

Tim in KY La Vuelta stage 18 is 169 kilometers from Suances, on the Bay of Biscay, 09-06 14:54

to the Monastery of Santo Toribio de Liébana, well inland in Cantabria. The route starts west along the coast for 46 km and then winds circuitously through the Cantabrian interior to the finish.



Tim in KY //rumbletalk-images-

09-06 14:54

upload.s3.amazonaws.com/61922326bc2ef459e5ed5de71ef53a57/1504724389-VaE%20stage-18-route.jpg



Tim in KY The route is lumpy for the first 90 kilometers and leads to a false flat that 09-06 15:01

ramps up to a sequence of four categorized climbs in the final 65 km. There are two Cat 3s and a Cat 2 one right after the other and thed a Cat 3 up to the finish. None of the climbs is very long or very steep.



Tim in KY //rumbletalk-images-

09-06 15:01

upload.s3.amazonaws.com/61922326bc2ef459e5ed5de71ef53a57/1504724808-VaE%20stage-18-profile.png



Tim in KY The final climb is listed as 3.2 kilometers long at a gradient of 6%, but the 09-06 15:07

profile shows to be actually a kilometer of false flat leading to a 2 km climb at 9%. More of a finish for the classics riders, perhaps.



Tim in KY //rumbletalk-images-

09-06 15:07

upload.s3.amazonaws.com/61922326bc2ef459e5ed5de71ef53a57/1504725147-VaE%20stage-18-1km.png



Tim in KY //rumbletalk-images-

09-06 15:07

upload.s3.amazonaws.com/61922326bc2ef459e5ed5de71ef53a57/1504725156-VaE%20stage-18-finish.jpg



Tim in KY Kilometer zero is scheduled for 13:14 CET (07:14 EDT). Video stream

09-06 15:12

starts at 15:00 CET (09:00 EDT).



BusterSci Every time I can't partake in a stage, it turns out to be a cracker. If I were a 09-07 06:03

superstitious man I'd not be here Saturday.



Tim in KY I don't expect any crackers today. Or any broken car windows. Nor do I

09-07 06:41

expect the Spanish inquisition. But nobody expects that.



Tim in KY Partly cloudy and temps in the low 20s C. Pretty near perfect cycling

09-07 06:50

weather.

BusterSci It's always a bit dubious to play with counterfactuals, but Contador lost 2:2	23.09-07.06.52
on stage 3 due to a stomach virus. Oh, what this Saturday would be like with Bert just a minu	ite down!
Tim in KY Should be in neutral now but not word of it.	09-07 06:57
Tim in KY Now there is.	09-07 06:59
Tim in KY Entertaining crosswinds along the coast?	09-07 07:00
Tim in KY Maxime Monfort (Lotto S) DNS. Sick.	09-07 07:05
BusterSci Just me? Or does CN not have their ticker link up?	09-07 07:07
Joanna in New York Surprise! That's my weapon! And fear, and ruthless efficiency and an almost fanatical devotion to the Pope! I'll come in again	09-07 07:09
and an annost fanatical devotion to the Pope: The come in again	
BusterSci Hope you're in your comfy chair.	09-07 07:12
Tim in KY It is not, Buster.	09-07 07:12
Joanna in New York Indeed, I am! Backed by a soft cushion!	09-07 07:12
Joanna in New York And, I've got all the stuffing up on one end!	09-07 07:13
BusterSci I suspect a lot of Nuts think I have stuffing up one end, but they'll never change me.	09-07 07:14
Joanna in New York As I penguin, I think you have it down on one end	09-07 07:15
BusterSci You've heard of a "beer belly" of course. What you're talking about is referred to as "herring ass."	09-07 07:18
BusterSci CN ticker is up.	09-07 07:19

