16 weeks to 70.3 Santa Cruz

Free IRONMAN 70.3 training plan · ~10 h a week (standard) · most age-groupers — race it, not just finish
Race day Sunday, 12 September 2027 · week 1 starts Monday, 24 May 2027

10 h	13 h	3:30	1:40
average week (1-15)	peak, week 11	longest ride	longest run

The plan in brief

- This free 16-week training plan for IRONMAN 70.3 Santa Cruz averages 10 hours a week, peaking at 13 hours in week 11, with recovery weeks 4, 8 and 12 and a two-week taper.
- It starts on Monday, 24 May 2027 and ends on race day, Sunday, 12 September 2027.
- A typical week has about 10 sessions — three swims, three rides, three runs and, in the first half, strength — with the time split roughly 45% bike, 30% run and 21% swim; the longest ride is 3:30 and the longest run 1:40.
- Adjusted for this course: rolling bike course; warm race day; cold water.

Adjusted for this course

Rolling bike course
About 586 m of climbing. Ride your long rides on rolling terrain and practise holding race power over the tops instead of spiking it on every rise.

Warm race day
Race-day highs around 25 °C. Rehearse your race-day drinking and sodium on the long rides from week 9 and do a few runs in the warm part of the day in the peak weeks.

Cold water
Water around 16 °C. Get into open water from week 13 if you can, and practise the first 200 m calm — cold-water gasping is a pacing problem, not a fitness one.

Five phases

Base	weeks 1-4	Aerobic engine and technique. Mostly easy, a little sweet spot, strength on Mondays.
Build 1	weeks 5-8	Threshold work on the bike and run, longer weekends, longer bricks.
Build 2	weeks 9-12	Race-specific: long efforts at 70.3 power and pace, the biggest weeks of the plan.
Peak	weeks 13-14	Race rehearsals: full fuelling, race kit, race pace off the bike.
Taper	weeks 15-16	Volume drops, intensity stays. Arrive fresh, not flat.

Weekly hours

WEEK	PHASE	DATES	TOTAL	SWIM	BIKE	RUN	STRENGTH
1	Base	24 May - 30 May	**8:40**	2:00	3:45	2:25	0:30
2	Base	31 May - 6 Jun	**9:10**	2:05	4:05	2:30	0:30
3	Base	7 Jun - 13 Jun	**10:05**	2:15	4:25	2:55	0:30
4	Base (recovery)	14 Jun - 20 Jun	**6:35**	1:15	3:05	1:55	0:20
5	Build 1	21 Jun - 27 Jun	**10:30**	2:20	4:35	3:05	0:30
6	Build 1	28 Jun - 4 Jul	**11:15**	2:25	5:05	3:15	0:30
7	Build 1	5 Jul - 11 Jul	**11:55**	2:35	5:20	3:30	0:30
8	Build 1 (recovery)	12 Jul - 18 Jul	**7:35**	1:25	3:30	2:20	0:20
9	Build 2	19 Jul - 25 Jul	**11:35**	2:30	5:15	3:25	0:25
10	Build 2	26 Jul - 1 Aug	**12:20**	2:35	5:40	3:40	0:25
11	Build 2	2 Aug - 8 Aug	**13:00**	2:40	5:55	4:00	0:25
12	Build 2 (recovery)	9 Aug - 15 Aug	**8:05**	1:25	3:50	2:30	0:20
13	Peak	16 Aug - 22 Aug	**11:30**	2:35	5:15	3:40	-
14	Peak	23 Aug - 29 Aug	**10:25**	2:20	4:55	3:10	-
15	Taper	30 Aug - 5 Sept	**7:55**	1:55	3:35	2:25	-
16	Race week	6 Sept - 12 Sept	**3:35**	1:15	1:20	1:00	-

Shaded rows are recovery weeks: about a third less, so the three weeks before turn into fitness.

Week by week

Every session with its duration and what to do. Key sessions are the ones to protect when life gets busy; the rest can move or shrink. Miss a few days? Pick the plan up where you are - don't try to catch up.

Week 1 Base · 24 May - 30 May **8:40 h**

Settle into the routine. Every session easy enough to finish wanting more.

