



Reivers Cycle Route –Tynemouth to Whitehaven

Summary

The Reivers route is the most adventurous coast to coast cycling route in the UK. Starting from the iconic C2C start point the route crosses the country through true Borders wilderness where gangs of blood-thirsty cattle thieves and murderers, known as Reivers, terrorised the locals for 350 years. Thankfully the Reivers have long-since gone, allowing you to explore this beautiful, remote landscape, skirting around Kielder Lake and crossing the country along forest tracks and deserted country roads. You'll also have the opportunity to test your skills on the brilliant mountain biking trails at Kielder Forest and on the 7stanes trails at Newcastleton if you are that way inclined.

Highlights

Winding through suburbs of Newcastle on the Cramlington Waggonway
The feeling of true remoteness in Kielder Forest
The incredible sense of achievement having completed a journey from coast to coast

Example 3-Day Itinerary:

Day 1. Arrive in Tynemouth and meet with our transport team who'll take you and your bikes and bags safely over to the west coast and the starting point of your incredible biking adventure.

Day 2. Whitehaven to Longtown - 65 miles/105 km; 1240 metres of ascent

An excellent network of traffic free cycle paths lead you north through Workington and along the Irish Sea coast before you head inland. The scenery behind Skiddaw on the fells of Allerdale is fantastic and the quiet roads lead you through hamlets then along the river Caldew to historic Carlisle. A short hop north from Carlisle takes you to Longtown, close to the Scottish border.

Day 3. Longtown to Bellingham - 58 miles/94 km; 1750 metres of ascent

Undulating country lanes wind through the Cumbrian countryside along the border towards Newcastleton. Here the mountain bikers have the option to explore the 7 Stanes trails and fantastic purpose-built singletrack that weaves its way through Kielder Forest. For the road bikers a longer but flatter ride on quiet country lanes takes you over the border briefly before reaching Kielder Water, the largest man-made reservoir in Europe with its lovely lakeside trail. Country roads then take you towards Bellingham, nestled in fine Northumbrian countryside.

Day 4. Bellingham to Tynemouth - 55 miles/88 km; 870 metres of ascent

The final leg of the route takes you along the river North Tyne, before heading east, just north of Hadrian's Wall and through leafy Ponteland. The final section of the route uses the old railway lines near Newcastle to take you traffic free to the superb Priory and Castle at Tynemouth, the official end of your epic journey. Well done, you've completed the Reivers cycle route! You can collect your car and head home straight away or we can arrange for you to stay the night in the lovely town of Tynemouth before heading home in the morning.

Duration:

3 to 5 days of fantastic biking
3 to 5 nights' accommodation

Just let us know how many days you'd like your Reivers Cycle Route adventure to last and if you'd like to cycle the route from Tynemouth to Whitehaven instead.

Total Distance:

280 km or 174 miles

Includes:

- Comfortable accommodation
- Baggage transfers
- Comprehensive maps and gpx files
- Vehicle back up (Fully supported)
- Phone support (Self Guided trips)
- One way transfer from Tynemouth to Whitehaven either at the beginning or end of the trip

Available on request:

- Pick up and drop off from public transport links
- Bike and kit hire
- Accommodation in Tynemouth at the end of the trip

Dates:

Self-guided or Fully Supported cycling trips are available between March and October for groups of 2 or more. Contact us with the dates you have in mind.

What bike?

Reivers cycle route can be ridden on a hybrid or mountain bike. The route can also be made suitable for road bikes. See below for more details.

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



Reivers Cycle Route – 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 a night in Newcastle is required).

Clothing and kit

Northern England receives a generally mild climate all year round with the Gulf Stream passing our western coastline. 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>). General climatic information for the Lake District is available here: <http://www.lortonweather.co.uk/Analysis-2011.htm>. 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 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. Alternatively, if you're hiring bikes, we can provide pannier bags in which to carry supplies for the day.

The route

The Reivers cycle route is a well-used National Cycle Network route, along quiet country roads, purpose built cycle paths and disused railways. There are some short, steep climbs along the route, but these are mainly on quiet country roads. There are more gradual climbs on forest tracks and purpose-built cycle paths. This trip, if completed in 3 days, has a **Fitness Grading of 6** which means that you should have a high level of fitness and stamina from regularly taking part in cycling-based activities. You are comfortable riding for up to 7 hours per day. The route will include sections of physically demanding terrain including short, steep climbs. There are also some extra off-road options along the route for those looking for more mountain biking trails. It has become more popular to take on this route using a road bike and this can be accommodated by using detours near Kielder to avoid the forestry tracks and near the end to avoid the bumpier cycle paths. Ask us about the options and we'll be happy to help.

What bike?

Much of the Reivers cycle route is not on paved roads, so if you are planning on following the official route you will need a sturdy hybrid bike, cyclocross bike or mountain bike. There are options to avoid the rougher sections of trail so it would also be possible to complete the route on a road bike, please ask us if you need any further advice.

Bike hire

We can provide you with quality hybrid or mountain bikes which are a great option for the route. They have plenty of gears to help you make it up those steep climbs! Hire bikes are supplied with a spare inner tube, puncture repair kit, pump, lock, bottle holder and pannier rack. Pannier bags can also be provided by prior arrangement for an additional cost. 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.

Hire bikes are provided with comfortable touring-style saddles and standard 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 an independent 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.

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!

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!