



North Wales: Chester to Holyhead

Introduction:

A ride through magnificent mountains, sleepy valleys, pristine coastlines and across ancient and alluring Anglesey. We have two set tours, one going through Snowdonia and one following the coast line, we can also develop bespoke tours – some of which we have done circle Anglesey and have looped around by Caernarfon. The set routes differ in the amount of climbing and in the feel, the ride through Snowdonia is a much more rural experience while the coast line follows the castles and pristine beaches. The routes mainly follow the national cycle network routes or local roads, where possible, there are some off-road sections but also on-road alternatives. This Chester to Holyhead measures around 105 miles (170 km) - Coast and Snowdonia - but there are many detours and tangents that can be done to increase the distance of this tour.

Details:

Duration: Generally between 2 and 6 days in length, but we can organise any length of tour including days of during the tour on request. We can also organise extra nights accommodation before the tour starts and when it ends.

Distance: 105 miles / 170 km but adaptable

Included in tour:

- Bed and Breakfast in cycling friendly accommodation
- Daily luggage transfers
- Return transfer
- Extensive maps (paper and digital)
- Emergency contacts
- Meet and greet at the beginning of the tour including tour introduction with

the chance to take a few photos before you leave.

- Supported tours are also available (please enquire)

Extras:

- Bike rental
- Electric bike
- Extra night(s) accommodation (before, during or after)
- Single room supplement

Date: Tours are available from March to October. Please let us know when you would like to travel.

Tour Highlights:

Conwy Castle and town

Views over Snowdonia

Bewts-y-Coed, the picturesque town in the forest.

Crossing Menai Straits

Chester, one of England's heritage cities.

Lon Las Ogwen, and the descent into Penrhyn slate quarry

Beaches around Conwy and Llanfairfechan

Off-route and other pit stops:

Lots of off-route detours including circling Anglesey, heading into Caernarfon and cycling along the Conwy to Bewts-y-Coed cycleway either way.

Great Orme and Great Orme cable car, Llandudno

Zipworld, Penryhn Quarry

Sample 3 Day Self-guided Itinerary:

Day 1: Chester to Llansannan: 36 miles / 58 km - 2527 ft / 770 meters ascent

If you would like us to organise your accommodation the night before the tour starts, please ask for details. Meet in Chester at your hotel or start point. Our rep will take your luggage, handover your bikes, if rented from us, maps and will give you a brief intro into the tour. They will be available to answer any of your questions and take a few 'before' photos for you before you head off along the river Dee towards Wales. The first 9 miles or so are completely off road following the river or the canal. From Connah's Quay you begin to climb towards Nannerch and the Clwydian Hill AONB. From here you cross the Clwydian Hills, a lovely quiet ride through the forests, before descending into Denbigh. Leaving Denbigh, the road is up and down and the way to the village picturesque village of Llansannan.

Day 2: Llansannan to Bangor: 37 miles / 60 km – 2075ft / 633 meters ascent

From Llansannan you keep heading west, towards Snowdonia and through beautiful towns and villages, including Llanrwst and Betws-y-Coed. From Pont Cyfyng you follow the A5 for around 6 miles, a bigger road with a bit more traffic, into the heart of Snowdonia and onto Llyn Ogwen (Lake Ogwen). From Lake Ogwen you go off road again, following Lon Las Ogwen down through the disused slate quarries to Bangor.

Day 3: Bangor to Holyhead: 33 miles / 58 km – 1500ft / 457 meters ascent

Today you begin the day by heading across the Menai Straits to the island of Anglesey. After heading towards Beaumaris you climb away from the coast and continue to cross Anglesey through it's centre. The climbing is a little less challenging today and the countryside is a bit more pastoral. After crossing Anglesey you cross over to Holy Island via the bicycle path on the A5 and on to Holyhead and your destination.

Clothing

The UK boasts some of the most spectacular scenery in the world and its diverse history is one of the main pulls for tourists. We can guarantee that you will experience this whilst on your cycling adventure. What we are unfortunately unable to guarantee is the weather, so we would advise to be prepared for all eventualities!