Mon 24 May	**Strength & mobility** - Squats, split squats, single-leg deadlifts, calf raises, planks — 3 sets of 8–12. Then 10 min mobility.	**0:30**
Tue 25 May	**Swim · technique** - Warm-up 300 m easy. Drills 8×50 m (catch-up, fingertip drag, 6-kick switch), 20 s rest. Main 6×100 m smooth at RPE 5, 20 s rest. Cool-down 200 m.	**0:45**
	Run · hills KEY - Easy 15 min. 8×30 s up a moderate hill, hard but smooth, walk/jog down. Easy to finish.	**0:45**
Wed 26 May	**Bike · sweet spot** KEY - 10 min warm-up. 3×10 min at 88–92% FTP (RPE 6–7), 5 min easy between. Cool-down.	**1:00**
Thu 27 May	**Swim · aerobic** - Warm-up 300 m. Main 3×400 m steady (RPE 4–5), 30 s rest, breathing every 3 strokes. Cool-down 200 m.	**0:45**
	Run · easy - Easy Z2, conversational. 4×20 s strides at the end.	**0:40**
Fri 28 May	**Bike · easy** - Easy Z2 spin, indoors is fine. Smooth pedalling, 85–95 rpm.	**0:45**
Sat 29 May	**Long ride** KEY - Steady Z2 (65–75% FTP, conversational). Eat 60 g of carbohydrate an hour from the first hour.	**2:00**
Sun 30 May	**Long run** KEY - Easy Z2. Walk the aid-station minute if you like — it's a habit worth having on race day.	**1:00**
	Swim · recovery *(optional)* - Optional, after the long run or later in the day: easy 1,200–1,500 m with a few drills. Loosens the legs.	**0:30**

Week 2 Base · 31 May - 6 Jun — 9:10 h

Same week, a little longer. Consistency is the whole game in base.

Mon 31 May	**Strength & mobility** - Squats, split squats, single-leg deadlifts, calf raises, planks — 3 sets of 8–12. Then 10 min mobility.	**0:30**
Tue 1 Jun	**Swim · technique** - Warm-up 300 m easy. Drills 8×50 m (catch-up, fingertip drag, 6-kick switch), 20 s rest. Main 6×100 m smooth at RPE 5, 20 s rest. Cool-down 200 m.	**0:50**
	Run · hills KEY - Easy 15 min. 8×30 s up a moderate hill, hard but smooth, walk/jog down. Easy to finish.	**0:45**
Wed 2 Jun	**Bike · sweet spot** KEY - 10 min warm-up. 3×12 min at 88–92% FTP (RPE 6–7), 5 min easy between. Cool-down.	**1:00**
Thu 3 Jun	**Swim · aerobic** - Warm-up 300 m. Main 3×400 m steady (RPE 4–5), 30 s rest, breathing every 3 strokes. Cool-down 200 m.	**0:45**
	Run · easy - Easy Z2, conversational. 4×20 s strides at the end.	**0:40**
Fri 4 Jun	**Bike · easy** - Easy Z2 spin, indoors is fine. Smooth pedalling, 85–95 rpm.	**0:50**
Sat 5 Jun	**Long ride** KEY - Steady Z2 (65–75% FTP, conversational). Eat 60 g of carbohydrate an hour from the first hour.	**2:15**
Sun 6 Jun	**Long run** KEY - Easy Z2. Walk the aid-station minute if you like — it's a habit worth having on race day.	**1:05**
	Swim · recovery *(optional)* - Optional, after the long run or later in the day: easy 1,200–1,500 m with a few drills. Loosens the legs.	**0:30**

Week 3 Base · 7 Jun - 13 Jun — 10:05 h

First brick run off the long ride. Find your swim CSS pace this week (400 m + 200 m test) if you don't know it.