Tim in KY No word of the proper start yet. Which would be the only proper thing around here.	09-07 07:19
Joanna in New York Better than hairy	09-07 07:19
BusterSci Well	09-07 07:19
Tim in KY As I said	09-07 07:20
Joanna in New York	09-07 07:20
Joanna in New York I'll come in again	09-07 07:22
BusterSci	09-07 07:22
Tim in KY It's 47 F here. Nice walking weather. Which I'm going to do while the break sorts itself out.	09-07 07:22
Joanna in New York Enjoy, Tim!	09-07 07:23
BusterSci Got me by a degree. 48.	09-07 07:23
Joanna in New York A balmy 61 here.	09-07 07:24
Joanna in New York The cat is again competing for lap space, she's winning.	09-07 07:25
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BusterSci Roche says he's going to try to get into a break. 09-07 07:54

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my beloved Artie last October, and how we have been unable to assess his overall soundness until he had a full re-formed hoof. Well, he has been back in light work, in-hand, for the past week. Here is a still shot from this morning's video. He just looks incredible, I am so, so relieved.

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Tim in KY Numb fingers. Should have taken gloves. Wind is only 8 kph, so not a factor.	09-07 08:01
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Joanna in New York Mornin' Maite!	09-07 08:57
memb54 Artie is looking great.	09-07 08:57
Joanna in New York Thank you! I am so pleased!!	09-07 08:57
Tim in KY Gold is not showing today's stage on the menu.	09-07 08:58
BusterSci The right decision, but adjudication by Twitter is kinda sad. That video wa	s 09-07 08:58
given to Velocast because the people who took it did not trust race commissaries to make the decision. I like people power, but in reality it's more a sign of organizational failure.	right
Joanna in New York That again, Tim? Let me see if mine is the same.	09-07 08:58
BusterSci Shows on my iPhone, not my MacBook.	09-07 09:00
Joanna in New York Shows on my MacBook, not on my iPad. Good grief	09-07 09:00
BusterSci I had a charging problem with my 5S. Discovered it was buildup of lint in	09-07 08:16
the lightning port. I assure you, it was pocket lint, not belly button.	
Joanna in New York I went through the "cleaning the contacts" routine - didn't help	09-07 08:18
with my 5, it was done for. People did speculate because I am around horses all day, that gund the works, but that really wasn't the case. It just gave up.	k gummed up
Tim in KY I had the lint problem with one of my iPhones. I'm perfectly happy with my 6.	09-07 08:18
Joanna in New York The belly button lint comment will make me giggle for awhile	09-07 08:20

BusterSci I'd keep my current if it wasn't falling apart. I dropped my 4 in a BWCA	09-07 08:20
lake. Took it apart, rinsed it with isopropyl alcohol, replaced the home button and got another until I dropped it on concrete and shattered the screen.	year out of it
Joanna in New York Good morning, bikerabe!	09-07 08:21
Tim in KY Now it's time for a little grocery shopping. Maybe there will be a break	09-07 08:21
when I get back. At least there will be video.	
bikerabe Good morning Joanna, Buster, Tim	09-07 08:22
Joanna in New York My mini iPod slipped out of my hands onto the garage floor	09-07 08:22
while I was trying to load up the car. Shattered screen - I stood there dejected, loved that little Mourning over, I bought another. Good thing we own Apple stock	e iPod.
BusterSci Today may be a good finale. I have a 10AM dentist appointment so I will	09-07 08:24
miss the last hour at least. Expect fireworks.	
Joanna in New York Sadly, I'll miss it, too. I have lessons to teach.	09-07 08:25
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Joanna in New York Thank you! I am so pleased!!	09-07 08:57

