



Lake District Loop

Summary

This awesome route covers just about every corner of the largest national park in England and includes a brief, relaxing foray along the Irish Sea coast. The infinitely varied trails include rocky climbs over infamous passes, technical bridleways along stunning lake shores, deserted country lanes and cutting edge purpose-built singletrack. Combine these with stunning, iconic Lake District scenery and you've got one unforgettable mountain biking adventure!

Highlights

Tackling trails over infamous passes
Endless views over stunning Lake District scenery
The blistering Whitewater Dash trail
Beautiful coastal views of the Irish Sea from Ravenglass
Taking on cutting edge man-made trails in Whinlatter and Grizedale Forest Parks

Detailed itinerary

Day 1. Check into your accommodation and get your gear organised for the coming few days. If you're feeling restless, you can warm up your legs with a walk along one of the many walking trails beginning in Windermere.

Day 2. Beginning on the picturesque banks of Lake Windermere, the trails climb head-long into the mountains on ancient rocky tracks, over legendary passes, affording jaw-dropping views over surrounding valleys. A bone-shaking descent takes us to the banks of Haweswater Reservoir and into Pooley Bridge where a comfy bed awaits.

Day 3. What better way to start the day than by biking along the banks of Ullswater, second largest of the Lakes and widely regarded as the most beautiful? From here, the only way is up as we take on tricky rocky trails that lead towards Skiddaw, third highest mountain in England. We'll end the day with some of the best man-made singletrack in England, which winds its way through Whinlatter Forest. You'll be grinning from ear to ear as we reach Keswick for some well-deserved refreshments.

Day 4. Technical off-road trails lead us through Borrowdale and towards infamous Honister Pass. The scenery is stunning around Buttermere, but there's no time to dally! Back country lanes lead us through Ennerdale and over the westerly peaks of the Lake District. The blistering descent to the Irish Sea coast is our reward, not to mention a tasty meal and comfy bed in the pretty historical hamlet of Ravenglass.

Day 5. From the coast, the trails lead us straight back into the mountains, through picturesque, scenic countryside. Deserted bridleways lead us up over Walna Scar, before a rough and rocky, hair-raising descent into Conistone. There's plenty of time to take on some of the adrenaline-inducing singletrack at Grizedale Forest, with rewarding views over Windermere and surrounding hills. The trip ends with a relaxing cruise over Lake Windermere and an extremely well-deserved night out in Windermere. Congratulations you've completed the Lake District Loop!!

Duration:

5 nights' accommodation
4 days' cycling

Average Daily Distance:

37 miles or 60 km

Includes:

- 5 nights' accommodation
- Baggage transfers
- SMBLA qualified expert guide or comprehensive maps and directions
- Vehicle back up
- Transfers and transport as required

Available on request:

- Pick up and drop off from public transport links
- Bike and kit hire

Grade:

Fitness Grading: 4

Technical Grading: **Red**

Price:

From £340 per person – See the full price list on the 'Lake District Loop' page

Dates:

Guided or self guided trips are available between March and October for groups of 2 or more. Contact us with the dates you have in mind.

If you are travelling individually, please contact us to find out about available dates.



Lake District Loop

Accommodation and food

We use only tried and tested local accommodation providers who we know will give you a good quality service. They provide everything you could need after a long day in the saddle from secure bike storage to hot showers, hearty food and comfortable beds. **Luxury** accommodation is in a hotel of your choice from one of the many top class hotels available throughout the trip. **B & B** accommodation is in biker friendly B&B's or small inns and is on a bed and breakfast basis. **Bunkhouse** accommodation is in bunkhouses or hostels and is on a self catering basis. Wherever you stay there will be access to shops, restaurants, pubs and hotels.

Climate and weather

The north west corner of England is generally mild in the summer months but can often be wet. Conditions also can and do change quickly, especially on higher and more exposed areas, so light waterproofs are advisable. Midges (small biting insects) can be a pest in the Lake District, but are usually not a problem when we're on the move. Some repellent might be advisable, check your local outdoor shop for the best kind.

The trails

There is almost every type of trail imaginable on this trip, from rough, rocky bridleways to old drove roads, forestry trails to superb single-track. The surfaces vary greatly, from hard packed or rocky trails to technical singletrack and open moorland, which can sometimes be wet. Some sections of this trip are technically challenging so off-road biking experience will be required.

Guided trips

Our guided trips are designed to give you a hassle free way to enjoy the amazing biking in Scotland. We include a qualified SMBLA guide who can help with aspects of your riding and take you on the best trails including hidden trail sections. As well as navigating for you, our guides also carry sufficient spares and tools to help you keep rolling in the event of a mechanical problem. First aid trained, they will also make sure you are well looked after on the trails.

Self guided trips

Experience the same great trails and accommodation as on the guided trips but without the support and knowledge of a guide. We will still do all of the organising for you and you'll be provided with comprehensive trail maps, advice, transport, baggage transfers and a full itinerary. There will always be someone on the end of the phone in case of emergencies too.

Vehicle support

Whether you go guided or self guided there will be a back up vehicle available to carry your baggage. Plus if you have any mechanical problems you can get assistance or if you just need to take it easy for a section, the vehicle will be there to help.

Bike hire

We work with local bike shops to provide you with the latest bikes for hire. There are a full range of bikes from standard hard-tails to flashy full-sussers! If you need to hire a bike please let us know at the time of booking and we can make sure to get the right bike for you. If you're bringing your own bike it is a good idea to check how you will get it to the start point, especially if travelling by public transport.

Transport and baggage transfers

We transport your bags between each night's accommodation leaving you free to carry a small day-pack with some spare clothes, food and drink. We can also help as much as possible with transfers to and from the airport/train/bus station at the start and the end of the journey. Again just give us as much notice as possible.

Clothing and kit

The Lake District is England's wettest region and because our tour ventures through mountainous regions, you may experience 4 seasons in a day. Check out the kit list on the website or contact us for more detailed advice if you are not sure what to bring.