Mon 7 Jun	**Strength & mobility** - Squats, split squats, single-leg deadlifts, calf raises, planks — 3 sets of 8–12. Then 10 min mobility.	**0:30**
Tue 8 Jun	**Swim · technique** - Warm-up 300 m easy. Drills 8×50 m (catch-up, fingertip drag, 6-kick switch), 20 s rest. Main 6×100 m smooth at RPE 5, 20 s rest. Cool-down 200 m.	**0:50**
	Run · hills KEY - Easy 15 min. 10×30 s up a moderate hill, hard but smooth, walk/jog down. Easy to finish.	**0:50**
Wed 9 Jun	**Bike · sweet spot** KEY - 10 min warm-up. 2×20 min at 88–92% FTP (RPE 6–7), 5 min easy between. Cool-down.	**1:05**
Thu 10 Jun	**Swim · aerobic** - Warm-up 300 m. Main 3×400 m steady (RPE 4–5), 30 s rest, breathing every 3 strokes. Cool-down 200 m.	**0:50**
	Run · easy - Easy Z2, conversational. 4×20 s strides at the end.	**0:45**
Fri 11 Jun	**Bike · easy** - Easy Z2 spin, indoors is fine. Smooth pedalling, 85–95 rpm.	**0:50**
Sat 12 Jun	**Long ride** KEY - Steady Z2 (65–75% FTP, conversational). Eat 60 g of carbohydrate an hour from the first hour.	**2:30**
	Brick run - Straight off the bike: easy, short strides, find your run legs.	**0:10**
Sun 13 Jun	**Long run** KEY - Easy Z2. Walk the aid-station minute if you like — it's a habit worth having on race day.	**1:10**
	Swim · recovery *(optional)* - Optional, after the long run or later in the day: easy 1,200–1,500 m with a few drills. Loosens the legs.	**0:35**

Week 4 Base · recovery week · 14 Jun - 20 Jun — 6:35 h

Recovery week: about a third less. Let the first block soak in.

Mon 14 Jun	**Strength & mobility** - Squats, split squats, single-leg deadlifts, calf raises, planks — 3 sets of 8–12. Then 10 min mobility.	**0:20**
Tue 15 Jun	**Swim · technique** - Warm-up 300 m easy. Drills 8×50 m (catch-up, fingertip drag, 6-kick switch), 20 s rest. Main 6×100 m smooth at RPE 5, 20 s rest. Cool-down 200 m.	**0:40**
	Run · easy + strides - Easy Z2 with 6×20 s relaxed strides.	**0:35**
Wed 16 Jun	**Bike · easy spin** - Easy spin with 4×1 min high cadence (100+ rpm). Keep it light — this is a recovery week.	**0:45**
Thu 17 Jun	**Swim · aerobic** - Warm-up 300 m. Main 3×400 m steady (RPE 4–5), 30 s rest, breathing every 3 strokes. Cool-down 200 m.	**0:35**
	Run · easy - Easy Z2, conversational. 4×20 s strides at the end.	**0:30**
Fri 18 Jun	**Bike · easy** - Easy Z2 spin, indoors is fine. Smooth pedalling, 85–95 rpm.	**0:40**
Sat 19 Jun	**Long ride · easy** KEY - Steady Z2. Practise eating every 20 minutes.	**1:40**
Sun 20 Jun	**Long run · easy** KEY - Easy Z2.	**0:50**

Week 5 Build 1 · 21 Jun - 27 Jun — 10:30 h

Threshold arrives. If you have a power meter, test FTP on Wednesday (20-min test) and set your zones.

Mon 21 Jun	**Strength & mobility** - Squats, split squats, single-leg deadlifts, calf raises, planks — 3 sets of 8–12. Then 10 min mobility.	**0:30**
Tue 22 Jun	**Swim · threshold** - Warm-up 400 m. Main 8×100 m at CSS pace (your 1,500 m time-trial pace), 15 s rest. 4×50 m fast/easy. Cool-down 200 m.	**0:55**
	Run · threshold KEY - Easy 15 min. 5×1 km at threshold (10 km race effort), 2 min jog. Easy to finish.	**0:50**
Wed 23 Jun	**Bike · threshold** KEY - 15 min warm-up. 4×8 min at 95–100% FTP, 4 min easy between. Cool-down.	**1:10**
Thu 24 Jun	**Swim · endurance** - Warm-up 400 m. Main 3×500 m steady at CSS + 5 s/100 m, 30 s rest. Cool-down 200 m.	**0:50**
	Run · easy - Easy Z2, conversational. Run by feel, not pace.	**0:45**
Fri 25 Jun	**Bike · easy** - Easy Z2 spin, indoors is fine. Smooth pedalling, 85–95 rpm.	**0:55**
Sat 26 Jun	**Long ride + tempo** KEY - Z2 on rolling roads, with 2×15 min at 80–85% FTP in the second hour. 60–80 g carbs an hour.	**2:30**
	Brick run - Straight off the bike: 5 min easy, then steady (RPE 6).	**0:15**
Sun 27 Jun	**Long run** KEY - Z2, last 15 min steady (RPE 6). Take a gel every 30–40 minutes.	**1:15**
	Swim · recovery *(optional)* - Optional, after the long run or later in the day: easy 1,200–1,500 m with a few drills. Loosens the legs.	**0:35**