Tim in KY Gold is not showing today's stage on the menu.	09-07 08:58
BusterSci The right decision, but adjudication by Twitter is kinda sad. That video was	
given to Velocast because the people who took it did not trust race commissaries to make the r decision. I like people power, but in reality it's more a sign of organizational failure.	right
Joanna in New York That again, Tim? Let me see if mine is the same.	09-07 08:58
BusterSci Shows on my iPhone, not my MacBook.	09-07 09:00
Joanna in New York Shows on my MacBook, not on my iPad. Good grief	09-07 09:00
Tim in KY Not on my laptop, either.	09-07 09:01
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RSoseman	did that post?	09-07 09:48
Alison Qua	rles Yes!	09-07 09:49
RSoseman	:) thanks Alison	09-07 09:49
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Tim in KY The whole KAT team is off the front of the peloton.	09-07 10:29
Charles Davis Zakarin giving it a go.	09-07 10:31
Tim in KY Bahrain pulling them back.	09-07 10:31
Tim in KY Break about to summit.	09-07 10:31
Tim in KY Sprint is at the bottom of the second climb.	09-07 10:33
Marc @ Toad Hall Does memory = identity? Total Recall? This geezer wonders about such things. "When I was back there in Seminary school"	nt 09-07 10:33
Tim in KY KAT surge has brought the gap under 11:00.	09-07 10:33
Tim in KY Chaves OTB. Something is wrong with him.	09-07 10:34
Trish in MA I get my cats to surge only when they are chasing a toy. Maybe KAT see the break as a feather on the end of a string?	s 09-07 10:34
David Stanley Didn't ORica also have some team issues with gastric disorders? Like Dimension Data?	09-07 10:35
Tim in KY The peloton is really coming apart on the second climb.	09-07 10:35

Tim in KY Don't know, DStan.	09-07 10:36
David Stanley Chaves is spunky. Something must be eating at him to get dropped, right?	09-07 10:38
Tim in KY I think he's sick.	09-07 10:38
Gilliemarie Hi Donny!	09-07 10:38
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Tim in KY Aru still ahead of the GC group.	09-07 11:01



Youtube	
Gilliemarie Mons, ar you happy or sad to be returning to the US or maybe it's a bit of both?	09-07 11:08
Tim in KY Break is near the bottom of the last descent. Them there's about 15 km of false flat to the final climb.	09-07 11:08
RSoseman I am content, but a lot of work is entailed after 10 years here. I should live more simply. ;)	09-07 11:09
Gilliemarie My car issues continue! Stalled twice while driving yesterday	09-07 11:09
Gilliemarie Glad to hear Mons. Do you know where in US you will be?	09-07 11:10
Gilliemarie Will you still be working?	09-07 11:11
Tim in KY 15 km for the five leaders.	09-07 11:11
Alison Quarles No! I hate that Gillie. It's so aggravating.	09-07 11:12
memb54 Look at those mountains!	09-07 11:12
Charles Davis Go Soler.	09-07 11:12
Tim in KY They're not climbing those.	09-07 11:12
Alison Quarles I can't.:(09-07 11:13
Gilliemarie Yes AliQ! It has spent 2 days with mechanics & they have no problems & can find nothing wrong!!	09-07 11:13
Charles Davis Sorry about your car GM.	09-07 11:13
donny This really is a beautiful ride these guys are on today	09-07 11:13

RSoseman I am only 53 and not yet ready for retirement.	09-07 11:13
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Tim in KY Sander Armée (Lotto Soudal) Julian Alaphilippe (Quick-Step Floors) and	09-07 11:18
Alexey Lutsenko (Astana) lead with 10 km to go.	
Charles Davis Trentin got top points	09-07 11:01
Tim in KY Aru still ahead of the GC group.	09-07 11:01
donny If I had money to put on anyone for the win today it would have to go with that	09-07 11:01
French-ie on QS Strong climber and great on an uphill sprint	
memb54 Sorry, something went wrong with that post. It should have read: Mocedades	,09-07 11:02
the Basque group referred to by Mons sings Maitechu mía. There's also a song Maite, for which named. Miren, which appears as my FB monicker is my first name, but family and friends call 3rd name. Three names, just in case I lost the first two. :D Strong ties to this part of the Basque	l me Maite,
memb54 Mons, loved your essay.	09-07 11:02
Tim in KY Alaphilippe has joined the lead group.	09-07 11:03
donny Hmm Froome leading the sky bots for a change	09-07 11:03
memb54 Got live video. Unfortunately, they speak Danish.	09-07 11:04
donny Never mind just regrouping. Order has been restored and 3 bots back in front of	f 09-07 11:04
Froome	
RSoseman I like that lyric Bikerabe, I don't recall if I have heard the song.	09-07 11:04
RSoseman I am in office today so limited to breaks to when I post. Tomorrow I will be	e09-07 11:05
traveling, so it may be no essay or we'll see.	
Tim in KY GC group near the top of the Cat 2.	09-07 11:05

