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BORDER 2 BORDER FACT SHEET

How far? Not allowing for detours or riders getting lost, the total distance for Border 2 Border is 2016 miles over eleven days, the equivalent of riding from the London Eye to the Manchester Velodrome every day, for 11 consecutive days.

How steep? With more than 90,000 feet of climbing this is the most gruelling GM Fundraising Cycling challenge ever. To put it into perspective the 2011 Tour De France, rated as one of the toughest, had 9 mountain stages with a combined total of 69,000 feet of climbing. Border 2 Border will see the team cross seven mountain ranges.

How high? An inland route was chosen rather than simply following the Pacific Coast. Border 2 Border starts in Vancouver and heads west into the Cascade Mountains climbing two 4,000 feet summits on day 2 alone. The following days will see the riders traverse the Columbian Plateau with its peaks and valleys achieving a maximum altitude of 7,700 feet at Crater Lake before descending into the Sacramento Valley. South of San Francisco the ride follows the Pacific coast then heads over the California Coastal Mountains, descending into the San Joaquin Valley, climbing from sea level to 5,000 feet across the Southern Sierra Nevada into the Mojave Desert. The ride then crosses the San Antonio Mountains, dropping into the San Bernardino Valley before climbing 4000 feet over the San Jacinto Mountains before descending into the Anza Borrego Desert then climbing 4200 feet over the Laguna Mountains to Tijuana.

How sunny? Border to Border will see the riders' cycle south from latitude 49°N to 32°N. They will start in Vancouver where June daytime temperatures can vary wildly from 12-20°C, down through Washington State and Oregon where the weather can be cold wet and windy, into California where June temperatures in the Mojave and Anza Borrego Deserts rarely drop below 40°C. Previous US rides have taught us that the weather is never what you expect and close support will be the order of the day, every day.

How much? Each of the eighteen riders will raise a minimum of £3,500 in sponsorship and combined with the income from kit sponsorship and the headline sponsor the fundraising target for Border 2 Border is £100,000. Every penny raised will go directly to Hope House Children's Hospices because the riders and support team will each cover their own personal costs such as flights, hotels and subsistence.