Week 6 Build 1 · 28 Jun - 4 Jul 11:15 h

Longer threshold blocks; the weekend gets bigger.

Mon 28 Jun	**Strength & mobility** - Squats, split squats, single-leg deadlifts, calf raises, planks — 3 sets of 8–12. Then 10 min mobility.	**0:30**
Tue 29 Jun	**Swim · threshold** - Warm-up 400 m. Main 8×100 m at CSS pace (your 1,500 m time-trial pace), 15 s rest. 4×50 m fast/easy. Cool-down 200 m.	**0:55**
	Run · threshold KEY - Easy 15 min. 4×1.6 km at threshold (10 km race effort), 2 min jog. Easy to finish.	**0:55**
Wed 30 Jun	**Bike · threshold** KEY - 15 min warm-up. 3×12 min at 95–100% FTP, 4 min easy between. Cool-down.	**1:15**
Thu 1 Jul	**Swim · endurance** - Warm-up 400 m. Main 3×500 m steady at CSS + 5 s/100 m, 30 s rest. Cool-down 200 m.	**0:55**
	Run · easy - Easy Z2, conversational. Run by feel, not pace.	**0:45**
Fri 2 Jul	**Bike · easy** - Easy Z2 spin, indoors is fine. Smooth pedalling, 85–95 rpm.	**1:00**
Sat 3 Jul	**Long ride + tempo** KEY - Z2 on rolling roads, with 2×15 min at 80–85% FTP in the second hour. 60–80 g carbs an hour.	**2:50**
	Brick run - Straight off the bike: 5 min easy, then steady (RPE 6).	**0:15**
Sun 4 Jul	**Long run** KEY - Z2, last 15 min steady (RPE 6). Take a gel every 30–40 minutes.	**1:20**
	Swim · recovery *(optional)* - Optional, after the long run or later in the day: easy 1,200–1,500 m with a few drills. Loosens the legs.	**0:35**

Week 7 Build 1 · 5 Jul - 11 Jul 11:55 h

The hardest week of the first build. Sleep is training.

Mon 5 Jul	**Strength & mobility** - Squats, split squats, single-leg deadlifts, calf raises, planks — 3 sets of 8–12. Then 10 min mobility.	**0:30**
Tue 6 Jul	**Swim · threshold** - Warm-up 400 m. Main 10×100 m at CSS pace (your 1,500 m time-trial pace), 15 s rest. 4×50 m fast/easy. Cool-down 200 m.	**1:00**
	Run · threshold KEY - Easy 15 min. 3×2 km at threshold (10 km race effort), 2 min jog. Easy to finish.	**0:55**
Wed 7 Jul	**Bike · threshold** KEY - 15 min warm-up. 3×15 min at 95–100% FTP, 4 min easy between. Cool-down.	**1:15**
Thu 8 Jul	**Swim · endurance** - Warm-up 400 m. Main 3×500 m steady at CSS + 5 s/100 m, 30 s rest. Cool-down 200 m.	**0:55**
	Run · easy - Easy Z2, conversational. Run by feel, not pace.	**0:50**
Fri 9 Jul	**Bike · easy** - Easy Z2 spin, indoors is fine. Smooth pedalling, 85–95 rpm.	**1:00**
Sat 10 Jul	**Long ride + tempo** KEY - Z2 on rolling roads, with 3×15 min at 80–85% FTP in the second hour. 60–80 g carbs an hour.	**3:05**
	Brick run - Straight off the bike: 5 min easy, then steady (RPE 6).	**0:20**
Sun 11 Jul	**Long run** KEY - Z2, last 15 min steady (RPE 6). Take a gel every 30–40 minutes.	**1:25**
	Swim · recovery *(optional)* - Optional, after the long run or later in the day: easy 1,200–1,500 m with a few drills. Loosens the legs.	**0:40**

Week 8 Build 1 · recovery week · 12 Jul - 18 Jul 7:35 h

Recovery week. Short, easy, nothing to prove.