memb54 19.8 km and +9.48	09-07 11:05
RSoseman Returning to the USA in October, well see if there is a future in my essay	09-07 11:06
donny I may have to leave before this thing ends. That is really going to bum me out.	09-07 11:06
memb54 They are zooming!!	09-07 11:06
bikerabe Fountain of Sorrow one of many great Jackson Browne songs look it up on Youtube	09-07 11:06
Gilliemarie Mons, ar you happy or sad to be returning to the US or maybe it's a bit of both?	09-07 11:08
Tim in KY Break is near the bottom of the last descent. Them there's about 15 km of	09-07 11:08
false flat to the final climb.	
RSoseman I am content, but a lot of work is entailed after 10 years here. I should live more simply. ;)	09-07 11:09
Gilliemarie My car issues continue! Stalled twice while driving yesterday	09-07 11:09
Gilliemarie Glad to hear Mons. Do you know where in US you will be?	09-07 11:10
Gilliemarie Will you still be working?	09-07 11:11
Tim in KY 15 km for the five leaders.	09-07 11:11
Alison Quarles No! I hate that Gillie. It's so aggravating.	09-07 11:12
memb54 Look at those mountains!	09-07 11:12
Charles Davis Go Soler.	09-07 11:12

Tim in KY They're not climbing those.	09-07 11:12
Alison Quarles I can't.:(09-07 11:13
Gilliemarie Yes AliQ! It has spent 2 days with mechanics & they have no problems & can find nothing wrong!!	2 09-07 11:13
Charles Davis Sorry about your car GM.	09-07 11:13
donny This really is a beautiful ride these guys are on today	09-07 11:13
RSoseman I am only 53 and not yet ready for retirement.	09-07 11:13
RSoseman so I will be working/ministering in Illinois	09-07 11:13
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Tim in KY Chaves is back in the GC group.	09-07 11:19
RSoseman is the red jersey group really 10.5 minutes behind? amazing, and with all the escapers too. Is Froome lost his vroom?	1 09-07 11:20
donny Who is hanging between Aru and the break?	09-07 11:20
Gilliemarie Where is AC?	09-07 11:21
Tim in KY Nobody, Donny.	09-07 11:21
donny No idea Mons, ze germans are not giving me any time gaps at all	09-07 11:21
RSoseman according to my source I remember there is the lead break, then two chargroups, then the main break, then the peloton.	se 09-07 11:21
Tim in KY With the GC group, GM.	09-07 11:21

RSoseman It appears that AC is in the peloton, yes, and Aru about a minute ahead of that.	09-07 11:22
donny They do show 4 groups on the road the break, ?, Aru, then GC	09-07 11:22
Tim in KY The 20 person break is in 3 groups but they're only 0:25 apart. Then Aru,	09-07 11:23
donny Sorry to who ever I just accidentally deleted while trying to correct my post	09-07 11:23
Charles Davis I think there are 3 leaders, 5 next, Aru, then the Froome group	09-07 11:23
RSoseman Alaphilippe is in the lead with only 6 km to go. It appears that the Cat 3	09-07 11:23
climb at the end may actually make some difference in the stage.	
Tim in KY 5 km for the lead 3.	09-07 11:25
donny Alaphilippe is one of my favorite riders. That is perhaps the happiest frenchman I have ever seen.	n 09-07 11:25
Tim in KY Armee attacks again.	09-07 11:25
Tim in KY //rumbletalk-images-	09-07 11:26
upload.s3.amazonaws.com/61922326bc2ef459e5ed5de71ef53a57/1504798266-VaE%20stage	-18-1km.png
donny He is having a tough time sticking with the other two guys though.	09-07 11:26
donny Armee and Lutsenko are off by themselves	09-07 11:26
Tim in KY Alaphil paying for being in the break yesterday.	09-07 11:27
memb54 +9.44 and +11.03	09-07 11:27
Tim in KY 10 km banner for Aru.	09-07 11:28

