



Tim in KY VaE Stage 2 is the longest of this year's Vuelta. It is 214 kilometers from Monaco west into France for an uphill finish at Manosque in the Alpes-de-Haute-Provence.

08-22-2026
01:55:38 pm



Tim in KY <https://rumbletalk-images-upload.s3.amazonaws.com/61922326bc2ef459e5ed5de71ef53a57/1787421649-stage-2-route.jpg>

08-22-2026
01:55:50 pm



Tim in KY There are only two categorized climbs (both Cat3s) on the route and they come in the first half but there are 2,630 meters of climbing and no real flats. The final five kilometers are uphill and very Giro-esque.

08-22-2026
01:56:39 pm



Tim in KY <https://rumbletalk-images-upload.s3.amazonaws.com/61922326bc2ef459e5ed5de71ef53a57/1787421709-stage-2-profile.jpg>

08-22-2026
01:56:50 pm



Tim in KY <https://rumbletalk-images-upload.s3.amazonaws.com/61922326bc2ef459e5ed5de71ef53a57/1787421737-stage-2-route-finale.jpg>

08-22-2026
01:57:18 pm



Tim in KY Kilometer zero is scheduled for 12:42 CEST. Finish is imagined either side of 17:30. Forecast is for hot sunshine in the low-30s. Live stream on Peacock starts at 14:30 CEST.

08-22-2026
01:59:28 pm



Tim in KY In neutral. For 21 kilometers! Seems excessive.

08-23-2026
06:08:17 am



Tim in KY No DNF yesterday, no DNS today. No fines yesterday.

08-23-2026
06:12:02 am



Tim in KY Finally racing. Time for chores.

08-23-2026
06:50:22 am



Tim in KY Four riders have 2:00 on the peloton. Not sure why Hayter is wasting his time out there.

08-23-2026
07:48:42 am



Rocket City Gal Maybe Hayter wants to scoop up intermediate sprint points to get the green jersey. That would be my guess.

08-23-2026
08:35:48 am



Tim in KY Like a normal sprint stage except for the "sprint".

