# La Vuelta a España 2021

**AUGUST 14 – SEPTEMBER 5**

**The Vuelta a España – cycling's final Grand Tour of the year – first departed from Madrid in 1935, aiming to emulate growth of the *Tour de France* and *Giro d'Italia*. The 2021 race begins in Burgos, Leon, and navigates a route entirely within Spain, before concluding at the pilgrimage site of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia**

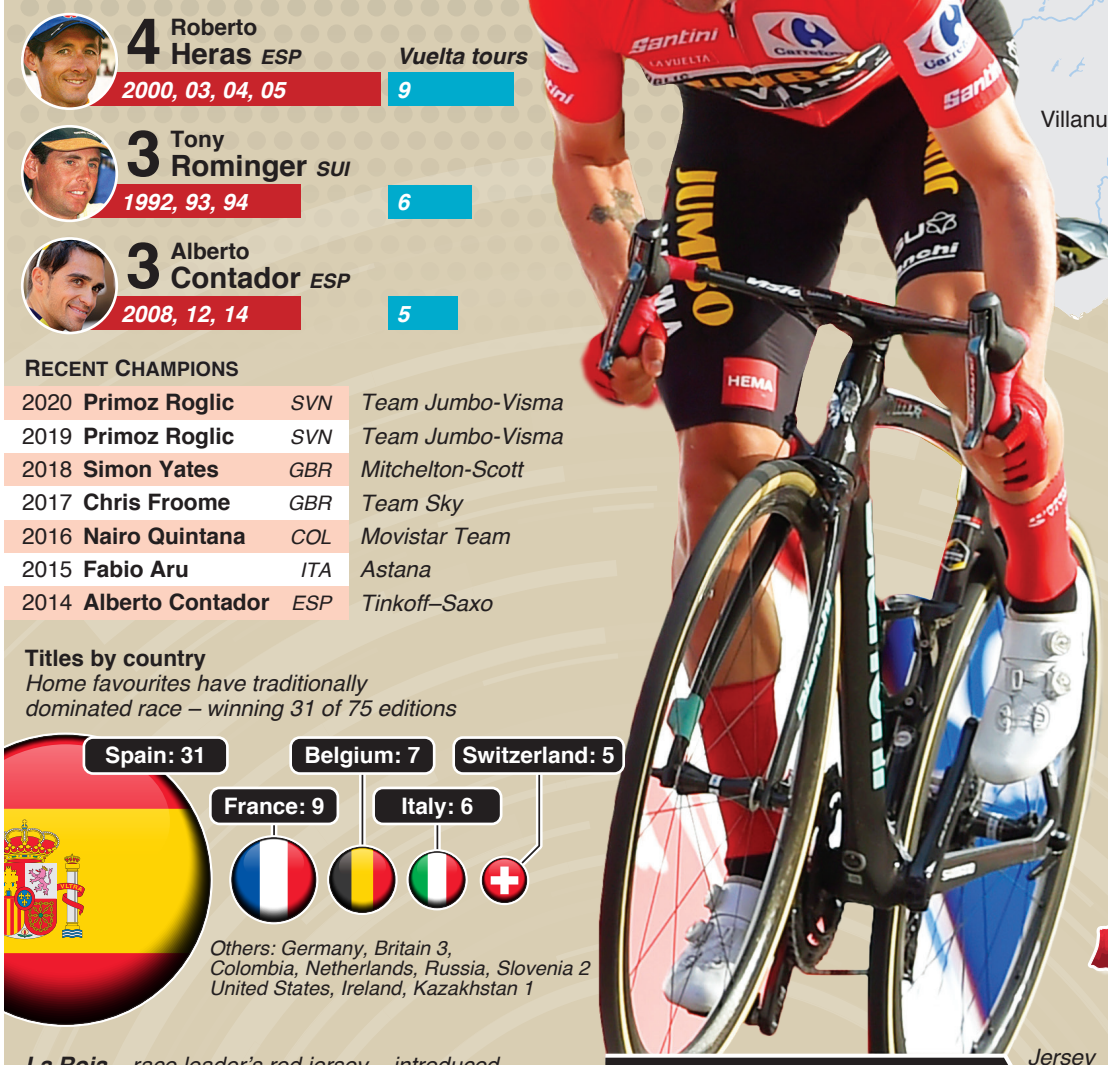
## 2021 Route

*2021 edition features seven mountain stages – including summit finishes **Picón Blanco** (1,500m) and **Alto de Velefique** (1,800m), accompanied by challenging new mountain climb of **Altu d'el Gamoniteiru** (1,772m) – four hill stages, eight sprint stages and two individual time trials*

