue.



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