08-23-2026
08:36:21 am

MANOSQUE

M

1

Valensole

Esparron-de-Verdon

Quinson

Règusse

**COL DE SAINT
ANDRIEU**

3

Lombardie

**Brovès en
Seillans**

**ALTO
CHÂTEAUNEUF-GRASSE**

3

Grasse

Peymeinade

**Roquefort-
les-Pins**

**Villeneuve-
Loubet**

Nice

MONACO

S

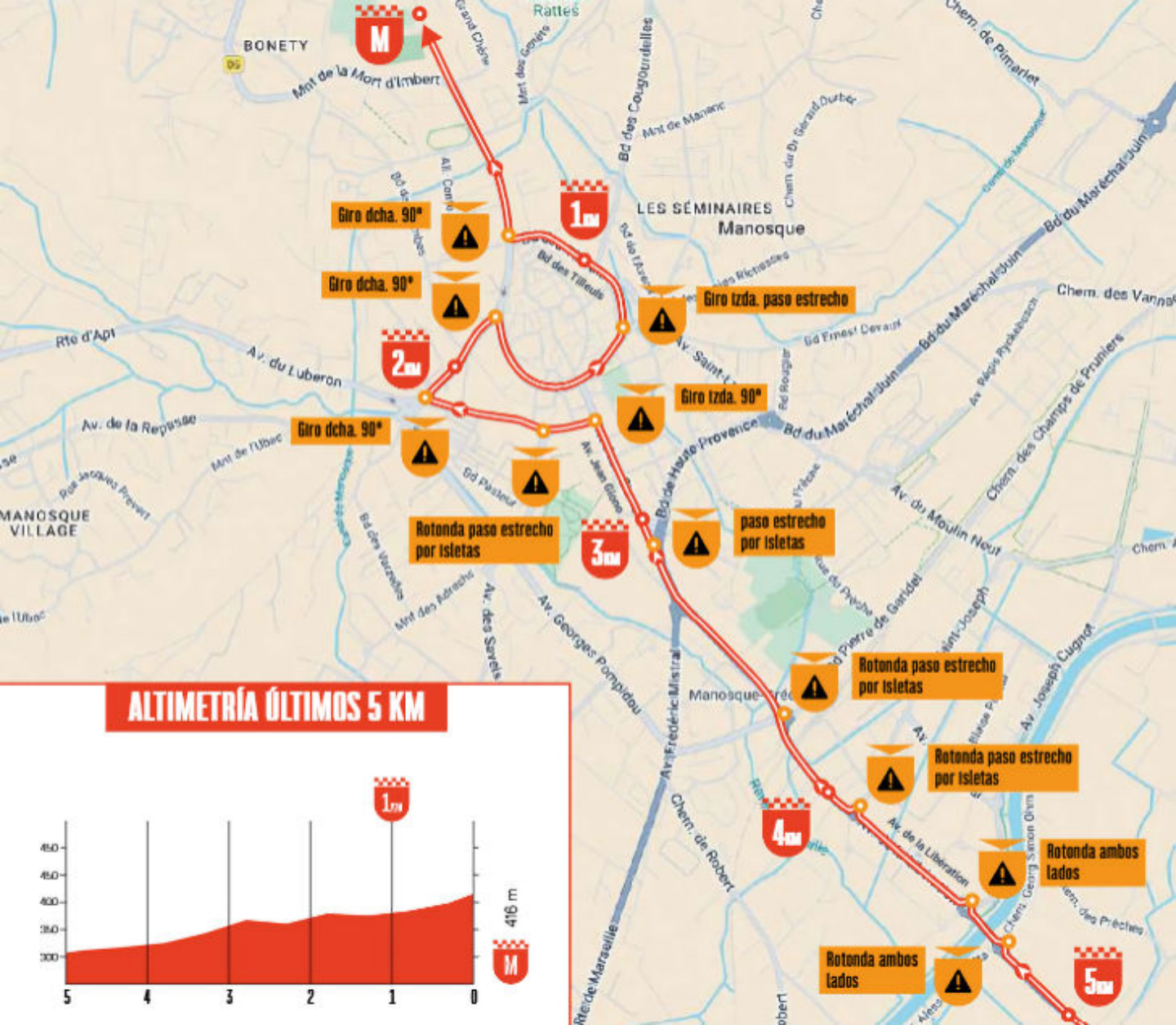
GRÉDOUX-LES-BAINS

Montmeyan

Aups

Ampus







Katie S Good morning

08-23-2026
08:36:24 am



Rocket City Gal So.... riders who have retired this year include Alaphilippe, Froome, Simon Yates and Simon Clarke.

08-23-2026
08:36:27 am



Tim in KY Hadn't heard about S. Yates.

08-23-2026
08:37:04 am



Rocket City Gal Riders who have announced that they're retiring at the end of this year include Bilbao, Cort, Caruso, Herrada, Howson, Ion Izagirre, Jungles, Kruijswijk, Mezgec, Mollema, Quintana.

08-23-2026
08:37:22 am



Rocket City Gal On the women's side, Moolman-Pasio and Amanda Spratt are retiring.

08-23-2026
08:37:44 am



Katie S WHF, Bob's Your Uncle and Crosswalk? I'll miss the names...

08-23-2026
08:38:18 am



Rocket City Gal S Yates had that weird, abrupt "retiring effective immediately" thing in January. There were rumors that maybe he suspected he was about to be caught doing something he shouldn't. It was very abrupt and a very weird time of year to just suddenly hang it up.

08-23-2026
08:39:06 am



Rocket City Gal He had just been at a training camp and had team photos taken with his Visma team. It was just very strange.

08-23-2026
08:41:08 am



Katie S Does sound strange

08-23-2026
08:43:36 am



Rocket City Gal Today is the last day of the Renewi tour and the Ladies' Tour of Britain.

08-23-2026
08:43:36 am



Rocket City Gal We are at our Virginia place, escaping the heat blast in Alabama. It was 60 degrees here this morning. Pure bliss.

08-23-2026
08:45:11 am



Katie S Lovely!

08-23-2026
08:45:47 am



Katie S Fall in the air?

08-23-2026
08:46:11 am



Rocket City Gal I have been picking up deadfall in the woods and hauling it to our burn pile. It's rained almost every day for the last 5 weeks, which is actually good because the area has been in drought for the last few years.

