

# Cycling Safaris

## SCOTLAND ~ LOCHS AND GLENS Self guided 7 night tour 2018

Explore Scotland's lochs and glens by bike, soaking in the unique landscape of the Scottish Highlands whilst savouring the clean, fresh Scottish air. Immerse yourself in rich clan history as you cycle past castles through the rugged Trossachs hills and then on into Highland Perthshire. Great cycling complemented by welcoming Scottish hospitality, world class whisky and the produce from Scotland's natural larder.



Your cycling adventure begins in the bustling holiday town of Callander, known as the gateway to the highlands, which lies beneath wooded crags. Learn the story of Rob Roy at the visitor centre before you pedal east to Loch Katrine. Here you can cycle along the tranquil Loch Katrine and perhaps a trip on the 100 year Sir Walter Scott steamship.

Your route continues north past Loch Lubnaig and through Glen Ogle to the village of Killin, which lies at the southern end of Loch Tay and is bisected by The Falls Of Dochart. The scenery just gets even better with every turn of the pedals as you follow the southern shore of Loch Tay past the Scottish Crannog Centre, Dewar's World of Whisky and Taymouth Castle. Aberfeldy is next, famous for the 'Birks of Aberfeldy' a poem by Robert Burns.

### TOUR ITINERARY

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

Callander sits on the eastern edge of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park and is a good starting point for the Scotland's Lochs & Glens Cycle Tour. Arriving in Callander allows you to brush up on your knowledge of Scottish History with a visit to the Rob Roy visitor centre. Callander is easily reached by car from both Glasgow and Edinburgh, the town is also served by a frequent rail service.

#### **Day 2**      **Callander to Loch Katrine**      **35 miles / 56km**

A pleasant days cycling alongside the southern shore of Loch Venacher to the Trossachs Pier at Loch Katrine. Situated in the heart of Rob Roy country lies the pristine Loch Katrine, famous following the success of Sir Walter Scott's narrative poem Lady of the Lake and novel Rob Roy. On arrival at the pier you have the option to step aboard the 100 year old steamer boat for the morning sailing to Stronachlachar, (booking in advance essential). You will enjoy the gentle cycle back along quiet forest tracks and loch side paths, with commanding views across the peaceful loch and Queen Elizabeth Forests and of course not

forgetting a stop at Glen Ogle at the head of the loch, birth place of the notorious 18th century outlaw, Rob Roy.

**Day 3 Callander to Killin 25 miles / 40 km**

Your journey today continues deeper into the southern highlands where you will be surrounded by stunning scenery. Your cycle will mainly be on cycle tracks and quiet roads passing by the impressive Falls of Leny, Loch Lubnaig and Loch Oich. A stop in the village of Balquhadder at the head of Loch Voil will bring you to the final resting place of folk hero Rob Roy. Your final leg of today's cycling; a gentle climb over Glen Ogle which offers rewarding views back over Loch Earn, then a pleasant descent to reach the charming village of Killin nestled beneath Tarmachan Ridge, where you will be greeted by the grandeur of 'The Falls of Dochart'.

**Day 4 Killin to Aberfeldy 25 miles / 40km**

Your companions for much of today's journey will be the mighty Loch Tay and Ben Lawers as you travel eastwards towards Aberfeldy. Pedal along shadowed by idyllic tree's before approaching a prehistoric loch dwelling known as a Crannog. Step back in time and experience the authentic recreation of 'Iron Age Life' on the Loch. Enjoy the remainder of your cycle to Aberfeldy following the River Tay stopping at the pretty 16th century conservation village of Kenmore, nestled on the banks of the Tay. An optional 3.4 mile (one way) detour to the village of Fortingall, at the entrance of Glen Lyon, is worth a visit to admire the Fortingall Yew, an ancient Yew, known as the oldest tree in Europe.

**Day 5 Aberfeldy to Pitlochry 16 miles / 26km**

A short but splendid cycle towards the Victorian town of Pitlochry where you will spend the remaining three nights. Meander by the quaint hamlet of Strathtay towards the Logierat Bridge, a listed railway viaduct where you will commence a steep climb, saying good bye to the Tay whilst welcoming the River Tummel. A final run to the heart of Scotland will bring you to Pitlochry allowing you to spend the remainder of the day discovering the abundance of attractions that this enchanting holiday town has to offer.



**Day 6 Loch Tummel Circuit 28 miles / 45km**

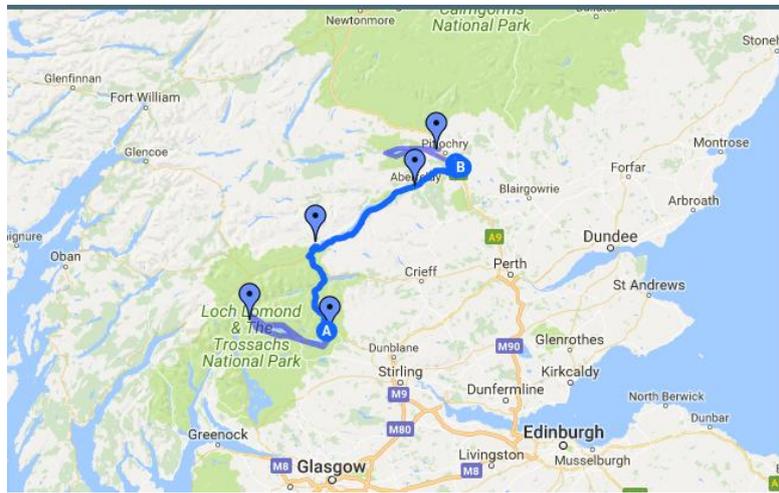
A truly unforgettable ride through Highland Perthshire's 'Big Tree Country' await s you. Follow the Loch Tummel loop from Pitlochry to experience Scotland's most majestic and prestigious scenery. Set high above Loch Tummel enjoy the panoramic view from Queens View (named after Queen Isabel, first wife of Robert the Bruce), with the seasonal woodland colours, combined with the tranquillity of Loch Tummel it is easy to understand why it is voted Scotland's most outstanding beauty spot!

**Day 7 River Garry to Blair Castle 16 miles/26 km**

Set off for a relaxed and delightful ride by the River Garry as you head towards the 13th century Blair Atholl Castle, the ancient seat of the Dukes and Earls of Atholl. Today's cycle will be combined with two historic attractions. As you leave from Pitlochry you will cycle towards the dramatic pass of Killicranckie, a beautiful gorge steeped in history before spending the day at Blair Atholl Estate exploring the fascinating castle and wildness of the countryside. Cycle back to Pitlochry and what better way to complete your trip than the charm and intimacy of Scotland's smallest whisky distillery, Edradour. Enjoy the smooth, creamy texture of this malt known as the jewel in the Highland Crown whilst reflecting on your weeks' adventure through Scotland's Lochs and Glens.

**Day 8 Departure.**

Departure after breakfast.



## 2018 SELF GUIDED DATES

Available to start daily from April to October

## 2018 TOUR PRICES (tours are priced in Sterling)

£765.00 per person sharing

£975.00 single room supplement

## WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- 7 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

### Excluded:

- Loch Katrine boat ticket
- Entrance to attractions
- Airport transfers
- Lunches and dinners

## ACCOMMODATION

We specifically choose the hotels, inns, guesthouses and B&B's to ensure that you enjoy every minute of your stay. All offer a warm welcome to cyclists, with cycle storage, traditional hospitality and delicious local food. 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 Callander. 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

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.**