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# GULF TIMES SPORT



FOOTBALL

## Thierry Henry announces retirement

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CYCLING

# 2nd edition of Tour of Zubarah begins today



By Yash Mudgal  
Doha

The second edition of Tour of Al Zubarah, which will commence today, is getting bigger and better.

"The tour is becoming bigger, better and more interesting in all the aspects of the game," Qatar Cycling Federation's (QCF) assistant secretary general Nasser al-Kaabi said yesterday, addressing a press conference on the eve of the tour. "More than 400 riders from 15 participating countries will compete in the four-day long tour which is being organised under the regulations of the International Cycling Union," he added.

According to the classification of the International Cycling Union (UCI), the competition is a Class 2.2 category, which means that participants can get points for their performance both nationally and individually.

"The total prize money for the tour is 19,152 euros.

The approximately 400-km long

event will comprise of a prologue (a short individual time trial) and three straight stages (with many intermediate sprints) will cover most of the country from December 17 to 20.

The 4.2-km loop will encircle a big portion of the Aspire Zone and produce amazing images for the prologue, the tour opener, in which riders will start at one minute intervals. The prologue will start at 3:00pm and conclude at 20:00pm to offer the riders a battle in the dark, for the first time in Qatar, at the very interesting and technical course at Aspire.

"We are glad and excited to announce our association with the Qatar Cycling Federation, especially the holding prologue for the Tour of Zubarah at Aspire Zone. Hopefully it will be the beginning of a long-term relationship with Qatar Cycling Federation," director, Aspire Logistics, Phillip Templar, said.

UAE's Mohamed Yousef Mirza—who won the inaugural edition of the tour last year, which was initiated with an eye on providing hometown talent with more opportunities to race at high

profile events—is back to defend his title but with a new team, Giant-GMS. Teams from Europe, Asia and the Middle East are taking part in the tour which is part of the efforts of the QCF to promote and appreciate the nation's heritage as it is dedicated to Al Zubarah, which was promoted to UNESCO World Heritage List in June 2013. Qatar has also entered two teams—Qatar National Team and Carbon Wheels.

### Tour Itinerary

- PROLOGUE:** 3.9km Aspire Zone (3.30pm to 09:00pm)
- STAGE I:** 120.1km (Madinat a-Kabban to Dukhan Beach)
- STAGE II:** 116.8km (Madinat a-Shamali to Madinat a-Shamali)
- STAGE III:** 122.6km (Lekhwiya Sports Club to Al Zubarah Fort)

### Qatar teams

**National Team:** Diego Hossefeldt, Moosa Said, Abdullahi Ali, Khalil Anduljanan and Andulreeman Jarboua  
**Carbon Wheels:** John Hughson, Christian Rayan, Roamni van Uden, Mat Wilson, Pauk Cowland and Julien Periard

From left: Tour of Zubarah organising director Andrej Filip, Aspire Logistics director Phillip Templar, QCF assistant secretary general Nasser al-Kaabi, Qatar Sports Museum acting director Mohamed Abdulrehman al-Jaber at yesterday's press conference.

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