



# Q&A

## COVID-19 Update

The role that COVID-19 will play in future outdoor events is as yet unclear.

Threshold Sports, the event organiser, have been working hard to adapt their event formats to ensure that HEINEKEN Race to the Castle 2021 will be COVID-19 secure, without losing the magic that has made previous events such a success.

We recognise that taking part in events such as these requires planning. We want to be sure we give you accurate information in good time to effectively plan your participation.

However, with social distancing and COVID secure measures being put in place, there may be some differences from previous years.

As such, please bear in mind that some of the information in this Q&A may be subject to change and we will update you with relevant information as soon as we can.

## What is HEINEKEN Race to the Castle?

HEINEKEN Race to the Castle is a challenge event through the beautiful Northumbria countryside. Starting in the village of Kirkharle the route follows St Oswald's Way, ending at Bamburgh Castle.

You can choose to walk, run or jog either 25k, 50k or 100k.

Once again we're partnering with Threshold Sports who we worked with in previous years on HEINEKEN Race to the Tower.

As well as HEINEKEN colleagues, family, friends, customers and suppliers, there will also be around 800 public participants.

For more information visit the [Team HEINEKEN Online Hub](#). Here you can find a whole range of useful information, such as training programmes and everything you need to know about the event.



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## When is HEINEKEN Race to the Castle?

The event will take place over the weekend of 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021. We strongly recommend that colleagues and their guests travel to the event on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June to ensure you're there in good time for the early start on Saturday morning. Subject to Government guidance, we'll provide accommodation on Friday evening and shuttles to the start line on the Saturday morning (see page 4).

## What is the cost of taking part in HEINEKEN Race to the Castle?

For HEINEKEN colleagues and their guests there is no cost to take part in the event. All entry fees will be covered by HEINEKEN.

We'll also pay for your accommodation costs on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June and will provide free coaches from/to our sites, with the exception of Ledbury and GTS in London (see page 3). Any other travel costs should be picked up by your business area.

## What packages are available for HEINEKEN Race to the Castle?

There are a range of packages to suit everyone. Whether you want to walk it, jog it or run it – the event caters for all abilities.

- 100k non-stop (excluding camping)
- 100k (Weekender) over 2 days (including camping)
- 100k (Weekender) over 2 days (excluding camping)
- 50k over 1 day (Saturday only, including camping)
- 50k over 1 day (Saturday only, excluding camping)
- 50k over 2 days (25k each on Saturday & Sunday, including camping)
- 50k over 2 days (25k on Saturday & Sunday, excluding camping)
- 25k over 1 day (Saturday only, including camping)
- 25k over 1 day (Saturday only, excluding camping)

## How do I sign up for HEINEKEN Race to the Castle?

[Click here](#) to complete the registration form. If you're inviting guests to take part they must also complete the registration form (see next page). **Please note: the deadline to register is Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April.**



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## Can I invite guests to take part?

Yes. Guests can be family members, friends, customers or suppliers. Please note your guests must be over 18 at the time of the event.

We'll cover the cost of their entry fee, their accommodation on the Friday night and travel on the coaches/shuttles provided by HEINEKEN. All other travel costs must be covered by them. Please note you may need to share your hotel room with them.

Each guest must complete their own [registration form](#).

When they get to the question 'Are you a HEINEKEN employee?', ask them to select 'No, I'm a friend/family/supplier/customer'. They should then provide your name as their contact at HEINEKEN and confirm if they are a friend/family member or supplier/customer. In the Accommodation & Travel section they should also indicate if they'll be sharing a room with you.

When you complete your own registration form please also provide their name so we can ensure they're allocated a room in the same hotel as you and the same start time.

## What happens once I've signed up for HEINEKEN Race to the Castle?

You'll receive an email from Threshold Sports, confirming your details and the package you've chosen.

In the run up to the event you'll also receive regular emails from Threshold with top tips on how to get race fit and what you need to take with you. Make sure to add [rffc@heineken.co.uk](mailto:rffc@heineken.co.uk) and [info@racetothecastle.com](mailto:info@racetothecastle.com) to your email contacts to ensure that you receive all the relevant information.

We'll use the information you've supplied in your registration form to book your hotel and shuttle bus requirements (see page 3). You'll then receive a personalised itinerary a few weeks before the event to confirm your tailored experience.

Ahead of the event you'll also be sent your race pack, your complimentary Team HEINEKEN t-shirt and wristband (this will give you free drinks at the HEINEKEN bar all weekend).



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## How do I get there and back?

To ensure you're at the event in good time we recommend that all colleagues and their guests travel to Newcastle on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June.

### Hotels

On the Friday night we've booked rooms in Newcastle at the Maldron Hotel and the Hilton Gateshead.

If you're bringing a guest to the event it's important you let us know on your registration form who they are. This will ensure they're allocated a room in the same hotel as you.

### Getting There by Coach/Train

To get you to the hotels we'll provide coaches on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June from all HEINEKEN sites, with the exception of GTS in London, as it's much quicker to travel by train, and Ledbury – colleagues from this site will need to travel to Hereford and get on the coach there.

SITE	DEPARTS	APPROX TRAVEL TIME	ARRIVAL TIME
Hereford Cidery	11am	6 hours	5pm
Manchester Brewery	1.30pm	3 hours 30 mins	5pm
Edinburgh Broadway Park	2pm	3 hours	5pm
Tadcaster Brewery	3pm	2 hours	5pm

If you're based in London we recommend that you book a train to Newcastle Central Station. Travel time is approximately 3 hours. Both hotels are close to the station so it's only a 5 minute walk. If you're a HEINEKEN colleague your travel costs should be picked up by your business area.