Mon 12 Jul	**Strength & mobility** - Squats, split squats, single-leg deadlifts, calf raises, planks — 3 sets of 8–12. Then 10 min mobility.	**0:20**
Tue 13 Jul	**Swim · threshold** - Warm-up 400 m. Main 10×100 m at CSS pace (your 1,500 m time-trial pace), 15 s rest. 4×50 m fast/easy. Cool-down 200 m.	**0:45**
	Run · easy + strides - Easy Z2 with 6×20 s relaxed strides.	**0:40**
Wed 14 Jul	**Bike · easy spin** - Easy spin with 4×1 min high cadence (100+ rpm). Keep it light — this is a recovery week.	**0:50**
Thu 15 Jul	**Swim · endurance** - Warm-up 400 m. Main 3×500 m steady at CSS + 5 s/100 m, 30 s rest. Cool-down 200 m.	**0:40**
	Run · easy - Easy Z2, conversational. Run by feel, not pace.	**0:35**
Fri 16 Jul	**Bike · easy** - Easy Z2 spin, indoors is fine. Smooth pedalling, 85–95 rpm.	**0:40**
Sat 17 Jul	**Long ride · easy** KEY - Steady Z2 on rolling roads. Practise eating every 20 minutes.	**2:00**
	Brick run - Straight off the bike: 5 min easy, then steady (RPE 6).	**0:10**
Sun 18 Jul	**Long run · easy** KEY - Easy Z2.	**0:55**

Week 9 Build 2 · 19 Jul - 25 Jul 11:35 h

Race-specific: long efforts at 70.3 power and pace. Practise race fuelling on every long session.

Mon 19 Jul	**Strength & mobility** - Maintenance: 2 sets of the same moves, lighter. Then 10 min mobility.	**0:25**
Tue 20 Jul	**Swim · race-pace sets** - Warm-up 400 m. Main 3×(4×100 m at CSS, 10 s rest), 60 s between rounds. Cool-down 200 m.	**1:00**
	Run · race pace KEY - Easy 15 min. 3×2.5 km at 70.3 run pace (a little slower than half-marathon pace), 2 min jog. Easy to finish.	**0:55**
Wed 21 Jul	**Bike · race power** KEY - 15 min warm-up. 3×15 min at 75–82% FTP (70.3 race power), 5 min easy between. Cool-down.	**1:15**
Thu 22 Jul	**Swim · endurance** - Warm-up 400 m. Main 3×500 m steady at CSS + 5 s/100 m, 30 s rest. Cool-down 200 m.	**0:55**
	Run · easy - Easy Z2, conversational. Run by feel, not pace.	**0:45**
Fri 23 Jul	**Bike · easy** - Easy Z2 spin, indoors is fine. Smooth pedalling, 85–95 rpm.	**1:00**
Sat 24 Jul	**Long ride + race power** KEY - Z2 on rolling roads, with 2×20 min at 70.3 race power (75–82% FTP). Race-day fuelling: 70–90 g carbs an hour.	**3:00**
	Brick run · race pace - Straight off the bike: first 5 min easy, then at 70.3 run pace. Hold form, quick cadence.	**0:20**
Sun 25 Jul	**Long run + race pace** KEY - Z2 with the last 20 min at 70.3 run pace. Race-day gels.	**1:25**
	Swim · recovery *(optional)* - Optional, after the long run or later in the day: easy 1,200–1,500 m with a few drills. Loosens the legs.	**0:35**

Week 10 Build 2 · 26 Jul - 1 Aug 12:20 h

Bigger race-power blocks. The brick runs are where race pace starts to feel normal.

