

# Giro d'Italia Big Start 2014



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The first ever Giro d'Italia was held in 1909.

EST 1909

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The Giro was started to boost the sales of Italy's La Gazzetta dello Sport newspaper.



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Like all multistage cycling races, the person who crosses the finish line first on the final day is not necessarily the winner. The winner has the overall shortest time for the whole tour.



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Since 1931, the overall leader of the Giro wears the Maglia Rosa (pink jersey). Pink is the paper colour of La Gazzetta dello Sport (founding sponsor).



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The leader of the mountain stages of the Giro is awarded a blue jersey.



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A white jersey is awarded to the leading young rider (under 25).



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The rider who accumulates the most number of points during sprint and stage finishes wears a red jersey.



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The Giro has been suspended twice - during World Wars I and II.



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The different portions of the Giro are called "stages". The 1909 race had eight stages. The 2014 race will have twenty-one.



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The longest Giro route was in 1954 over 4,337km. This year's race will be over 3,450km.



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The route of the Giro varies each year, but the most difficult stages are usually the Alpine and Apennine mountain passes. It's not unusual for the riders to endure wildly varying climates from the beginning to the end of the tour.



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The Cima Coppi is always the highest point in the Giro and was named in honour of the Italian cyclist Fausto Coppi. In 2014, the Cima Coppi will be the Passo di Stelvio (2758m).



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Only three cyclists have managed to win the Giro five times:



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The Giro is considered part of the "Triple Crown of Cycling", along with the Tour de France and the Road World Cycling Championship.



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In 1987 Stephen Roche became the only winner of the Giro from Ireland and only the second rider to achieve the 'Triple Crown'.



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Last year's winner of the Giro was Vincenzo Nibali from Italy.



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This is the 97th Giro d'Italia in 105 years. It begins on 09 May and will continue through until 01 June.



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The Giro is hosted primarily in Italy. Previous editions of the Giro have started in Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium and France.



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In 2014 the Grande Partenza (the Big Start) will be held in Northern Ireland on 09, 10 and 11 of May 2014.



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Get inspired with Big Start 2014 and get cycling.

FINISH