



Cross-Border Trail - Kielder to Edinburgh

Summary

A trailblazing route for Trailbrakes, linking the sublime purpose-built MTB trails in Kielder Forest and Edinburgh via remote wilderness! We follow old railways, bridleways, ancient drove roads and cutting-edge singletrack through fantastic scenery. We cross the Scottish-English border, take on trails at Kielder forest, Innerleithen and Glentress, and climb up and over the Pentlands to Scotland's picturesque capital city.

Highlights

Fantastic trails around Kielder reservoir
Tackling the highest man-made trails in England
Crossing the Pentland Hills and descending into Edinburgh
Biking the infamous 7stanes trails at Innerleithen and Glentress

Example 5-Day Itinerary

Day 1. Arrive at Kielder reservoir, check into your accommodation and get your gear organised for the adventure ahead!

Day 2. Bike Kielder trails to Newcastleton - 59 km/37 miles; 1250 metres of ascent

Your journey begins with a bang on the purpose-built trails in Kielder Forest, packed with brilliant biking routes, from the fast, flowing blue trail to hair-raising black and great fun red trails in between. Remote singletrack takes you over the border into Scotland and your destination for the evening – Newcastleton.

Day 3. Bike Newcastleton to Hawick - 51 km/32 miles; 860 metres of ascent

We start the day with a dose of man-made singletrack in Newcastleton 7stanes trail centre. Then there are miles of scenic trails on old railway lines that lead you north. Don't worry, no trains here (at least none that still move) just miles of scenic, satisfying biking through unspoilt countryside. Spend the night in Hawick, a bustling border town.

Day 4. Bike Hawick to Peebles - 55 km/34 miles; 1100 metres of ascent

The route today is a real mixed bag of trails with a great variety of scenery and trails. You pass impressive country estates and take on the challenge of a great moorland trail over Minch Moor. There is a tough but rewarding climb on old drove roads which gives you great views over the Tweed valley. The day ends with the option to try out some of the best singletrack in Scotland at the exciting purpose-built trails in Innerleithen Forest.

Day 5. Bike Tweed Valley trails – up to 80 km/50 miles; 1300 metres of ascent

The Tweed Valley is the spiritual home of mountain biking in Scotland and one of the very best places to bike in the UK. It would be a shame to come here and not bike on some of the amazing trails available. Top of the list should be Glentress and its flowing, exciting singletrack – both blue and red-graded trails are highly recommended - will be something that you remember for a long time. Ride as much or as little as you like.

Day 6. Peebles to Edinburgh - 52 km/32 miles; 800 metres of ascent

This trip perhaps saves the best till last, with a fantastic day approaching the lovely Scottish capital. You will follow old drove roads, Roman roads and some great singletrack through the Pentland Hills to reach Edinburgh. You can follow traffic free trails right into the heart of the city, a great end to a great trip! Spend the night here then travel home tomorrow or head back to Kielder today.

Duration:

4 or 5 days of borders biking
5 or 6 nights' comfortable accommodation

Includes:

- 5 or 6 nights in quality guest houses or small hotels
- Comprehensive maps and GPX files
- Baggage transfers
- Vehicle back up or phone support
- Transport from Tynemouth to Kielder and from Edinburgh to Tynemouth

Available on request:

- Pick up and drop off at other public transport links
- Bike and equipment hire

Total Distance:

Approx. 167 miles or 270 km

Grade:

Technical Grading: **Blue/Red**

Dates:

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

What bike?

The trails on our Newcastle to Edinburgh route can be ridden on a standard hardtail. A full suspension bike will make the riding more manageable and comfortable!

To make a booking or for more information:

Email us: info@trailbrakes.co.uk
Phone us: +44 (0)7922 653327 or +44 (0)141 6286676



Cross-Border Trail – Further Information

Accommodation and food

We use only tried and tested accommodation providers on our trips, many that we have worked with for years, so that we know that you will receive an excellent level of service. They provide everything you could need after a long day in the saddle from bike storage to hot showers, hearty breakfasts and comfortable beds. Accommodation in guest houses and hotels is always on a bed and breakfast basis and trip prices are based on two people sharing a room, unless otherwise arranged. Most of our accommodation is en-suite and we will let you know if it is not possible to book en-suite rooms. Wifi is now also pretty much universal in every location. If you would prefer hostel or bunkhouse style accommodation, breakfast is not included although most bunkhouses can provide meals at an additional charge. Bunkhouses will often have cooking facilities so that you can prepare your own meals if you'd prefer. Wherever you stay you will be able to get an evening meal at a pub or restaurant within walking distance. Lunches can usually be bought during the course of the day as you will be passing through towns or villages. It is advisable to carry plenty of snacks with you each day to keep the energy levels up!

Sole occupancy rooms are usually available in hotels or guest houses so please ask us if you'd prefer to have your own room. A single supplement from £30 per person, per night will apply (this will be more if accommodation in Newcastle is requested).