On the Saturday morning we'll provide shuttle buses to take you from your hotel to the start line.



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## Getting Back by Coach/Train

At the end of the event on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June, there will be a return coach to these same sites at 7.30pm. There will also be a coach back to GTS at 7.30pm – travel time is 6 hours. These are the only coaches going back to our sites – if you want to leave earlier or later you'll need to arrange this yourself and the cost should be picked up by your business area.

If you're travelling by train we'll provide shuttles from the basecamp to Newcastle Central Station on the Sunday at 8am (travel time is 45mins) and from the finish at 12pm and 6pm (travel time is 1hr 15mins). If you want to leave at a different time, you'll need to arrange this yourself and the cost should be picked up by your business area or if you're a guest you should pay for this yourself.

## Driving

If you prefer to travel by car there will be parking available at the hotel, start or finish depending on the day of your arrival. You'll be able to book your space nearer to the event.

If you're a HEINEKEN colleague you can expense any mileage incurred to get to and from the event through the usual expenses procedure.

## Arrival on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June:

**Please let us know on your registration form if you want to park at the hotel on Friday night and we can arrange this for you. It's important you tell us in advance as only one hotel allows parking.**

If you do have your car at the hotel on Friday, please note you'll be expected to drive to either the start or the finish very early on the Saturday morning. You'll be able to book your space nearer to the event.



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## Arrival on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June:

You can park at the finish on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June morning, you'll be able to book your space nearer to the event, and you can then book a seat on one of Threshold's shuttle buses to take you to the start – just make sure you give yourself enough time.

If you park at the start you can book a seat on one of Threshold's shuttle buses to take you back there from basecamp or the finish line when you complete the race.

## How do I book my travel?

If you're travelling by train, we'd encourage you to book your travel as soon as you've signed up for HEINEKEN Race to the Castle to ensure you get the best possible price. If you're a HEINEKEN colleague please get your manager's approval before booking any travel and make sure your travel is in line with the [Travel and Expenses Policy](#).

Visit the [HEINEKEN Travel Portal](#) for information on how to book train tickets and the link to the Trainline booking site.

## Can I claim back any expenses incurred over the weekend of the event?

Yes. As this is a work event you'll be able to claim back any expenses incurred over the weekend as long as they're in line with our [Travel and Expenses Policy](#).

## Will I need to take annual leave to be able to take part?

As the event takes place on a Saturday and Sunday, if you work a standard Monday to Friday work pattern you will not need to book annual leave to take part in the event. However, you may have to finish work early on the Friday to allow you to get to Newcastle in good time.

Also for those taking part on the Sunday depending on when you finish and where you're travelling to, you may not get home until after midnight. Therefore we recommend you go into work late on the Monday.

**Please speak to your manager before signing up to make sure you're able to leave early and go in late.**



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For colleagues who work shift patterns, if you wish to take part in the event, please speak with your manager at the earliest opportunity to ensure that the appropriate cover can be arranged.

## Can I use the event to fundraise for charity?

Yes. We'd encourage everyone who takes part to use the event as a charity fundraiser.

HEINEKEN has not partnered with any specific charity for HEINEKEN Race to the Castle. This provides an opportunity to all participants to support a charity close to their hearts. We'll ask on the registration form who you're raising funds for and we may contact you to ask about your story.

An easy way to fundraise is to set up a Virgin Money Giving page. Make sure you link it to the [HEINEKEN Race to the Castle event page](#).

## What if I don't want to take up the challenge – are there any other opportunities for me to get involved?

We have a number of volunteering opportunities available at the event. If you're interested in volunteering, please complete the [Volunteer registration form](#).

## What do I need to do for the event?

We'll take care of everything over the weekend of the event so all you need to do is concentrate on the challenge ahead.

### Pre-event

From when you sign up, you'll receive all of the information you need to get you prepared:

- Training programme tailored to your level.
- Special offers on kit from event suppliers.
- Advice on how to get the best out of the event.
- Team on hand to answer all of your questions.



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Look out for Essential Event Information emails where we will update you on logistics and what to expect over the weekend.

Ahead of the event you'll also be sent your race pack, your complimentary Team HEINEKEN t-shirt and wristband (this will give you free drinks at the HEINEKEN bar all weekend).

## During the event

When you arrive at the start line your bags will be securely transported from the start to the finish point each day. If you're doing the event over 2 days and are camping overnight, you'll collect your bags at basecamp and then drop them back the following morning so they can be taken to the finish. If you're doing the non-stop package your bags will go directly from the start to the finish.

There will be plenty of support during the event to make sure you're looked after:

- Medical support.
- Event timing.
- Regular pit stops with toilets, food, drinks and sports nutrition.
- Fully signed route.
- Bag transport to the finish/basecamp for all participants.

## Basecamp

If you chose one of the packages that includes camping, at the basecamp everything is taken care for you. We'll provide more information on the basecamp as we get nearer to the event but here is a taster of what is included:

- Two course evening meal.
- Individual tented accommodation. This will be set up for you on arrival at the camp. You'll need to bring your own sleeping bag and camping mat.
- Hot showers.
- Medical support.
- Fully stocked HEINEKEN bar.
- A hearty breakfast to get you ready for the rest of the challenge.





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## Post-event

The support continues right to the very end:

- Hot food.
- Hot showers.
- Medical support.
- Finishers medal.
- Extra tents for participants who finish during the night/early morning.

## Who can I contact for more information?

If you have a question not covered here, please email [rttc@heineken.co.uk](mailto:rttc@heineken.co.uk)