Mon 26 Jul	**Strength & mobility** - Maintenance: 2 sets of the same moves, lighter. Then 10 min mobility.	**0:25**
Tue 27 Jul	**Swim · race-pace sets** - Warm-up 400 m. Main 3×(4×100 m at CSS, 10 s rest), 60 s between rounds. Cool-down 200 m.	**1:00**
	Run · race pace KEY - Easy 15 min. 3×2.5 km at 70.3 run pace (a little slower than half-marathon pace), 2 min jog. Easy to finish.	**0:55**
Wed 28 Jul	**Bike · race power** KEY - 15 min warm-up. 3×15 min at 75–82% FTP (70.3 race power), 5 min easy between. Cool-down.	**1:20**
Thu 29 Jul	**Swim · endurance** - Warm-up 400 m. Main 2×1,000 m steady at CSS + 5 s/100 m, 30 s rest. Cool-down 200 m.	**0:55**
	Run · easy - Easy Z2, conversational. Run by feel, not pace.	**0:50**
Fri 30 Jul	**Bike · easy** - Easy Z2 spin, indoors is fine. Smooth pedalling, 85–95 rpm.	**1:00**
Sat 31 Jul	**Long ride + race power** KEY - Z2 on rolling roads, with 2×30 min at 70.3 race power (75–82% FTP). Race-day fuelling: 70–90 g carbs an hour.	**3:20**
	Brick run · race pace - Straight off the bike: first 5 min easy, then at 70.3 run pace. Hold form, quick cadence.	**0:25**
Sun 1 Aug	**Long run + race pace** KEY - Z2 with the last 20 min at 70.3 run pace. Race-day gels.	**1:30**
	Swim · recovery *(optional)* - Optional, after the long run or later in the day: easy 1,200–1,500 m with a few drills. Loosens the legs.	**0:40**

Week 11 Build 2 · 2 Aug - 8 Aug 13:00 h

The biggest week of the plan. Nail the fuelling, protect the sleep.

Mon 2 Aug	**Strength & mobility** - Maintenance: 2 sets of the same moves, lighter. Then 10 min mobility.	**0:25**
Tue 3 Aug	**Swim · race-pace sets** - Warm-up 400 m. Main 3×(4×100 m at CSS, 10 s rest), 60 s between rounds. Cool-down 200 m.	**1:00**
	Run · race pace KEY - Easy 15 min. 3×3 km at 70.3 run pace (a little slower than half-marathon pace), 2 min jog. Easy to finish.	**1:00**
Wed 4 Aug	**Bike · race power** KEY - 15 min warm-up. 2×30 min at 75–82% FTP (70.3 race power), 5 min easy between. Cool-down.	**1:20**
Thu 5 Aug	**Swim · endurance** - Warm-up 400 m. Main 2×1,000 m steady at CSS + 5 s/100 m, 30 s rest. Cool-down 200 m.	**1:00**
	Run · easy - Easy Z2, conversational. Run by feel, not pace.	**0:50**
Fri 6 Aug	**Bike · easy** - Easy Z2 spin, indoors is fine. Smooth pedalling, 85–95 rpm.	**1:05**
Sat 7 Aug	**Long ride + race power** KEY - Z2 on rolling roads, with 2×40 min at 70.3 race power (75–82% FTP). Race-day fuelling: 70–90 g carbs an hour.	**3:30**
	Brick run · race pace - Straight off the bike: first 5 min easy, then at 70.3 run pace. Hold form, quick cadence.	**0:30**
Sun 8 Aug	**Long run + race pace** KEY - Z2 with the last 30 min at 70.3 run pace. Race-day gels.	**1:40**
	Swim · recovery *(optional)* - Optional, after the long run or later in the day: easy 1,200–1,500 m with a few drills. Loosens the legs.	**0:40**

Week 12 Build 2 · recovery week · 9 Aug - 15 Aug 8:05 h

Recovery week before the peak. Feeling flat midweek is normal.