We have found that the best way to do this, is through layers and with a lightweight waterproof on top. It might be a chilly day, but when climbing a hill for 30+ minutes, you will soon create your very own central heating system and will regret having to lug around a thick jumper!

In the colder weather, it is also advisable to wear warm footwear. Our bikes aren't fitted with pedal cleats, but a pair of good-grip shoes will do you well (if you are hiring bikes from and want to bring your own pedals, you are more than welcome but please let us know beforehand).

For update advice on the weather please consult the met office's forecast here <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather>.

Bikes

Our bikes are hybrid bikes with at least 24 gears. They are perfectly suited for cycling on country lanes, cycle paths, roads and trails. They're neither mountain bikes nor road bikes so we would advise against going off-piste at any point, or expecting to keep up with the pelaton! All our bikes include a pannier, spare tube and repair equipment, a mini u-lock, a mini pump and lights. We can also supply electric bikes, please enquire. If you want to bring your own saddle or pedals you are more than welcome, please advise us beforehand.

North Wales is suitable for most type of bikes, there are some off-road sections which can be avoided by following off-road diversions.

Accommodation

We take pride in the b&b accommodation we work with on our cycling tours, they are chosen for being cycling friendly, welcoming and comfortable, include a hearty breakfast and we get great feedback from our tourers on our choice of accommodation. The accommodation will also provide secure bike storage and some can provide a packed lunch if booked in advance.

Our bunkhouse accommodation for bunkhouse tours will also provide all of the above but will not include a breakfast, some do provide this service but will need to be booked with the property prior to or on arrival.

Fitness

Even our most leisurely tours will have some element of climbing so you will benefit from having done a sufficient amount of training prior to the departure. You will know yourself how far and how long you are able to cycle, so we hope that you have chosen a tour accordingly. You can allow yourself extra time by having an early start if needed, but please be mindful of daylight hours. All our bikes will be fitted with lights, but we would advise to try and finish the day's cycling before it gets dark.

And if a hill is too steep, walk the bike up! Having scaled the Rocky Mountains without ever being beaten by a 'hill', I have had to push a bike up a 200 metre long climb in Shropshire, and there's no shame in it!

Food

A cyclist's best friend. We would suggest stocking up on snacks whenever you get a chance. There is nothing worse than peddling on empty, so bananas, cereal bars, biscuits (etc.) could provide that much needed extra bit of energy. Most of the towns and villages will have at least one cafe or pub for lunch/tea/coffee breaks; on the maps we supply each town or village with a pub or cafe is clearly marked with a glass or cup.

Roads and Route

Parts of our tours will take place on roads and you will be sharing that road with cars. We ask you to be mindful in this case. For example: Signal when you're changing lanes or turning corners and don't cycle more than two abreast. If you're unsure of the laws of the land in regards to cycling, you can brush up on your knowledge here: . <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code/rules-for-cyclists-59-to-82>

The route itself is not fully signposted, but with our maps both paper and digital that we provide you with will allow for a very comfortable orientation on this North Wales ride.

Transfer

Each tour includes a transfer from the end of the tour for you, your bike and luggage, back to the start of the tour. It is possible to change this to another destination, to have this at the start of the year or to have a transfer at the start and finish (i.e. a door to door transfer) please enquire if needed.

Further Questions

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any other questions on the route or the tour. You can contact us on the following:

Call us at 01524840072

Email us on info@openroadopenskies.co.uk

Tweet us @oroskies

Facebook us www.facebook.com/oroskies/

We also have an FAQ page for you to look through <http://www.openroadopenskies.co.uk/info/faqs>

Enjoyment

We want you to enjoy this adventure. It is, after all, a holiday. Relax, enjoy the ride, take in the country, stop off at areas of interest, chat to the locals and, most importantly, go at your own pace!

May the wind be at your back!