**Total race distance**
**3,336.1km**

## Elite Club

*Spanish rider **Roberto Heras** – who finished in Top 6 each year between 1997 and 2005 – is only man to have conquered La Vuelta four times. **Alberto Contador's** 2014 win – his third overall – provided most recent home victory*



| | Vuelta tours |
|---|---|
| 4 Roberto Heras *ESP* — *2000, 03, 04, 05* | 9 |
| 3 Tony Rominger *SUI* — *1992, 93, 94* | 6 |
| 3 Alberto Contador *ESP* — *2008, 12, 14* | 5 |

**RECENT CHAMPIONS**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2020 | **Primoz Roglic** | *SVN* | *Team Jumbo-Visma* |
| 2019 | **Primoz Roglic** | *SVN* | *Team Jumbo-Visma* |
| 2018 | **Simon Yates** | *GBR* | *Mitchelton-Scott* |
| 2017 | **Chris Froome** | *GBR* | *Team Sky* |
| 2016 | **Nairo Quintana** | *COL* | *Movistar Team* |
| 2015 | **Fabio Aru** | *ITA* | *Astana* |
| 2014 | **Alberto Contador** | *ESP* | *Tinkoff–Saxo* |

**Titles by country**
*Home favourites have traditionally dominated race – winning 31 of 75 editions*




*Others: Germany, Britain 3, Colombia, Netherlands, Russia, Slovenia 2 United States, Ireland, Kazakhstan 1*

## 2020 winner
## Primoz Roglic

***Slovenian cyclist – racing for Jumbo-Visma – aiming for third successive La Vuelta title, after recent victory in Tokyo Olympics time trial***

**STAGE BREAKDOWN**

Individual time-trial
Mountain stage
Sprint stage

| Stage | Aug-Sep | km |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 14 | 8.0 |
| 2 | 15 | 169.5 |
| 3 | 16 | 203 |
| 4 | 17 | 163.6 |
| 5 | 18 | 184.4 |
| 6 | 19 | 159 |
| 7 | 20 | 152 |
| 8 | 21 | 163.3 |
| 9 | 22 | 187.8 |
| 10 | 24 | 190.2 |
| 11 | 25 | 131.6 |
| 12 | 26 | 166.7 |
| 13 | 27 | 197.2 |
| 14 | 28 | 159.7 |
| 15 | 29 | 193.4 |
| 16 | 31 | 170.8 |
| 17 | 1 | 181.6 |
| 18 | 2 | 159.2 |
| 19 | 3 | 187.8 |
| 20 | 4 | 173.6 |
| 21 | 5 | 33.7 |



## LA VUELTA

*Jersey colours*

## Race Classifications

***Overall leader:* Red**
Awarded to race winner and worn by current race leader at start of each stage – calculated by totalling each day's finishing time

***Points leader:* Green**
Fastest sprinters compete for points at end of each stage – points adjusted by terrain, with flat stages awarding most points

***King of the Mountains:* Polka dot**
Held by rider who proves to be best climber, with more severe climbs offering most points

***Best young rider:* White**
Awarded to highest placed rider aged 24 or younger on first day of year. Prize first introduced in 2017

***La Roja** – race leader's red jersey – introduced in 2009 by race director **Javier Guillen.** Colour already associated with success of national soccer team, nicknamed The Red. Succeeded multiple earlier combinations including inaugural orange jersey of 1935*

**HIGHEST NUMBER OF DAYS IN LEADER'S JERSEY**

**Alex Zülle *SUI* (1993, 96, 97, 2000)** — 48

**Roberto Heras *ESP* (2000, 02, 03, 04 05)** — 34

**Gustaaf Deloor *BEL* (1935, 36)** — 32

**Delio Rodriguez *ESP* (1941, 45, 46, 47)** — 32

**Tony Rominger *SUI* (1992, 93, 94)** — 32

## La Vuelta: Start to finish

**1935:** ***Clemente Lopez Doriga*** and ***Juan Pujol,*** director of Informaciones newspaper, launch Vuelta a España. ***Gustaaf Deloor*** *(right)* of Belgium is first winner

**1936:** Deloor defends title in longest winning finishing time of 150 hours and seven minutes – race consists of 21 stages and is over 4,300 km long