Mon 9 Aug	**Strength & mobility** - Maintenance: 2 sets of the same moves, lighter. Then 10 min mobility.	**0:20**
Tue 10 Aug	**Swim · race-pace sets** - Warm-up 400 m. Main 3×(4×100 m at CSS, 10 s rest), 60 s between rounds. Cool-down 200 m.	**0:45**
	Run · easy + strides - Easy Z2 with 6×20 s relaxed strides.	**0:40**
Wed 11 Aug	**Bike · easy spin** - Easy spin with 4×1 min high cadence (100+ rpm). Keep it light — this is a recovery week.	**0:55**
Thu 12 Aug	**Swim · endurance** - Warm-up 400 m. Main 2×1,000 m steady at CSS + 5 s/100 m, 30 s rest. Cool-down 200 m.	**0:40**
	Run · easy - Easy Z2, conversational. Run by feel, not pace.	**0:35**
Fri 13 Aug	**Bike · easy** - Easy Z2 spin, indoors is fine. Smooth pedalling, 85–95 rpm.	**0:45**
Sat 14 Aug	**Long ride · easy** KEY - Steady Z2 on rolling roads. Practise eating every 20 minutes.	**2:10**
	Brick run · race pace - Straight off the bike: first 5 min easy, then at 70.3 run pace. Hold form, quick cadence.	**0:15**
Sun 15 Aug	**Long run · easy** KEY - Easy Z2.	**1:00**

Week 13 Peak · 16 Aug - 22 Aug 11:30 h

Dress rehearsal: race kit, race fuel, race pace — find the problems now, not on race day.

Mon 16 Aug	Rest	
Tue 17 Aug	**Swim · open water** - Open water if you can (wetsuit): 2×15 min at race effort, sighting every 6 strokes, plus 3 practice starts. Pool fallback: 2×800 m at race pace.	**1:00**
	Run · race pace KEY - Easy 15 min. 2×4 km at 70.3 run pace, 3 min jog. Easy to finish.	**0:55**
Wed 18 Aug	**Bike · race power + spikes** KEY - 15 min warm-up. 3×15 min at race power with a 30 s surge to 110% FTP every 5 min (passing, climbs). Cool-down.	**1:15**
Thu 19 Aug	**Swim · endurance** - Warm-up 400 m. Main 2×1,000 m steady at CSS + 5 s/100 m, 30 s rest. Cool-down 200 m.	**0:55**
	Run · easy - Easy Z2, conversational. Run by feel, not pace.	**0:45**
Fri 20 Aug	**Bike · easy + cadence** - Easy Z2 with 5×1 min at 100+ rpm. Fresh legs for the weekend.	**1:00**
Sat 21 Aug	**Race rehearsal ride** KEY - Dress rehearsal on rolling roads: race kit, race bike, race breakfast. 2×45 min at race power with exactly your race-day fuel and fluids.	**3:00**
	Brick run · race pace - Straight off the bike: first 5 min easy, then at 70.3 run pace. Hold form, quick cadence.	**0:30**
Sun 22 Aug	**Long run + race pace** KEY - Z2 with 2×15 min at 70.3 run pace. Last long run.	**1:30**
	Swim · recovery *(optional)* - Optional, after the long run or later in the day: easy 1,200–1,500 m with a few drills. Loosens the legs.	**0:40**

Week 14 Peak · 23 Aug - 29 Aug 10:25 h

Last block of real work. Confidence, not new fitness.

Mon 23 Aug	Rest	
Tue 24 Aug	**Swim · open water** - Open water if you can (wetsuit): 2×15 min at race effort, sighting every 6 strokes, plus 3 practice starts. Pool fallback: 2×800 m at race pace.	**0:55**
	Run · race pace KEY - Easy 15 min. 2×4 km at 70.3 run pace, 3 min jog. Easy to finish.	**0:50**
Wed 25 Aug	**Bike · race power + spikes** KEY - 15 min warm-up. 3×15 min at race power with a 30 s surge to 110% FTP every 5 min (passing, climbs). Cool-down.	**1:15**
Thu 26 Aug	**Swim · endurance** - Warm-up 400 m. Main 2×1,000 m steady at CSS + 5 s/100 m, 30 s rest. Cool-down 200 m.	**0:50**
	Run · easy - Easy Z2, conversational. Run by feel, not pace.	**0:40**
Fri 27 Aug	**Bike · easy + cadence** - Easy Z2 with 5×1 min at 100+ rpm. Fresh legs for the weekend.	**0:55**
Sat 28 Aug	**Long ride + race power** KEY - Z2 on rolling roads with 3×20 min at race power. Last big ride.	**2:45**
	Brick run · race pace - Straight off the bike: first 5 min easy, then at 70.3 run pace. Hold form, quick cadence.	**0:20**
Sun 29 Aug	**Long run + race pace** KEY - Z2 with 2×15 min at 70.3 run pace. Last long run.	**1:20**
	Swim · recovery *(optional)* - Optional, after the long run or later in the day: easy 1,200–1,500 m with a few drills. Loosens the legs.	**0:35**

Week 15 Taper · 30 Aug - 5 Sept 7:55 h

Taper: about a third less volume, same intensity. Restlessness is a good sign.

