



Road Cycling Events (4)

Men's Road Race

Women's Road Race

Men's Time Trial

Women's Time Trial

Photo via Wall Street Journal



How Olympic Road Cycling Works

There are two events in Olympic Road Cycling, the time trial and the road race.

The **time trial** is the shorter of the two races and will cover approximately 20 miles. This race utilizes a staggered start for the riders who are released from the start line one at a time.

So, this event isn't necessarily a "race to the finish" but rather a race against the clock since the rider with the fastest time wins the gold medal.

The **road race** is the longest single event in the Olympics in terms of both distance and time. The men's race will cover nearly 170 miles and the women's race will cover about 100 miles. All of the riders in the race begin the event at the same time and will compete over several hours. Just because the name of the "road race" doesn't mean that the race is taking place on a straight, flat course without any variability. In the 2024 Games especially, that notion couldn't be further from the truth. Riders will face the rigorous Butte Montmartre with less than 10 kilometers to go until the finish line and the men will gain nearly three kilometers of elevation over the course of race.

Road Cycling Schedule

Events in ET, medal events in bold

Date	Time	Event
Sat, July 27	8:30 AM	Women's Time Trial
Sat, July 27	10:32 AM	Men's Time Trial
Sat, Aug 3	5:00 AM	Men's Road Race
Sun, Aug 4	8:00 AM	Women's Road Race

Fresh Faces

The winner of the road race events in 2020 (Primoz Roglic and Richard Carapaz) are not returning in 2024 and the women's trial champion Annemiek van Vlueten is also not returning. Expect to see some new faces on the podium in 2024. (per Olympics)

Cycling's "Marathon"

If you're not a very patient person, the road race event may not be for you considering that many kilometers that will be completed before medals are awarded. However, for those that can appreciate the ridiculous perseverance of the athletes and are intrigued by the course shown on the left (men's road race, via Paris 2024), this could be the event for you. Those in France will certainly be ready and are accustomed to this kind of event (apparently the Tour de France is kinda a big deal?)

Men's Road Race Map

Photo via Paris 2024

