



THE 2026 HERO UCI MARATHON WORLD CUP PROUDLY PRESENTS: HERO COSTA BLANCA

After the winter slumber, the international mountain biking season kicks off on the Costa Blanca's Calpe-Benissa in Spain. A picture-perfect Mediterranean tableau will welcome the cyclists of the 2026 HERO UCI Marathon World Cup's first round. The HERO Costa Blanca boasts 82 and 50 km and is the newest addition to the HERO UCI Marathon World Cup's second edition.

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The second edition of the **2026 HERO UCI Marathon World Cup** will kick off on 21 February 2026 in Spain's Calpe-Benissa, Costa Blanca's cycling eldorado. The area has become famous for the majestic Peñón de Ifach which overlooks sandy beaches and a turquoise sea.

THE LOCATION

Calpe's downtown is a riot of coloured and lively streets and alleys, a place which is the reflection of its long coastal history shaped by the cultures of the different people and nations which lived here over the course of the centuries. Steeped in history, its lively celebrations and fishing traditions ensure its past is never forgotten. The town of Benissa lies to the north, nestled between the sea and mountains, stretching out between the hilly lowlands all the way to the sea. A landscape combining vineyards, almond groves, and cliffs overlooking the Mediterranean. The Sierra de Bèrnia, located nearby but away from the city and coast, is a limestone mountain range boasting rocky ridges, pine mountain

forests, and hidden valleys. A blend of wilderness and breathtaking views over the sea makes this the perfect spot for mountain biking and outdoor sports.

THE RACE'S ROUTES

This lively and colourful location will be home to the **HERO Costa Blanca**, the **2026 HERO UCI Marathon World Cup's** first round. A jam-packed calendar will complement the race itself, featuring two trails: one boasting 82 km and 2,722 hm for Elite and Master cyclists, and one featuring 50 km and 1,400 hm for Hobby cyclists.

The longer route starts with an asphalted climb to then level out among the streets of Benissa away from the coast, climbing the La Solana and continuing towards Sierra de Bèrnia on technical stretches with a view of the sea. The Sierra de Oltà represents the decisive moment as it features steep climbs and descents, leading all the way back to Calpe to the finish line.

The spotlight will shine on the HEROes of the future during the **HERO Kids Costa Blanca**, which will take place on **Saturday, 21 February at 9:30**. A fun way for the younger ones in your group to experience mountain biking!

The **HERO Costa Blanca** will surely test the cyclists of the 2026 HERO UCI Marathon World Cup's first round – while also delivering an experience you'll never forget.

For further information visit www.herocostablanca.com

Organising Committee

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