



Riders will this weekend take on a variety of terrain including Jeep tracks, during the PE to Plett mountain bike race, set to start in Port Elizabeth on Thursday, March 2. *Photo: Supplied*

## Cyclists to descend on Plett in droves

Hundreds of mountain bikes – from serious competitors to weekend warriors – are set to descend on Plettenberg Bay this weekend for the fifth staging of the now-popular FedGroup PE Plett mountain bike race.

Described as one of the most scenic mountain bike races, the event will kick off in Port Elizabeth on Thursday, March 2, and end in Plettenberg Bay on Sunday March 5.

It will see competitors traverse the coast of the Eastern and Southern Cape once again.

Racers will have two event options, including the main event – The Tough One – which will see riders cover a total of 320km over the four stages. Each day will include between 65km and 95km of route to be covered.

The event also makes provision for those a bit less serious.

The Lite One will see riders cover a total of 240km with stages ranging in distance between 45km and 75km.

The race is set to start at the Woodridge School and will see more than 200 riders navigate

the bike parks of the 3 Rivers Trail, the Longmore Forest and the orange orchards of the Gamtoos Valley around Hankey.

Day two will kick off in Kareedouw and will include private jeep track, deserted farmhouses along the way and the remoteness of the Suuranys Mountains.

The third day will take riders from Storms River into a climb over the Tsitsikamma Mountain range and into the forests of Cape Pine and the hiking trails of SANParks.

The final stretch will see riders finish the epic race at the Vasselot Rest Camp in Nature's Valley

"We have kept our distances between race villages shorter to cater for the Lite riders. But now we have the option to vary the route enormously and build in some great new tracks and create a bigger and better race for the Tough One riders," organisers said in a statement.

Prize money of more than R200 000 is up for grabs for those who cross the finish line first. – *Yolandé Stander*