08-23-2026
08:46:24 am



Rocket City Gal I'm also working on clearing more walking paths. Thank goodness for the battery-powered Rigid brand reciprocating saw ("sawzall")

08-23-2026
08:47:22 am



Rocket City Gal Just glad I got the OK from the eye doctor to travel. I've been seeing him way too much lately.

08-23-2026
08:49:04 am



Tim in KY Speaking of temps, it's going to be in the upper teens in the Pyrenees tomorrow. I don't think it's been that cool at a major race since May.

08-23-2026
08:50:56 am



Katie S Indeed. How is your vision now?

08-23-2026
08:51:02 am



Rocket City Gal It recovered to about 20/40, thankfully. But I'll be at a pretty high risk of the shingles in the eye recurring. And with each recurrence, vision tends to get worse. There's a big floater and my cataract in that eye is worse now, I guess from either the inflammation or the steroid eye drops. It's hard to tell if the vision is gradually worsening because of the cataract or whether some resurgence of the keratitis / uveitis is creeping back.

08-23-2026
08:53:47 am



Rocket City Gal After being 20/40, it went to maybe 20/60ish. Still way better than "I can tell there's a white rectangular eye chart but I can't even tell that there are letters on it"

08-23-2026
08:55:03 am



Katie S That's improvement, but geez...

08-23-2026
08:58:34 am



Rocket City Gal The recommendation is to go ahead and get the Shingrix shingles shot, but a recent study showed that just getting the shot can flare up the ocular zoster (64% increase compared to those who didn't get the shot after they got shingles involving their eye). So that's a big, "do I, or don't I" thing. The risk of recurrence also goes up with cataract surgery (40%). The eye doctor thinks that the antiviral I got (generic, they all are these days) when I was diagnosed was mis-formulated or something, because he's never seen that "violent" of eye involvement developing after 7 days of antiviral treatment in his 20+ years of practice.... and he's seen lots of people with ocular zoster.

08-23-2026
08:59:26 am



Rocket City Gal At this point I'm in the "let's not do anything and just see where things are in a year or so" camp. I'm on a low dose of antiviral med for a year because it has been shown to decrease recurrences even once the antiviral is stopped.

08-23-2026
09:02:28 am



Rocket City Gal Women's Tour of Britain with under 7 km to go. 3 riders in the break still with a 30 second lead. I'm not sure they're going to maintain that lead. I'm calling this one for Weibes after the break is caught.

08-23-2026
09:04:22 am



Rocket City Gal Koen Bouwman (Jayco) will be wearing the KOM jersey if he finishes the stage. There are still about 70 km to go until the intermediate sprint.

08-23-2026
09:08:25 am



Rocket City Gal HAYTER Ethan, BOUWMAN Koen, FERNÁNDEZ Sinuhé and URIARTE Diego have a lead of 1:40 with 108 km remaining. Gee, this is a long stage.

08-23-2026
09:10:02 am



Rocket City Gal Women's ToB: Break caught just before the red kite.

08-23-2026
09:10:56 am



Tim in KY Sadly, I'm going to miss the finish today. Our son and family are taking us for lunch to celebrate his mother's birthday.

08-23-2026
09:11:10 am



Rocket City Gal Weibes wins the final stage of the ToB

08-23-2026
09:11:37 am



Tim in KY Made cold cucumber soup for supper.

08-23-2026
09:14:42 am



Rocket City Gal I'll be headed out to work in the woods some more.... I'll check in intermittently but I don't think I'll be around for the finale either.

08-23-2026
09:17:06 am



Katie S Wonderful celebration. We'll be celebrating a nephew's birthday. He's down from British Columbia (where his wife's in a PhD program), and his younger brother will be coming through on his way back to school. So a somewhat unexpected partial family reunion.

08-23-2026
09:18:13 am



Rocket City Gal Tomorrow is not a rest day. After this longest stage of the Vuelta (202 km), the riders will transfer to Gruissan, France (about a 3 1/2 hour drive) and ride 174 km entirely in France tomorrow. Interestingly, the start

08-23-2026
09:22:01 am

city of Gruissan hosted a stage of the Vuelta before the T de F ever went there, and the T de F has never had a finish in Font-Romeu.