**1937-54:** Race suffers several interruptions due to Spanish Civil War and outbreak of World War II

**1941:** Only Spanish and Swiss riders compete as ***Julian Berrendero*** becomes first home winner

**1945** Points classification introduced, awarded to most consistent sprinters

**1955-56** Appeal of Vuelta increases – ***Jean Dotto*** and ***Angelo Conterno*** are first winners from France and Italy

**1963** ***Jacques Anquetil*** *(right)* wins title to become first rider to win Vuelta, Tour de France and Giro d'Italia



**1984:** ***Eric Caritoux*** defeats Alberto Fernández Blanco by six seconds, smallest margin of victory in Vuelta history

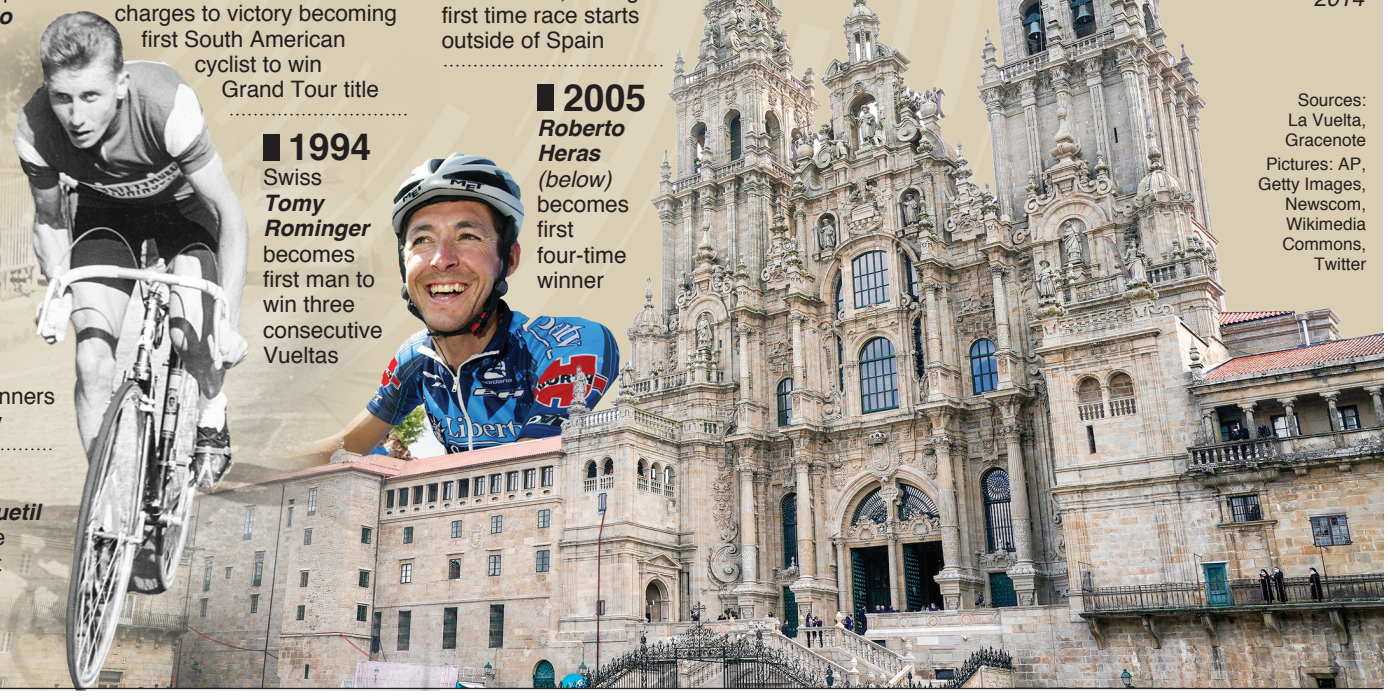
**1987:** ***Luis Herrera*** charges to victory becoming first South American cyclist to win Grand Tour title

**1994** Swiss ***Tomy Rominger*** becomes first man to win three consecutive Vueltas

**1995:** 50th edition marks move to September date to avoid clash with other Grand Tours

**1997:** Tour departs from Lisbon, Portugal – first time race starts outside of Spain

**2005** ***Roberto Heras*** *(below)* becomes first four-time winner



**2013:** American ***Chris Horner,*** 41, becomes oldest winner

**2021**
**Santiago de Compostela**
*Set to host first climax outside Madrid since 2014*

Sources: La Vuelta, Gracenote
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