



Reivers: Whitehaven to Tynemouth

Introduction:

A fabulous ride through the border lands between England and Scotland, while also travelling through the Lake District and Kielder Forest Park, and the cities of Carlisle and Newcastle. Reivers' gets its name from the raiding parties (Border Reivers) who used to storm across the border from the 14th to 17th century, raiding towns and villages before disappearing back across the border leaving destruction in their wake. Thankfully you don't have to worry about that on your journey through this stunning and welcoming landscape. The route can briefly cross the border into Scotland, or you can follow the off road section which follows the border on the southern side to Kielder Lake. This 173 mile (278 km) adventure can be done in as many or as few days as you wish, please contact us for more information.

Details:

Duration: Generally between 2 and 5 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: 173 miles / 278 km

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:

Kielder Forest and the route around Kielder Lake

Cockermouth, the home of Wordsworth

Carlisle Castle

Northern Lake District and the views around Bassenthwaite

Tynemouth and it's fish and chips

Picturesque towns and villages such as Bellingham, Newcastleton, Hesketh Market, amongst others.

Off-route and other pit stops:

An off-route detour is heading south to Lanercost and its priory and onto Gisland for some views of Hadrian's Wall. This route follows Hadrian's Cycleway and is about 20 miles detour, please enquire if you'd like to stay near Gisland.

Newcastle Quayside and Newcastle City Centre

Bassenthwaite lake, a short detour after passing through Cockermouth.

Sample 3 Day Self-guided Itinerary:

Day 1: Whitehaven to Carlisle: 53 miles / 85 km - 2250 ft / 686 meters ascent

A lot of people ask us to organise their accommodation in Whitehaven the night before the tour starts, please ask for details. Meet in Whitehaven 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 north towards Cockermouth. After which you head into the northern area of the Lake District north of Bassenthwaite and Skiddaw and onto Hesketh Market. After leaving Hesketh Market we head north toward Carlisle, arriving in the centre following the River Caldew.

Day 2: Carlisle to Falstone: 57 miles / 92 km - 3000ft / 915 meters ascent

Leaving historic Carlisle you are now following border country around northeast Cumbria. After reaching the actual border at the entrance to Kielder Forest Park you have a choice of following the official route into Kielder (Kershope Forest) or crossing the river and the border into Scotland and following the road into Newcastleton, going by Newcastleton will add an extra 9 miles to the journey. Whichever way you go, you'll end up cycling around Kielder lake into Falstone.

Day 3: York to Bridlington: 63 miles / 101 km - 1910ft / 582 meters ascent

Today you head from Falstone out of Kielder Forest park towards Bellingham, the road is up and down like a roller-coaster here (more down than up today). You go through many Northumberland villages before getting towards the outskirts of Newcastle. The road stays north of Newcastle today before you head south towards North Shields and then onto Tynemouth

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.

Reivers is suitable for most type of bikes, there are some off-road sections which can be avoided by following off-road diversions. If you're planning to go off-road in Kielder forest, a mountain bike will be needed.

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 signposted , this along with the maps both paper and digital we provide you with allow for a very comfortable orientation on this coast to coast 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!