



PRESS RELEASE

Kick-off in a former coal mine: Lidl Deutschland Tour 2025 begins in Essen

The Lidl Deutschland Tour 2025 starts in Essen. The next edition of the country's most important cycling event will begin with a prologue on the grounds of the Zollverein Coal Mine Industrial Complex. Once again, five days of racing are planned, which will kick off with a very special highlight.

Because the backdrop for the kick-off is unique. The former coal mine Zeche Zollverein has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2001, and the characteristic winding tower at the main entrance to the site is known far beyond the city limits. Coal was mined here for the last time in 1986. Today it is an architectural and industrial monument and home to numerous cultural institutions.

And August 20, 2025 it is expected to be the venue for a cycling race. Some of the roads on the 100-hectare site will be turned into a three-kilometre-long race course, which will be used for the prologue of the Lidl Deutschland Tour. For the fourth time in a row, the tour will then begin with a short individual time trial. The teams will also park their buses directly on the site of the colliery and make all the preparations for the race, while all the side events such as the Expo or the children's Joy of Moving Mini Tour will attract thousands of visitors between the old halls, shafts and administration buildings.

Essen was last part of the Deutschland Tour in 2023. Back then, stage 3 led from Arnsberg directly into the center of the Ruhr metropolis with its almost 600,000 inhabitants. The finish line was on Huysenallee in front of the Philharmonie. Two years later, the tour will start a little further north at the city's landmark.

"Essen presented itself as an enthusiastic cycling destination at the Tour 2023. Together with the Zollverein UNESCO World Heritage Site, we are delighted to be hosting the prologue and the start of the Deutschland Tour 2025," said Mayor **Thomas Kufen** about the return of the race to his city.

Matthias Pietsch, Managing Director of the Gesellschaft zur Förderung des Radsports mbH, which organizes the Lidl Deutschland Tour, feels the same way. *"We remember a great host, many thousands of spectators and a great atmosphere along the route through North Rhine-*



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Westphalia and in Essen. We felt very comfortable and are all the more pleased to be able to return to Essen. The fact that we are able to host a cycling race on the grounds of the Zollverein Coal Mine Industrial Complex this time is something very special. Cycling meets world heritage - a first for us and the place where industrial history was written."

Prof. Dr. Hans-Peter Noll, Chairman of the Board of the Zollverein Foundation, says: *"The former largest coal mine in the world will be the starting point for Germany's most important cycling event in 2025. We are delighted about this. And it proves once again that the Zollverein UNESCO World Heritage Site is a place of change that never stands still."*