

London, 9th of February 2006

THE TOUR DISCOVERS LONDON IN 2007

This morning, Jean-Marie Leblanc, Deputy director of A.S.O. and Christian Prudhomme, director of the Tour de France, revealed with Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London, the details of the Grand Départ for the 2007 Tour de France, that will start Saturday July 7th from London. After an 8 km prologue in the heart of the british capital, the riders will compete in the first stage on Sunday July 8th on a 209 km long course crossing the province of Kent to finish in Canterbury.

If the Tour has already been in England for a stage in 1974 (Plymouth – Plymouth, Henk Poppe's victory), and then for two others in 1994 (victories for Francisco Cabello and Nicola Minali in Brighton and Portsmouth), it's the first visit to the capital. For the Grand Départ, the permanence and the press center will be located in ExCel exhibition center, next to London City Airport. The opening ceremony where the teams will be presented will be organized at Trafalgar Square on Friday July 6th.

The previous starts of the Tour outside of France

1954: Amsterdam (Netherland)	1987: Berlin (Germany)
1958: Bruxelles (Belgium)	1989: Luxembourg
1965: Cologne (Germany)	1992: Saint-Sébastien (Spain)
1973: Scheveningen (Netherland)	1996: s'Hertogenbosch (Netherland)
1975: Charleroi (Belgium)	1998: Dublin (Irland)
1978: Leiden (Netherland)	2002: Luxembourg
1980: Francfort (Germany)	2004: Liège (Belgique)
1982: Bâle (Switzerland)	

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