

# Cycling Safaris

## SCOTLAND ~ CASTLE TRAIL

**Self guided tour 2018**

| 135 km | 6 days / 5 nights



Discover the castles, palaces and history of Scotland as you cycle through the heart of the Scottish Highlands. Cycle from inn to inn on easy going country roads and bike paths through the heather clad hills of Highland Perthshire. Visit the romantic castle of Blair Castle and historic Scone Palace, crowning place of 42 Scottish Kings.

From the historic city of Perth you head north along the Tay River Valley to historic Dunkeld and Birnam and then on to the Victorian Spa town of Pitlochry. Cycle the shoreline of Loch Tummel, take a tour of Blair Castle or take a wee dram at the Edradour Distillery overlooking the Perthshire Highlands.

### TOUR ITINERARY

#### **DAY 1**                      **Arrive Perth**

The City of Perth, on the banks of the River Tay, dates back 800 years and was originally called St John's Town. An easy train journey from Glasgow (1h10) or Edinburgh (1h20) gives you time to explore St John's Kirk, the Black Watch Museum or just stroll on the banks of the River Tay.

#### **DAY 2**                      **Scone Palace to Dunkeld**                      **21 miles / 35 km 210m ascent**

After your bike fitting, start your adventure at Scone Palace, the crowning place of 42 Scottish kings, including Robert the Bruce and Bonnie Prince Charlie. Explore the palace, wander in the gardens and discover Scotland's history. From Perth you then head north on the National Cycle Route 77 along the banks of the River Tay through the rolling countryside of Perthshire to Dunkeld. A Victorian Village on the banks of the River Tay where you will stay for the next 2 nights.

#### **DAY 3**                      **Dunkeld 3 Lochs Cycle**                      **19 miles/33 km**

Cycling east, an easy going loop links the small lochs of Drumellie, Clunie and Lowes where it is possible to view nesting Ospreys. Alternatively (or even additionally), you may prefer to explore the charms of Dunkeld, revisiting childhood memories at the Beatrix Potter Exhibition, visit Dunkeld's 13th century Cathedral or take a trip to the nearby Menzies Castle, seat of the Menzies clan for over 400 years (private transfers can be arranged).



**Excluded:**

- Entrance fees for castles
- Lunches and dinners
- E-Bike + £60.00

---

**ACCOMMODATION**

---

We have selected quality 3 star and 4 star accommodation in private houses and guesthouses. The emphasis is on friendly welcomes and comfortable facilities. Tea/coffee is available in your room most nights.

---

**BIKE & FITNESS**

---

Bikes are Hybrid Touring models in male and female, with 24 speed drive train, have disc brakes, most have front suspension forks and are fitted with a back carrier, pannier bag and mudguards on the bikes.

Collect your bike from Perth. We organise the collection from Pitlochry to return your bikes.

Bike Hire

Brand: Trek / Scott

Bike Type: Hybrid

Frame: ladies, unisex

Sizes: Gents - 15, 17.5, 20, 22.5, 25 in

Ladies - WSD -15, 17, 19 in/ Traditional - 17.5, 20 in

Panniers, Handle bar Bag/ map holder, Helmet included, Puncture repair kit with Spare inner tube, lock & pump

Front gear set 3

Back gear set 9

Brakes V-brake

\*It is important you give us your height on booking so that we can allocate the correct bike to you.

The advantage of a self guided, cycling safari is that you can take the tour at your own pace. Longer routes are always available on request. However we would recommend that you do try to do some cycling before the tour in order to make your week more enjoyable.

*Level 2* - A moderate tour: For your own comfort we advise that you prepare with some cycling before arrival.

The route is chosen to avoid traffic, visit interesting places and allow you to enjoy Scotland's beautiful scenery. They follow minor roads, forest tracks or cycle paths.

## WHAT TO BRING

---

The principal of “layering” is recommended with several light garments preferable to one heavy one.

- Your outermost garments should be windproof and waterproof, preferably made from “breathable” fabric.
- T-shirts and shorts or padded cycling shorts are fine for warm days.
- Strong trainers (sneakers) are suitable for cycling and also comfortable for walking.
- Cycling gloves to protect your hands.
- A pair of sunglasses for protection against the bright sun and insects.
- It is wise to use a good insect repellent especially in the middle of summer. The Scottish Midge is a tiny flying insect, which can be troublesome, especially in the evening when the wind drops.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

---

### Luggage Transfers

We will transport one case or bag and one small item of hand luggage per person (up to 20kg per person) and store any surplus luggage until the end of your tour. Please complete and attach the labels provided and have the bags ready for collection by 0930hrs. They will arrive at the next destination by 1700hrs.

### Climate

Scotland’s weather varies from day-to-day and sometimes from hour to hour! The temperature range in summer is 13-24C (55-75F). Rain can fall any day or not at all. Usually it will only last for part of the day and the sky will clear perhaps with an occasional shower lingering on. The west coast is generally milder and wetter than the east. May and June are often drier than July and August. Remember that what appears an easy journey may be affected by the prevailing wind.

### Meals

A full Scottish breakfast is provided and this will set you up for the day. On most days it is advisable to purchase your lunch before setting out in the morning as there may be no shops or eating places on the way. Some guesthouses offer a packed lunch at a cost of approximately £5.00.

## TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

---

### To Perth

Perth is an easy train journey from Edinburgh (1h20), Glasgow (1h10) or Inverness (2h05), all of which have airports. Edinburgh and Glasgow airports are the best option if travelling from outside the UK.

Use the journey planner online at [www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com) to plan journeys by public transport in Scotland.

Private transfers from Edinburgh or Glasgow can easily be arranged.

### From Pitlochry

Pitlochry has a mainline train station connecting through to Perth, Edinburgh and Glasgow. Train times and tickets can be booked via Scot Rail.

**IT IS ESSENTIAL TO CHECK THE BUS AND TRAIN TIMES SHORTLY BEFORE YOUR HOLIDAY EITHER ON THE TRANSPORT COMPANY WEB SITE OR WITH OUR OFFICE. WE TRY TO ENSURE THE INFORMATION IS CORRECT BUT CANNOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS.**