

SCOTLAND – THE GREAT GLEN & HIGHLANDS

8-days/ 7-nights inn-to-inn **SELF-GUIDED** cycling



Follow the Great Glen from the highland capital of Inverness alongside Loch Ness to the town of Fort William. Cycle along pathways and quiet forest trails on the look-out for stunning views and the unique wildlife of the region including red deer, red squirrels, elusive Capercaillie or majestic Golden Eagle. Experience the timeless majesty of the lochs and glens of the Highlands, and take the opportunity to visit ancient castles full of historical intrigue.

The Scottish Highlands are one of the most scenic regions of Europe, set to the north and west of the Highland Boundary Fault. On this tour a day in Fort William is set aside for those who wish to climb Britain's highest peak Ben Nevis. The 'Ben' dominates the scenery here, rising as it does from near sea level to 4406ft (1344m). This part of Scotland has much to see from peaks and lochs to farms, boundary walls and villages made of stone. Traditional guest houses, small hotels and pubs abound with chance to experience traditional music and dancing, and in summer there are country fairs, markets and highland games.

From Fort William your cycling journey continues by train across Rannoch Moor to Loch Rannoch and again by bicycle to the pretty highland town of Pitlochry.

Cost from: \$1735 per person twin share Single room supplement from \$330

Departs: Any Friday, Saturday or Sunday from 30th March to 28th October, 2019

Grading: This cycle tour is **moderate to challenging**. You will need to be fit and to cycle regularly. Daily cycling distances are 22 to 60km (4 to 6 hours of cycling), over undulating to hilly terrain. E-bikes are not suitable for this tour due to occasional off-road and stony terrain.

Includes: 7 nights' accommodation in 3- or 4-star B&Bs or guesthouses on a twin share basis in rooms with private facilities; full Scottish breakfast daily; luggage transfers (one main bag and one small item of hand luggage per person with a total maximum combined weight of 18kg per person); train ticket Fort William to Rannoch (Day 6); hire of multi-gear hybrid touring bike with helmet, panniers, tools, puncture repair kit, spare inner tube, lock and water bottle; route information and maps; emergency telephone support (if required).

Not included: Meals other than breakfast, drinks, personal expenses including entrance fees, extra nights of accommodation or arrival/departure transfers (these can be arranged at extra cost).

When to go: Please note that Easter and UK bank holidays (May and August) are very busy and should be booked well in advance. There are large events in the Fort William area in early May (Six Days Bike Trial) and early June (Mountain Biking World Cup) so avoid those dates as accommodation is often fully booked.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Suggested itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Inverness

Make your way to Inverness, easily reached by train from Edinburgh or London. Collect your bikes and receive a route briefing this evening. Now a thriving modern town, Inverness has historical links going back to Neolithic times. Many battles have been fought for control of this strategic site. A visit to the Garrison Castle Encounter will take you back to 1745 and the Jacobite Rebellion.

Day 2: Inverness to Drumnadrochit

cycling @ 24 miles (39km)

Cycle out of Inverness following the river, then ride across moorland and along quiet country roads to Drumnadrochit. If time permits you may like to visit the Loch Ness Monster Exhibition Centre and the ruins of Urquhart Castle. Today's route is mostly uphill.

Day 3: Drumnadrochit to Fort Augustus

cycling @ 23 miles (37km)

A ride along the Great Glen Cycle Way. After some steep hills you are rewarded with beautiful views of Loch Ness and the mountains beyond. In the forest you may see deer or golden eagles before you reach the south end of the loch at Fort Augustus. The terrain today and tomorrow is on stony paths.

Day 4: Fort Augustus to Fort William

cycling @ 34 miles (55km)

The Caledonian Canal towpath and forest tracks avoid traffic until you reach the locks of Neptune's Staircase at Banavie. From here it's a short ride to the busy tourist town of Fort William in the shadow of mighty Ben Nevis.

Day 5: Fort William

Free day or Ben Nevis climb

Today is a day to explore with the option to climb Scotland's highest peak Ben Nevis (1344m), take a steam train ride on the scenic West Highland Railway to the port of Mallaigh or discover the many trails in Leanachan Forest.

Day 6: Rannoch to Pitlochry

cycling @ 37 miles (60km)

Take a scenic train journey across desolate Rannoch Moor to isolated Rannoch Station. From Rannoch it is a pleasant flat ride beside Loch Rannoch to reach Tummel Bridge. Continue alongside Loch Tummel to the delightful Victorian town of Pitlochry nestled in a sheltered position among the hills. It has two distilleries, an excellent theatre, good shopping and a wide choice of restaurants.

Day 7: Pitlochry

cycling @ 14 miles (22km) or 28 miles (45km)

Cycle to Blair Atholl and visit Blair Castle, with its magnificent display of arms and armour and thirty-two fully furnished rooms. These display beautiful furniture, fine paintings, china, lace and embroidery. Alternatively cycle to the historic cathedral town of Dunkeld on the banks of the River Tay. It is a peaceful and characterful place with charmingly restored 18th Century houses forming a small square. Or visit Pitlochry's distilleries – the tiny farm distillery Edradour or the larger Blair Atholl distillery are both easily reached by bicycle.

Day 8: Departure day

Tour ends after breakfast. Pitlochry is well-connected by train to Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Outdoor Travel offers a wide range of guided or self-guided inn-to-inn cycling holidays in Europe including France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, Ireland and the UK. We also offer **Bike & Barge** holidays for a more relaxed pace combination of cycling and cruising in many areas of Europe.

Contact Outdoor Travel or for more details and reservations:

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