Rocket City Gal Happy birthday celebrations, all!

08-23-2026
09:24:58 am



Tim in KY Funny about the length of today's stage. PCS and Cycling Stage say 202km. Lavuelta.es says it 214.

08-23-2026
09:25:13 am



Katie S Neutral zone, feed zone, Twilight zone

08-23-2026
09:28:47 am



Tim in KY Strangely, there is a page of la Vuelta website that says 214 and a page that says 202.

08-23-2026
09:34:33 am



Trish in MA Good morning, all. Nice and cool here today. Still trying to figure out schedule for the day. We may go see CatFestVideos at a local theater. We are looking forward to seeing Coyote vs. Acme in a week or so.

08-23-2026
10:12:56 am



Tim in KY Looks like UAE wants to shed the red jersey for now.

08-23-2026
10:13:39 am



Tim in KY Visma uping the pace now.

08-23-2026
10:16:25 am



Katie S Chemistry lesson here... used baking powder sted of soda in my buttermilk batter. Mixed up a correct batch. Looked up "what happens if..." ... Learned something about the role of acid (buttermilk) on soda. And the lower leavening strength of powder.

08-23-2026
10:21:22 am



Trish in MA I'd guess, Katie, that you did not create a batter volcano

08-23-2026
10:23:13 am



John Did it taste different or just impact the fluffiness?

08-23-2026
10:23:42 am



Katie S Avoided that. Though it would have been entertaining.

08-23-2026
10:23:55 am



Katie S Flavor and fluffiness. Cuz the acid doesn't interact with baking powder.

08-23-2026
10:24:53 am



Katie S So, more sour less fluffy. I'll cook a couple of the powder version for comparison

08-23-2026
10:25:37 am



Trish in MA So what did you make?

08-23-2026
10:25:50 am



Katie S The good version batter is still proofing

08-23-2026
10:27:08 am



Trish in MA Why do they want to catch these guys so early?

08-23-2026
10:27:15 am



Katie S This is the discussion we are having with the niece

08-23-2026
10:28:24 am



Katie S Chumley down

08-23-2026
10:29:40 am



Trish in MA Maybe she can use it as part of her summer match homework.

08-23-2026
10:29:56 am



Katie S Great idea!

08-23-2026
10:30:36 am



Tim in KY There is great confusion about where the sprint line is.

08-23-2026
10:36:16 am



Tim in KY Finally, the actual sprint line.

