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## A varied Deutschland Tour 2023 with punchy stages

**A prologue at the start, three classic stages and a sprint royal at the end – that's on the menu for the five days of the Deutschland Tour 2023. This year's race runs from August 23 to 27 from Saarland to Bremen. Especially riders who are eager to attack and who prefer a punchy course are in the mix for the overall title.**

End of August, the Deutschland Tour runs 724 kilometers from south to north through five German states. In the middle section, the route is characterized by three undulating race days, which will be decisive in the game of seconds for the leader's red jersey.

### **Prologue: St. Wendel (2.2 km)**

The race kicks off with a prologue in St. Wendel on August 23. Last year, the short time trial was raced for the first time. This year, the intensive start to the tour is 2.2 kilometers long. The technically demanding loop around the center of St. Wendel comes without climbs, but it is winding. After just 100 meters off the ramp, the first 90-degree bend awaits and leads into the speed sector of the day. 1.4 kilometers later, the challenges increase. A turn and hairpin bend in short succession interrupt the rhythm before the final section, which leads to the finish at Am Schlossplatz.

### **Stage 1: St. Wendel – Merzig (178 km)**

The 1<sup>st</sup> stage also starts from St. Wendel. The race day, which takes place entirely in the Saarland, leads to Merzig over 178 kilometers. The first kilometers initially run south, until before Neunkirchen a change of direction is due and the pros ride along the state border to the north. Already early in the stage, the day's highest point is climbed near Freisen. A constant up and down, partly with very steep ramps, characterizes the middle part of the stage. Past the Bostalsee it goes via Wadern, Weiskirchen on the way to the Saar loop near Mettlach. For the finale in Merzig, a difficult finish lap awaits with the climb to the Kreuzberg Chapel, which some riders already know from 2018, and which must be conquered twice. At that time, the later overall winner Matej Mohoric was able to prevail over Nils Politt. A look at the profile reveals that it will be a day for the classic specialists.

### **Stage 2: Kassel – Winterberg (190 km)**

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage, the pro will start in Hesse. The longest stage of this year's race begins in downtown Kassel and ends after 190 kilometers in Winterberg. The real start takes place in front of the Marstall building of Schloss Wilhelmshöhe. Before the state border is passed, Hesse says goodbye with a short steep climb behind Bad Arolsen on the way to the Hochsauerland district. The terrain remains typical of Sauerland and the undulating route leads via Marsberg, Brilon and Meschede to Lake Hennesee and on to Eslohe. Climbing legs must be in top form by the last hour of the day at the latest. In Altastenberg, the highest point of this year's Deutschland Tour is reached. Winterberg is in sight, but there are still 20 more kilometers to go to the finish line. The finish lap leads out of Winterberg again and after a short, steep descent into the Orketal valley, past the Wintersport Arena Sauerland, the decisive counter-climb begins. 2.5 kilometers of climbing on the Hochsauerland Höhenstraße to *La Flamme Rouge*.



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### **Stage 3: Arnsberg – Essen (174 km)**

At the start of the Deutschland Tour weekend, the pros stay in the Sauerland region. A race day full of challenges begins in Arnsberg-Neheim. The neutral start takes place at Neheim market and the peloton crosses the Ruhr for the first time. The river is a constant companion on this day. 174 kilometers with 1520 meters of altitude - the bare numbers of this pure North Rhine-Westphalia stage are deceiving. Some short steep climbs are hidden in the profile. After only 12 kilometers, the "Eule"-climb, which is also well-known among amateur cyclists, awaits in Fröndenberg with gradients of up to 13%. The next hour of racing remains undulating and runs with many changes of direction along the Ruhr before the serpentine climb to Hohensyburg follows at Hengsteysee. The difficult middle section of the stage offers a constant up and down over 75 kilometers. Sandberg, Sender Langenberg, Nordrather Tal - all with double-digit gradients. Anyone who wants to win the Deutschland Tour will set accents here at the latest. For the finale, Essen is approached from the south and the profile calms down. After a first crossing of the finish line in front of the Stadtgarten, a 20-kilometer loop through the Ruhr metropolis is on the agenda.

### **Stage 4: Hannover – Bremen (180 km)**

After the strain of the previous day, the flat terrain of Lower Saxony awaits on the final day of the Deutschland Tour 2023. The start will be in front of Hannover's New Town Hall and the riders will leave the state capital along the Maschsee lake in a southerly direction. In the first third of the stage, the Rehburg mountains near the Steinhuder Meer provide the only elevations in the profile. In Stolzenau, the Weser is passed for the first time and the mid-Weser region is reached. The route from Hoya to the Free Hanseatic City is flat and almost at sea level. Only in the direction of Syke, the Friedeholz forest area with its small elevations do interrupt the lowlands, but this should not cause any difficulties for the sprinter teams. The pros ride over the Karl Carstens Bridge into the Hanseatic city and pass the Weser Stadium on the way to Bremen's old town. They pass the market square with Bremen's town hall and a short cobblestone segment. With the historic backdrop behind them and the Überseestadt in view, the finale begins. The finish line is crossed for the first time - three more laps of 5 kilometers each through the district follow before the fast men take the day's victory with a sprint royal on the long finishing straight.

**Fabian Wegmann**, Sport Director of the Deutschland Tour: *"Five days of racing and everything in it. The short time trial at the start will again be a fight for seconds. Whoever wins here can't rest on the next few days. I expect a real hunt for the red jersey in the Saarland, Sauerland and on the way to Essen. For the riders it will be exhausting - for the fans exciting. The finale with the Sprint Royal in Bremen will be the crowning glory. Here, sprinters who didn't get a chance before can have their big day."*

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#### Stages of the Deutschland Tour 2023:

- Prologue (Wednesday, August 23): St. Wendel 2.2 km
- Stage 1 (Thursday, August 24): St. Wendel – Merzig 178 km
- Stage 2 (Friday, August 25): Kassel – Winterberg 190 km
- Stage 3 (Saturday, August 26): Arnsberg – Essen 174 km
- Stage 4 (Sunday, August 27): Hanover – Bremen 180 km