



W2W: Walney to Wear or to Whitby

Introduction:

A scenic, challenging and ultimately very rewarding cycling journey from Walney Island to Whitby or Sunderland, cycling through the southern Lake District, Eden Valley, Lune Valley, Orton Fells, Yorkshire Dales and the North York Moors, if finishing in Whitby. W2W has a bit more off-road than the other coast to coasts, approx 14%, and the course is more suitable to hybrid or mountain bikes. The route splits in two at Barnard Castle, with the Wear section heading north-east and the Whitby section heading south-east through the North York Moors. Walney to Whitby measures 179 miles while Walney to Wear measures 152 Miles.

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.

Walney to Whitby Distance: 179 miles / 288 km

Walney to Wear Distance: 152 miles / 254 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:

Spectacular views through the Lune Valley, Eden Valley and North York Moors.

Tan Hill Inn, the highest inn in Britain.

Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle

Durham Castle and Cathedral

Furness Abbey, Barrow-in-Furness

Great Ayton, the Village where Captain Cook attended school

Whitby Abbey and Cook Museum

Off-route and other pit stops:

There is a short diversion taking you from Penny Bridge to Newby Bridge and Lakeside, Lake Windermere by following the Lakes and Dales Loop

The Dock Museum and Strollers Coffee Shop

Sizergh Castle and Garden

Low Barns Nature Reserve

Laurel and Hardy Museum, Ulverston

Sample 3 Day Self-guided Itinerary (Walney to Whitby):

Day 1: Walney to Orton: 63 miles / 101 km - 4163ft / 1268 meters ascent

We get a lot of requests from people to also organise their accommodation in Walney or Barrow the night before the tour starts, please ask for details. Meet on Walney Island 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 into the rising sun (hopefully) towards the Southern Lake District. A gorgeous and challenging day ahead, over a number of fells, including Cartmel and up through the spectacular Lune Valley to Orton!

Day 2: Otron to Croft-on-Tees: 60 miles / 97 km – 2295ft / 900 meters ascent

Out of Orton, we head towards Kirby Stephens along the Orton Fells. After which we climb up to Tan Hill and Britain's highest inn before heading off road to Bowes and Barnard Castle. Here we split with the Wear route and follow the route south of Darlington.

Day 3: Croft-on-Tees to Whitby: 56 miles / 90 km – 2077ft / 633 meters ascent

Final day and into the hills of the North York Moors. We pass through some beautiful towns and villages including Great Ayton, famous for having schooled Captain Cook! After passing through the Moors you drop down into Whitby surrounded by great sea views. Time for some fish and chips.

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 peloton! 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.

The W2W is not suitable for all bikes, road bikes would find it difficult in some sections – especially after Tan Hill where you would probably have to walk for a mile or if you were riding a road bike. Hybrid and Mountain bikes are perfect for this tour. The route itself has many climbs, some very steep so if you are unsure of the challenge you would like you can always add on another day and make the daily distances shorter.

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.

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 W2W route itself is signposted (thank you very much Sustrans), 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!