

Cycling Safaris

SCOTLAND ~ CASTLE TRAIL

Self guided tour 2026

167 ml / 269 km | 8 days / 7 nights



The riverside city of Perth is the gateway to the Scottish Highlands. It is the starting point for a tour which combines beautiful scenery with history and splendour.

Only three miles from Perth is Huntingtower Castle with its splendid painted ceilings and at Dunkeld beside the River Tay is the ancient Cathedral. Blair Castle with its thirty two rooms of beautiful furniture, fine paintings, china, embroidery and armour is only seven miles from your overnight stop at the Victorian Highland Resort of Pitlochry.

A transfer from Pitlochry to Glamis Castle. This is the home of the Earls of Strathmore and Kinghorne and contains magnificent rooms with a wide range of historic pictures, fine furniture, porcelain and tapestries.

The ancient university town of St Andrews is the home of golf and has a fine golf museum. The ruined Castle and massive Cathedral are well worth a visit. Before returning to Perth pause to visit Falkland Palace, a fine example of Renaissance architecture with a beautiful Royal Chapel. At Perth, Scone Palace has rare porcelain, needlework, fine furniture, clocks and the unique Vernis Martin Collection.

Day 1 Arrive Perth

perhaps time to stroll to the shops, walk by the River Tay or climb Kinnoull Hill for a magnificent view of Perth and the Tay Valley. 19.00hrs cycle provision and route briefing at your accommodation in Perth.



Day 2 PERTH - DUNKELD 27ml (43km)

Cycle 2 miles from Perth to visit Scone Palace and from there north through the rolling farmland of Perthshire to the historic Cathedral town of Dunkeld. Situated on the banks of the River Tay it has a peaceful character and charmingly restored eighteenth century houses forming a small Square. Cathedral Street leads from there to the partly restored Cathedral construction of which began in 1318.

Day 3 DUNKELD - PITLOCHRY 14ml (23km)

Leave Dunkeld along the riverside path to the Cathedral imagining the many years of history that it has seen. Follow the river on a peaceful route away from traffic for 3km before using the main road bridge to reach the minor road to Logierait. Another bridge to cross and a climb before the quiet elevated road gives wonderful views of the fast flowing Rivers Tay and Tummel. Past the Dunfallandy Stone and into the busy Victorian town of Pitlochry. One of the town's best-known attractions is Pitlochry Dam and Fish Ladder. Created in the 1950s the Dam has an underwater viewing chamber, which allows visitors to watch salmon navigating the specially constructed fish ladder, which bypasses the dam.

Day 4 REST DAY PITLOCHRY 14ml(23km)

A chance to visit the large Blair Atholl Distillery or Scotland's smallest Distillery - Edradour. 7 miles north of Pitlochry is Blair Castle with its 32 fully furnished rooms fine furniture, paintings and armour.

Day 5 PITLOCHRY - GLAMIS - ST. ANDREWS 41ml (65km)

Morning transfer to Glamis Castle.

Visit Glamis Castle family home of the Earls of Strathmore and a royal residence since 1372. Remodelled in the seventeenth century the Castle contains magnificent rooms with a wide range of historic pictures, furniture, porcelain and tapestries. Travel through the small villages and fertile farming land of the Vale of Strathmore to Newtyle. A climb over the Sidlaw Hills leads to the outskirts of the riverside city of Dundee. Situated at the mouth of the River Tay this industrial city has a long and chequered history. Cross the Tay Bridge to Newport and you are now in Fife. Continue round the coast and spend a little time away from the tarmac on the tracks of Tentsmuir Forest. Through Leuchars village with its busy air base and a climb to reach the village of Strathkinness. A lovely panoramic view over the Firth of Tay and beyond as you descend into St Andrews. Once the ecclesiastical capital of Scotland, St Andrews is now better known as the "Home of Golf". It is also home to Scotland's oldest university with many fine buildings set in a combination of medieval, Edwardian and Victorian streets. Visit the ruined Castle and Cathedral or take a stroll on wide expanse of golden West Sands.

Day 6 REST DAY ST ANDREWS EXPLORE THE EAST NEUK OF FIFE 24/34ml(39/55km)

Either spend the day exploring in St Andrews or cycle to the charming East 'Neuk'(Scots word for corner) of Fife. Visit the picturesque fishing villages of Crail, Anstruther and Pittenweem where whitewashed buildings with red pan tiled roofs overlook cobbled, winding streets leading to the harbours. Overnight in St Andrews

Day 7 ST. ANDREWS - PERTH

37ml(59km)

Leave St. Andrews on the cycle route past Craigton Park and continue to visit the Falkland Palace, set in the heart of a unique medieval village. It was the country residence and hunting lodge of eight Stuart monarchs. It includes the exceptionally beautiful Chapel Royal and is surrounded by internationally known gardens. Perhaps take tea in Auchtermuchty before climbing the hill to Pitmedden Forest and then down into the Tay Valley and Perth.

Day 8 Departure PERTH

Tour finishes after breakfast in Perth

Level 2/3

Moderate cycling. Some days flat, some days with moderate hills.

2026 SELF GUIDED DATES

Available to start daily from 1st April to 31st October

Minimum 2 people

2026 TOUR PRICES

£1,1135.00 per person sharing

£1,420.00 Single room occupancy

Note: Bikes are not included in the tour price:

Bike hire +£110

E-Bike hire +£215

WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- B&B accommodation in twin/double or single rooms with shower/toilet facilities in 3 or 4 star graded guesthouses for 5 nights and 2 nights in hotels in Pitlochry
- Tour information including maps and detailed route description and gpx files
- Luggage transportation (weight limit of 20kg per person and one bag/suitcase per person)
- Emergency support

Excluded:

- Entrance fees for castles/visitor attractions
- Lunches and dinners
- Bike hire

ACCOMMODATION

We have selected B&B accommodation in twin/double or single rooms with shower/toilet facilities in 3 or 4 star graded guesthouses for 5 nights (or private houses inspected by us) and 2 nights in hotels in Pitlochry

Extra night in Perth:

£95 per person sharing / £135 single room

BIKE & FITNESS

Bike hire is not included in the tour price.

Hybrid bike hire: £110

E-bike hire: £215

Bikes are equipped with suspension forks, hydraulic disc brakes, mudguards, rear pannier frame, stand and bell. Hire equipment includes rear pannier bags (one 32 litre set per person), helmet, pump, tool kit, lock, map holder, cycle computer, water bottle, reflective vest, lights.

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

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.



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 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.