

PRESS RELEASE | 2023 EVENTS by FINISTERRA

'FinisTerra CC' is a project - based in Portugal - focused on promoting and empowering Adventure-cycling & Self-supported Cycling. We organize cycling events and experiences in Portuguese territory. 2022 was an important year for us and for the Portuguese long-distance cycling scene. We organized the inaugural editions of 'Heading SouthWest' and 'Gravel Birds Ultracycling'. Next year - 2023 - and concerning self-supported ultra-distance cycling we will organize the second editions of '**Gravel Birds Ultracycling**' and '**Heading SouthWest**'. We will also launch the first edition of '**At Last Lost**' - a self-supported challenge with a new concept that will test participants' route planning and navigation skills. The three events will have live tracking and map via Follow My Challenge.

'GRAVEL BIRDS ULTRACYCLING' 2023



'**Gravel Birds Ultracycling**' is an adventure-cycling and self-supported ultracycling **event** across Alentejo region in one-stage. Along the 75% off-road (set) route with approximately **750KM** and 7.500 meters of climbing, long-distance cyclists will face the Alentejo hills from the inland areas of Guadiana Valley to the Atlantic coast. The 2nd edition of the biggest bikepacking gravel adventure in Portugal starts with the sunrise on **May 13 2023** in **Castro Verde** and time limit on May 18 at the same village. We expect the internationalization of the lineup this year.

In the inaugural edition - Marcus Bonito was the fastest rider and completed the route in 47H30M. 14 'birds' were at the starting line, but only 9 riders finished due to challenging and unexpected rainy weather conditions.

'HEADING SOUTHWEST' 2023



'**Heading SouthWest**' is a self-supported and adventure-cycling **event** across Portugal in one-stage. The route starts in the Center of the most southwestern country of Europe and finishes in the most southwestern region: Algarve. Along the on-road (set) route with around **1.100KM** & 15.000M of climbing, long-distance cyclists will face the diversity of the Portuguese landscapes - from mountains of the Central System to the hills/plains in South. The 2nd edition starts on **June 3 2023** in **Coimbra** and finishes in Alte (Algarve region). The route of second edition will be significantly different (however same departure and arrival points). The main goal is to highlight 'Serra da Estrela' has the major spot and mountainous challenge of the route. In the last summer, a wildfire ravaged 25% of this UNESCO Global Geopark and the *ex libris* national destination for cycling. Registration will open on December.

In the inaugural edition, 40 riders were at the starting line (25% women). Ten nationalities, different goals, diverse backgrounds, but the same passion: long distance cycling. They faced approximately 1.000 kilometers and more than 15.000 meters of climbing across inland Portuguese territory.

Sam Thomas - from Netherlands - was the fastest rider of the inaugural edition of Heading SouthWest (47 hours and 18 minutes). Lucie Hogger - from United Kingdom - was the fastest women (63 hours and 6 minutes) and Kika Castro / Filipe Pinto the fastest pair. The percentage of DNS/DNF riders was surprisingly low comparing with the usual scenario in self-supported ultracycling events with a similar profile. This doesn't mean that was an accessible challenge. The route had a medium-high mountain profile with irregular climbing slopes. Heading SouthWest 2022 was the first self-supported ultracycling event that explored the diversity of the Portuguese territory.

'AT LAST LOST' INAUGURAL EDITION



'**At Last Lost**' is a self-supported and adventure cycling **event** in which - in loco - route planning and navigation skills play a determinant role. The game changer: riders will only know the location of the next Check Point when they reach the previous one. The boundaries of the territory of 'ALL 2023' are the **North of Portugal**, marked by beautiful landscapes and with a mountainous profile, as well as a significant density of roads. The perfect cocktail to get lost. The personal routes will probably take the riders on a journey of around **1.000/1.250 kilometers** and 17.500-20.000 meters of climbing. The adventure starts in **Aveiro** - the 'Portuguese Venice' - on **September 2 2023** and finishes wherever riders may roam. Registration will open on February 1 2023.

CONTACT | MORE INFORMATION

If you need more information don't hesitate to check our website or to contact FinisTerra CC directly via email/social media. Online you will also find more information about our other adventure-cycling events and rides. Keep in touch!

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