08-23-2026
10:49:00 am



Bikerabe Gruppo compacto

08-23-2026
10:51:43 am



Bikerabe uno KU

08-23-2026
10:52:06 am



Katie S COMMERCIAL. Gah. No Ku on my screen

08-23-2026
10:52:25 am



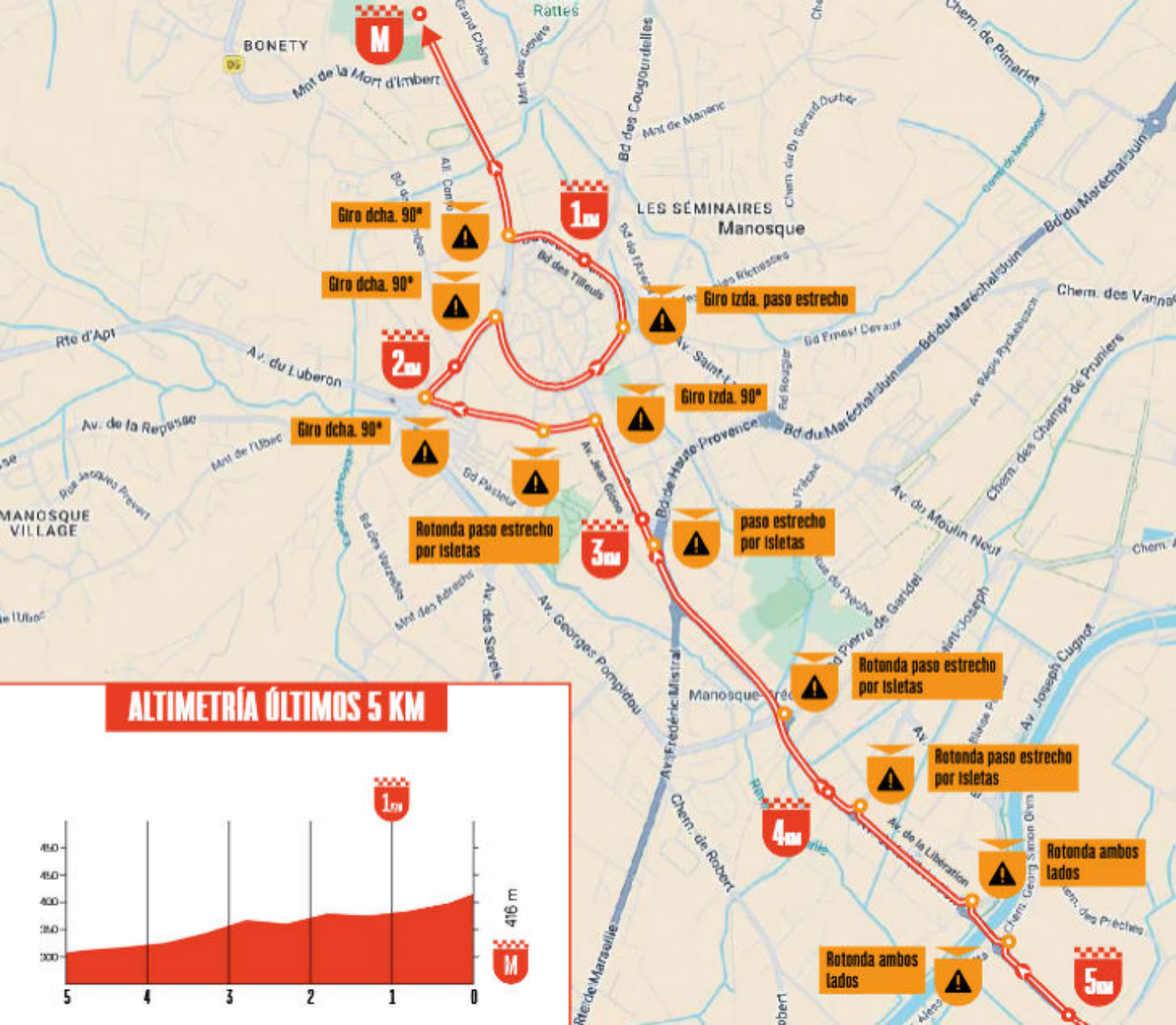
Trish in MA Arrrgh. Manscaping is back!

08-23-2026
11:11:11 am



Tim in KY Looks like I'll be able to watch the finish.

08-23-2026
11:11:38 am





Tim in KY Two minutes faster than the imagined time right now.

08-23-2026
11:15:59 am



Tim in KY Anyone heard where the sprint zone starts?

08-23-2026
11:27:25 am



Trish in MA Hayter hanging at the back. He won't wear red if that continues

08-23-2026
11:29:15 am



Tim in KY <https://rumbletalk-images-upload.s3.amazonaws.com/61922326bc2ef459e5ed5de71ef53a57/1787499317-stage-2-route-finale.jpg>

08-23-2026
11:30:18 am



Tim in KY This road is way too narrow for this bunch.

08-23-2026
11:35:02 am



Katie S I guess Tadej does want red

08-23-2026
11:37:03 am



Tim in KY Pog just can't help himself.

08-23-2026
11:37:05 am



Trish in MA Sigh.

08-23-2026
11:37:29 am



Trish in MA Caught

08-23-2026
11:37:53 am



Trish in MA Wow. Great finish

08-23-2026
11:39:03 am



Trish in MA And Hayter loses the jersey - again.

08-23-2026
11:39:42 am



Katie S Sigh

08-23-2026
11:40:12 am



Tim in KY Gotta go.

08-23-2026
11:40:32 am



Trish in MA But Brennan did a great job.

08-23-2026
11:40:38 am



Katie S Have fun with family, Tim

08-23-2026
11:42:33 am



Trish in MA I'm off to knit. And maybe watch Cat Videos

08-23-2026
11:44:13 am



Katie S Enjoy the day, all

08-23-2026
11:46:04 am