Mon 30 Aug	Rest	
Tue 31 Aug	**Swim · sharpen** - Warm-up 300 m. 6×100 m at race pace, 20 s rest. 4×25 m fast. Cool-down 200 m.	**0:45**
	Run · sharpen KEY - Easy 15 min. 5×2 min at 10 km pace, 2 min jog. Easy to finish.	**0:40**
Wed 1 Sept	**Bike · openers** KEY - 10 min easy. 3×5 min at race power, 3 min easy. 3×30 s fast. Spin out.	**1:00**
Thu 2 Sept	**Swim · easy** - Easy 1,500–2,000 m with 4×50 m at race pace. Leave the pool wanting more.	**0:40**
	Run · easy - Easy Z2, conversational. Run by feel, not pace.	**0:30**
Fri 3 Sept	**Bike · easy + cadence** - Easy Z2 with 5×1 min at 100+ rpm. Fresh legs for the weekend.	**0:45**
Sat 4 Sept	**Shorter long ride** KEY - Z2 with 3×10 min at race power. Check the bike: tyres, gears, nothing new from here.	**1:50**
	Brick run - Straight off the bike: 5 min easy, then steady (RPE 6).	**0:15**
Sun 5 Sept	**Long run · short** KEY - Easy Z2 with 3×3 min at race pace.	**1:00**
	Swim · recovery *(optional)* - Optional, after the long run or later in the day: easy 1,200–1,500 m with a few drills. Loosens the legs.	**0:30**

Week 16 Race week · 6 Sept - 12 Sept — 3:35 h

Race week. Short, sharp, rested. Trust the work.

Mon 6 Sept	**Swim · race pace** - 10 min easy, 6×50 m at race pace, easy to finish.	**0:30**
	Run · openers - Easy with 4×1 min at 70.3 pace.	**0:30**
Tue 7 Sept	**Bike · openers** - Easy with 3×4 min at race power, 3 min easy between.	**0:50**
Wed 8 Sept	**Swim · easy** - Easy with a few race-pace 50s.	**0:25**
	Run · easy - Easy with 4 strides.	**0:20**
Thu 9 Sept	Rest	
Fri 10 Sept	**Swim · shake-out** - Easy, ideally on the course: sight the buoys, feel the water.	**0:20**
Sat 11 Sept	**Bike · check ride** - 30 min easy with 3×1 min at race power — check gears and brakes, then rack it.	**0:30**
	Run · shake-out - 10 min easy with 3 strides.	**0:10**
Sun 12 Sept	**RACE DAY** KEY - Swim calm, ride your power, run the first 5 km slower than you want to. Eat and drink to plan.	

How hard is "easy"?

INTENSITY	RPE	BIKE	RUN	FEELS LIKE
Z1–2 · easy	2–4	55–75% FTP	conversational	Most of the plan. You could talk in full sentences.
Z3 · steady	5–6	76–87% FTP	marathon effort	Comfortably hard; short sentences.
70.3 race pace	6–7	75–82% FTP	a touch slower than half-marathon pace	The effort you can hold for the whole race. Practise it until it feels boring.
Sweet spot	6–7	88–92% FTP	—	Big aerobic gains for the time spent. Base-phase bike work.
Z4 · threshold	7–8	95–100% FTP	10 km race effort	Hard, controlled, a few words at a time.
Z5 · hard	9	106%+ FTP	short hill reps	Short reps only. Full recovery between.

CSS is your critical swim speed, roughly your pace for a hard 1,500 m. FTP is the power you can hold for about an hour. No power meter or test yet? Ride and run by the effort column.

A general plan for healthy adults who already swim, ride and run a little - not medical advice. If you have an injury or a health condition, check with a professional first.

The interactive version, with the 7 / 10 / 13 h switch and a calendar export:
https://www.metrica.fit/races/im703-santa-cruz/training-plan