Clothing and kit

Northern England and Southern Scotland receives a generally mild climate all year round with the Gulf Stream passing our western coastline. There are even palm trees growing in the region! The east is generally a bit drier but cooler than the west, however conditions can and do change quickly especially on higher and more exposed areas. It can rain at any time of year, sometimes all day and we often get four seasons in a day, so come prepared! A full kit list is available on our website (<http://www.trailbrakes.co.uk/kit-list-equipment-recommendations>) and a list of useful items will also be sent to you when you book your trip with us. General climatic information for Scotland is available here: <http://www.scotlandinfo.eu/weather-climate.html>. Up-to-the-minute weather forecasts for specific regions of the UK are available at the met office website (<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/>).

It is advisable to bring a small back-pack (between 15 and 20 litre capacity) with you on your trip, in which you can carry spare clothes and basic spares and tools that you might need during the course of a day on the bikes. In some cases, where we will be riding in wilderness for the full day, food and drink will also need to be carried.

Midges!

Midges (small biting insects) can be a pest in northern parts of the UK but are usually not a problem when you're on the move. If you decide to stop for a break in a sheltered spot where there is no wind and there are trees and water in the vicinity, there will always be midges around. They rarely cause a serious problem, they're more of a nuisance, but some people react badly to their bites and develop an itchy red spot which can be irritating. Some insect repellent is advisable, those containing DEET being the most effective, and cream is available in pharmacies that relieve the irritation of the bites.

The trails

There is almost every type of trail imaginable on this trip, from perfect purpose built mountain biking trails to old drove roads, forestry trails and superb natural trails. The surfaces are all generally hard packed or rocky. Some parts are technically challenging so some off-road experience will be required. This trip has a **Fitness Grading** of **6** which means that you should have a good level of fitness and take part in cycling based activities regularly. You're comfortable riding for up to 7 hours per day on terrain that can include steep climbs. This trip has a **Technical Grading** of **Blue/Red**, meaning that the route is suitable for intermediate mountain bikers with some off-road riding skills. Trails may include obstacles including small rocks and roots. Most gradients are moderate but may be steep in short sections.

Self guided trips

Our self guided trips are the most popular choice and are designed for cyclists who are comfortable carrying their own basic tools and spares along with them each day so that they can fix any minor technical issues encountered along the route (punctures etc.). For our self guided trips we will provide you with everything included in our fully supported trips except the vehicle back-up service. We will organise quality accommodation, bag transfers each day, detailed information about the route, official maps of the route, pick-up and drop-off at locations convenient for your travel plans and a comprehensive list of bike shops that are located along the Coast and Castles route. We will always be only a phone call away should you require any additional advice/support so you'll never be truly on your own!

Fully supported trips

Our fully supported cycling trips are designed to provide you with a completely hassle-free biking holiday experience. We will organise every aspect of your trip including quality accommodation, bag transfers each day, detailed information about the route, official maps of the route, pick up and drop off at locations convenient for your travel plans and full support from our friendly, knowledgeable back-up team in case of technical (or physical!) emergencies. We will provide a back-up vehicle full of spares and tools to carry your baggage between your accommodation each day. Our drivers are proficient bike mechanics so will be able to help you out with common technical problems. If the issue is a bit more serious, they will be able to take your bike to a local bike shop for some TLC. Their main aim is to keep you and your bike on the road!

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 will make sure that we get the right bike for you. Please check the bikes before you leave your starting location to ensure that they are in full working order and check with the person providing your bikes that the bike is set up correctly for you. Once you leave your starting location it may not be possible to exchange your bike, and, if you are taking part in an independent trip, any mechanical problems that you encounter during the course of your trip are your own responsibility. You will be expected to pay for any damage to hire bikes, other than wear and tear.

Hire bikes are provided with standard mountain biking saddles and flat pedals. You are welcome to bring your own saddle and/or clipless pedals to make your ride more comfortable. Please note that, if you're taking part in a self guided trip, you may have to change your saddle and/or pedals yourself so please bring suitable tools (a pedal spanner and set of allen/hex keys) with you in order for you to do this.

Transport and baggage transfers

We are always happy to help you to get to where you need to be as quickly and easily as possible. We can provide transfers from any local airport, train or bus station or ferry terminal to your accommodation at the beginning of your trip and back again at the end. Just let us know where and how you intend to arrive at your destination and we will arrange a pick-up for you. Please note that an extra charge may apply to cover fuel costs.

We transport your bags between each night's accommodation during your trip, leaving you free to carry a small day-pack containing some spare clothes, food and drink. Please note that baggage should be limited to one bag per person, not exceeding 20kg per bag unless prior arrangements are made.

Any questions?

We've tried to cover everything on our website and this information pack but if you'd like some further information or want to ask us anything at all about our biking trips please don't hesitate to contact us on the details below:

Email: info@trailbrakes.co.uk

Phone: +44 (0)7922 653327 or +44 (0)141 6286676

We look forward to seeing you on one of our fantastic biking adventures!