

## Tour of Croatia starts on April 17!

**ZAGREB, April 13, 2018** – The international men's cycling race Tour of Croatia will be held for the fourth consecutive year, from April 17 to 22, 2018, through six stages on a route of over 1000 kilometres throughout Croatia. This year, the more demanding race in an even higher category of World Bicycle Organization (UCI) – 2. HC. For the third time, Tour of Croatia starts in Osijek on Tuesday, April 17, and the finish of the first day will be Koprivnica. Subsequently, on Wednesday, April 18, the race moves to Karlovac, and the second stage will finish in Zadar. The start of the third stage, scheduled for Thursday, April 19, will be in Trogir. This stage could significantly impact the overall ranking since its finish line is at the second highest peak of Croatia – St. Jure on Biokovo (1762 meters). Fourth stage begins on April 20 from Starigrad (NP Paklenica) to Crikvenica, while Saturday brings new excitement with the „royal“ stage. This stage runs from Rabac to Poklon (PP Učka), where cyclists will first climb from the Istrian to the Kvarner side. The final stage begins on Sunday, April 22 in Samobor, with the finish line, along with the already traditional finish in the city of Zagreb, at St. Mark's Square, where the winner will be crowned. The details of the route that pass through several national parks and nature parks are as follows:

- 17.4. Osijek – PP Papuk – Koprivnica
- 18.4. Karlovac – NP Plitvička Jezera – PP Velebit – Zadar
- 19.4. Trogir – Okrug – Brela – Baška Voda – Makarska – Tučepi – Podgora – PP Biokovo (Sv. Jure)
- 20.4. Starigrad (NP Paklenica) – NP Sjeverni Velebit – Novi Vinodolski – Vinodolska County – Crikvenica
- 21.4. Rabac – Labin – Poklon (PP Učka) – Kastav – Viškovo – Rijeka – Opatija – Poklon (PP Učka)
- 22.4. Samobor – Sv. Nedelja – Dugo Selo – Sv. Ivan Zelina – Zagreb (St. Mark's Square)



**“This year's edition of Tour of Croatia will be much more exciting than the previous ones. We are especially happy that the transfer stages will be minimal and the bicycle teams will have enough time for quality regeneration and preparation for the following stages- The race route runs through many nature and national parks, and we are proud to present these gems to the contestants and the whole world “**, said Vladimir Miholjević, the director of the race.

The most important new news of this year's edition is the promotion to the new category - 2nd HC, which means that up to 75 percent of reported teams can be of the highest UCI WorldTeams rankings. With the fact that this is one of the most important sport events of the year, the Tour of Croatia is rated by many as the most beautiful tourist postcard that Croatia sends to the world. Six days of footage from all over Croatia are broadcasted on more than 170 different television stations in Europe, North and South America, Asia, Africa and Australia.

Top Sport Events is the organizer of the race.

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