



## **Yorkshire Dales Cycleway**

### **Introduction:**

A fabulous scenic cycling journey around the Yorkshire Dales, cycling through the moors and valleys, with their rushing rivers, dry stone walls and picturesque villages that ultimately describe the Yorkshire Dales. This is a challenging ride which takes place mainly on minor roads, with a couple of sections on busier roads, some steep inclines and descents – giving you the opportunity to slow down and take in the magnificent views on offer. This 130 mile 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 6 days in length, but we can organise any length of tour including days off during the tour on request. We can also organise extra nights accommodation before the tour starts and when it ends. The tour normally starts and finishes in Skipton, but can be started in other towns such as Settle and Clapham. It can also be done as a section of the tour if you would like to do a shorter tour.

**Distance:** 130 miles / 210 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 of the Yorkshire Dales.

Malham Cove and the spectacular limestone scenery surrounding Malham.

Malham Tarn, its lime rich upland lake

White Scar Caves, Ingleton

Wensleydale Creamery, Hawes

Bolton Castle and Gardens, Castle Bolton,

Bolton Priory, Bolton Abbey

The Forbidden Corner, Middleham, Leyburn

Grass Wood Nature Reserve

Skipton Castle, Skipton

Picturesque towns and villages such as Skipton, Settle, Clapham, Hawes, Reeth and Grassington

### Off-route and other pit stops:

Some cyclists take a few miles off the route by following the Way of the Roses route from Airton to Settle, instead of following the route into Malham.

Another shortcut on the tour would pass by the Ribble Viaduct, following the B6255 from Ingleton towards Hawes which rejoins the route after 10 miles. To do a there and back again to the Ribble Viaduct would be a 12 mile round trip.

### Sample 3 Day Self-guided Itinerary:

#### *Day 1: Skipton to Clapham: 40 miles / 64 km*

If you would like us to organise your accommodation in Skipton (or one of the other towns) the night before the tour starts, please ask for details. Meet in Skipton 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 on your adventure on the YDCW! Today's two biggest climbs are before Barden and out of Malham.

#### *Day 2: Clapham to Gunnerside: 40 miles / 64 km*

Out of Clapham you head north, past Ingleton towards Dent, with a few climbs between Ingleton and Dent. From Dent you head west, past Dent Head Viaduct, before jumping on a busier road with a climb and a descent to Hawes. After Hawes, you begin to follow the River Ure to Askrigg, turn north and another climb before again descending into Gunnerside.

#### *Day 3: Gunnerside to Skipton: 50 miles / 80 km*

Leaving Gunnerside, the road is flattish or descending for 10 miles or so as it follows the River Swale to Grinton. There is a steep climb out of Grinton, a descent into Wensley before it continues 'flattish' until a little before Kettlewell. Here there is another steep climb and steep descent into Kettlewell. Out of Kettlewell you are done with the big climbs, where is is again flat or slightly descending through Grassington, past Bolton Abbey and into Skipton.

## 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 Yorkshire Dales is suitable for all bikes, especially road bikes – an the more gears you have the better to get up those hills. It is also really suitable for e-bikes, giving you that extra push up the climbs.

## 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 – a lot of the blue signs have the Yorkshire Dales 'Ram'

icon on it, this along with the maps both paper and digital we provide you with allow for a very comfortable orientation on this national park ride.

### Transfer

Each tour includes a transfer from the end of the tour for you, your bike and luggage. It is possible to choose a nearby destination (to and from Lancaster, for example), as this is a loop tour, please enquire.

### 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](mailto:info@openroadopenskies.co.uk)

Tweet us @oroskies

Facebook us [www.facebook.com/oroskies/](http://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!*