Tim in KY Climb starts.	09-07 11:29
Tim in KY Idiot director! Show the front!	09-07 11:29
RSoseman //rumbletalk-images-	09-07 11:31
upload.s3.amazonaws.com/61922326bc2ef459e5ed5de71ef53a57/1504798569-progress.png	
RSoseman its complicated so I thought that chart might help	09-07 11:31
Tim in KY Red kite.	09-07 11:31
RSoseman Aru still up by more than a minut4e	09-07 11:32
Tim in KY Armee gaps Lutsenko.	09-07 11:33
RSoseman sure does and Alaphilippe approaches closing	09-07 11:34
memb54 Doesnt seem to believe he's on his own!	09-07 11:34
Tim in KY Arnee wins.	09-07 11:35
Marc @ Toad Hall You folk do better than any video I can find. Details!	09-07 11:35
donny amen mark	09-07 11:36
Marc @ Toad Hall Amee = belovéd	09-07 11:36
RSoseman Do you think that Froome will make the time cut?	09-07 11:36
donny subsequetly toad hall on Grand in soho is another of my favorite nyc pubs	09-07 11:37
donny just because of the name	09-07 11:37
donny just because of the name	09-07 11:37

Tim in KY Alaphilippe really popped. He just now finished.	09-07 11:37
Marc @ Toad Hall We all (esp. Buster) have been fighting shadenfreude this GT,	09-07 11:38
Marc @ Toad Hall Bless you, donny,	09-07 11:39
donny following along on my "handy" german for cell phone. like that word as it is german but also makes sense	09-07 11:42
RSoseman handy said it again	09-07 11:43
RSoseman Results at Santo Toribio de Liebana: 1. Sander Armée (Lotto-Soudal) 2. Alexey Lutsenko (Astana), +31" 3. Giovanni Visconti (Bahrain-Merida), +46" 4. Alexis Goug (AG2R-La Mondiale), +1'02" 5. José Joaquín Rojas (Movistar), +1'06"	09-07 11:43 geard
RSoseman The layout for tomorrow looks like a circuit, with recurring climbs every 20 km, but its not, it is just a path that has climbs at regular intervals	09-07 11:44
Gilliemarie Guessing no changes in the GC?	09-07 11:46
Tim in KY Aru lost a lot of his time gain on the last climb. And Nibbles popped.	09-07 11:46
Tim in KY Lots of GC changes.	09-07 11:47
Marc @ Toad Hall Echo Gillemarie	09-07 11:47
donny do tell tim	09-07 11:48
RSoseman I don't think they are all in yet	09-07 11:49
Gilliemarie Thanks guys, see you in the am! Guess i'll hang around for the final GC the Tim	09-07 11:49
Tim in KY No changes in the top five order but Froome got time on all of them excep Contador.	t 09-07 11:49

David Stanley Okay day for Woodsy, eh?	09-07 11:49
donny meaning ac inches closer to a step on the podium	09-07 11:50
Tim in KY Woods finished ahead of Froome.	09-07 11:50
DEFEND David Stanley Nice. Thanks, Tim. Back to work.	09-07 11:50
Gilliemarie Go Canada!	09-07 11:50
Marc @ Toad Hall DS:Love your devotion.	09-07 11:50
RSoseman So Aru petered out	09-07 11:55
Tim in KY He ended up getting about a minute on the rest of the GC. Moved up one spot.	09-07 11:56
Tim in KY Time to go.	09-07 11:57
bikerabe not closing this window	09-07 11:59
bikerabe tab that is	09-07 11:59
Gilliemarie I keep mine open/available on my iPad!	09-07 12:00
Charles Davis I am leaving.	09-07 12:20
Marc @ Toad Hall Anybody posting the stage/GC standings?	09-07 12:27