

MTBA HIGH-PERFORMANCE RACE CAMPAIGN

XCO – PIETERMARITZBURG - SOUTH AFRICA



GENERAL OUTLINE:

The High-Performance Race Campaign program revolves around MTBA staffed and facilitated trips to international races encompassing the XCO, DH, CX and Gravity Enduro disciplines. Targeted at athletes already racing at state and national level primarily in the Junior (17 -18 years old) and U23 categories, the program will also cater for Elite athletes looking to gain international racing experience as a stepping stone towards National representation.

The 2020 South Africa XCO trip follows on from a successful campaign in 2019 with the same logistics and planning being utilised as far as possible. The South Africa Cups are no longer double header races but there is a regional race available the weekend prior to use as a warmup. The course is challenging both technically and physically, and the level of competition high but not as difficult as an equivalent race in Europe.

All athletes and staff will leave Australia via Perth on the same flight and fly direct to Johannesburg. After an overnight layover and a short flight to Durban the group will collect vehicles and drive the approximately 100km to Pietermaritzburg. As well as racing, the group will also have the opportunity to do a few other activities such as a wildlife safari, general sightseeing and rides in other MTB Parks. The group will return to Australia straight after the UCI listed race

EVENTS:

- Race 1- Sunday May 3rd - Provincial XCO event (warm up race)
- Race 2- Saturday May 9th – South Africa Cup XCO – UCI Cat 1 and UCI Junior Series
- Race venue [Cascades MTB Park](#) Pietermaritzburg.

TRIP DATES: Depart Australia Wednesday April 29th returning Monday May 11th.

ATHLETE NUMBERS: 10 - 12.

STAFF:

Evan James - Team manager, performance and mechanical support.

Adam Kelsall - Performance support.

Chris Feltham – Mechanic and logistical support.

COST: Approx. \$3500

INCLUSIONS:

- Flights from Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth (other depart cities may have an additional cost).
- All meals in South Africa.
- All accommodation.
- Race entry fees.

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NON-INCLUSIONS:

- UCI licence and associated insurance.
- Race food (gels, drinks etc).
- Spending money for snacks / meals while in transit, and any non-riding activities while in Pietermaritzburg.

ACCOMMODATION:

There will be an overnight stay in an airport hotel in Johannesburg on the journey over (hotel tbc). For the rest of the trip we will be staying at [11 Karkloof](#). The location is approximately 30mins from the race venue and directly adjacent to the Howick MTB trail network. There is Wi-Fi available as well as a café and coffee shop onsite. Supermarkets and other shops are 6km away in Howick. Pietermaritzburg has a large bike shop (owned by Greg Minnaar) next to the race venue.

MEALS:

Breakfasts and lunches will be prepared by the athletes in the accommodation kitchen. Dinners will be catered onsite in the café.

CORONAVIRUS:

Currently there are no Australian Government travel warnings for South Africa linked directly to the coronavirus. MTBA will be constantly monitoring the [Smartraveller website](#) for any changes.

APPLICATIONS:

Applications for the trip can be made [HERE](#). To be eligible athletes must:

- Turn 17 years of age or older in 2020.
- Be an MTBA member.
- Have experience racing at state and national level, and demonstrate a commitment to progressing their riding to international level.

Race results from the previous 12 – 24 months will be taken into consideration when selecting athletes. In addition, athletes that have demonstrated buy in to positive team culture by being coachable and giving practical support and encouragement for team mates at previous MTBA camps and travel program trips will be viewed favourable.

Applications close Monday March 8th and successful applicants to the program will be notified during the week immediately following National Championships (March 16th).

For more information contact MTBA Sport Manager - Evan James evan.james@mtba.org.au