

# Cycling Safaris

## SCOTLAND ~ LOCHS AND CASTLES

### Family Self guided 6 night tour 2017

We have designed this Scottish cycle tour appeal to families of all ages but also for couples who might find our other trips too difficult. Using as many cycle paths and minor roads as possible to allow safe cycling but also designing the route to include interesting places to visit while on tour.

You will have the chance to sail on an historic steamer boat on Loch Katrine, visit a medieval castle, visit a grand castle fully furnished with grand furniture, paintings and armoury, explore the grounds and adventure play areas and all this while in stunning scenery.



If you are not young of age then you shall get the chance to visit two whisky distilleries. This bike adventure takes you through the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, the first of its kind in Scotland, it is also Rob Roy country, the McGregor Chieftain who ruled the region in late 17th century. His Grave can be found close to the cycle route via a short detour.

#### TOUR ITINERARY

##### **Day 1 Arrive Callander**

Fly into Edinburgh or Glasgow airport and make your way by train and bus or taxi to Callander. The picturesque village of Callander is located at the entrance to the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. If you arrive in time you could take a walk to view the Bracklin Falls, a mile or so out of Callander.



**Day 2                      Callander to Loch Katrine                      20 miles / 32km (optional extension available).**

Today your adventure begins by bike. Heading off on cycle trails beside Loch Venachar you shall be heading towards Loch Katrine. Lovely views await you as the trail twists and turns by the waterside. A small section by road then follows before arriving at Loch Katrine docks. Once at Loch Katrine you can take one of the circular 1 hour cruises on the Loch which are perfect cruises for families or couples looking to relax and soak up the scenery. Enjoy the on board heated saloon and settle in with a drink and snack while listening to the tales and legends of the loch as narrated by the ships knowledgeable crew. After time at the Loch you make your way back to Callander.

**Day 3                      Callander to Killin                      23 miles / 37 km**

A lovely cycle tour today almost completely on cycle paths. You shall cycle north today on a lovely cycle path beside the River Leny, stop to view the falls of Leny, a white water section of the river. Soon you shall be beside Loch Lubnaig, you shall be amazed at the wonderful mountains views, the reflections in the Loch are extremely picturesque. Stop for Lunch at Strathyre a nice little village before following a disused railway line now a cycle path over Glen Ogle Pass, don't worry it is very a gentle ascent. Finally the descent to Killin where you shall be amazed by the falls of Dochart as you enter the pretty highland town.



**Day 4                      Killin to Aberfeldy                      27 miles / 43km**

Today you shall cycle along the south side of Loch Tay on a minor country lane used as part of the UK National Cycle Network. Loch Tay is almost 16 miles long! At the eastern end you pass the Scottish Crannog centre, which shows life on the loch during the bronze age. There are great hands on activities here, ideals for a family visit or if an adult listen to the talks about life on the loch. Now onto Kenmore a very pretty village overlooking Loch Tay. You now cycle towards Aberfeldy passing Castle Menzies, an ideal afternoon stop before arriving to your overnight destination.

**Day 5                      Aberfeldy to Pitlochry                      16.3 miles / 26km**

Today a shorter cycle ride to Pitlochry which will allow you to discover this wonderful highland town. Pitlochry is a bustling former Victorian highland town, lots of activities to do here, visit the Fish and Dam ladder (where salmon jump the dam wall), festival theatre, a whisky distillery, go boating on the lake or take in a hike or two!



## **Day 6                      Pitlochry Loop – Blair Castle, Killiecrankie                      10 miles / 16km**

The last ride of the week takes you north to Blair Castle. This is a wonderful visit for the family and couples alike. It truly is one of the best castles to visit in Scotland, armoury, kids play area and lots of forest trails to explore. This is the home of the Duke of Atholl, his family have centuries of history in the region. On your way back to Pitlochry visit the Killiecrankie visitor centre. The Pass of Killiecrankie is a magnificent wooded gorge. The Battle of Killiecrankie, the major event in the first of the Jacobite uprisings, was fought nearby.

The Visitor Centre, on the east side of the Pass, tells both the story of the rich natural history of the Pass and the story of the battle. On 27 July 1689 the peace and tranquillity of this beautiful gorge was shattered when the first shots in the Jacobite cause were fired. One soldier escaped by making a spectacular jump across the River Garry at the spot now known as Soldier's Leap. The Visitor Centre features 'hands-on' natural history exhibits, models and maps of the battle. Also, see nesting birds at close range.

## **Day 7                      Departure.**

Departure after breakfast.

### **2017 SELF GUIDED DATES**

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**Available to start daily from April to September**

### **2017 TOUR PRICES ( tours are priced in Sterling )**

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£580.00 per person sharing

£920.00 single room supplement

£440.00 for 11 – 14 year olds sharing a room with two adults

£310.00 for 3-10 year olds sharing a room with two adults

0-2 are free but there is a charge of £60.00 for a bike trailer

### **WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES**

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- 6 Nights Bed and Breakfast
- 3/4 Star Hotels and Guest Houses
- Bike rental ( adult sizes, kids bike, tag along or trailer )
- Information Pack
- Routes and Maps
- Luggage transfer
- Welcome meeting (Saturdays only)

#### **Excluded:**

- Loch Katrine boat ticket
- Entrance to attractions
- Airport transfers
- Lunches and dinners
- E-bike + £95

## ACCOMMODATION

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We have selected quality 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

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Bike handover ( on Saturdays ) is usually between 6.30 -7.00pm on Day 1

On other days the handover is at 8.30 – 9.00am on Day 2.

At peak times bikes are pre-deposited at the first hotel

On this tour we use Scott and Cube Hybrid and E-bikes

We also have Dawes tandems available at a supplement of £65.00 per person

If you hire an e-bike you will be required to sign a rental agreement and give a £250.00 security deposit on a credit card per bike ( refunded when bike returned )

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

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

**We must be notified in advance if you wish to fix your own pedals or saddles to our bikes**

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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

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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.





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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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### 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

There are good air services to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dundee and a limited service to Callander. Edinburgh is the preferred airport for most tour departures. A short taxi ride is normally required from the bus or train station to your accommodation.

We can offer a coach service from/to Edinburgh and Glasgow airports to your Callander accommodation but as it is a long distance you may prefer the cheaper option of public transport.

Street parking is available at Inverness. The parking at the first accommodation is limited and only available for overnight stays. Regrettably there is no secure parking available in Inverness.

**Journey Planner:** [www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com)  
**Train company:** Scotrail Tel. 08457 484950 [www.firstscotrail.com](http://www.firstscotrail.com)  
**Bus companies:** Scottish Citylink Tel. 08705 505050 [www.citylink.co.uk](http://www.citylink.co.uk)  
Megabus [www.megabus.com](http://www.megabus.com)

### 1. ARRIVAL GLASGOW AIRPORT

Airport-City, Bus every 15 mins (£ 3.50): taxi approx. £ 15

Train to Stirling and then Taxi to Callander

### 2. ARRIVAL EDINBURGH AIRPORT

Airport-City, Bus every 15 mins (£ 3.50): taxi approx. £ 15

Train to Stirling and then Taxi to Callander

**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.**