



Highland C2C – Isle of Skye to Stonehaven

Summary

This coast to coast mountain biking trip, beginning on the deserted, stunning west coast of the mystical Isle of Skye, and ending on the sandy shores of the North Sea, offers everything that the adventurous mountain biker could want. From the jagged peaks of the Black Cuillin mountain range to the massive expanse of the Cairngorms, this biking adventure packs in the most dramatic scenery that Scotland has to offer.

Highlights

Taking on the technical trails through Glen Sligachan on Skye
Sweet single-track through native Caledonian pine forests
Rewarding views of Loch Ness from the formidable Corrieairack Pass
Real Highland hospitality at every stage of your adventure

Example 8-Day Itinerary

Day 1. Arrive in Scotland. Whether arriving by bus, train or plane we can pick you up and take you to Portree on the Isle of Skye, and your comfortable accommodation for the night. We'll get the bikes ready for the journey ahead and have a pre-trip briefing.

Day 2. We'll transport you and your bikes to Talisker Bay on the remote west coast of Skye, famed for its rich, smoky whisky. Deserted country roads lead us through beautiful countryside to the head of Glen Sligachan where our first stretch of tricky singletrack winds its way south, surrounded by the stunning peaks of the Cuillin Ridge. We're heading for Broadford where a welcome comfy bed awaits.

Day 3. A short, restful ferry ride will give the legs a brief break as we cross from the Isle of Skye to the beautiful, remote Northwest Highlands. The wilderness biking continues as coastal roads then rocky trails take us into the heart of Scotland's west coast with fiord like beauty. From here the only way is up to leafy Glengarry.

Day 4. We start the day with an easy spin along the Caledonian canal to the southern end of Loch Ness – see if you can spot Nessy! But don't linger too long, we're bound for the infamous Corrieairack Pass, where we'll reach a height of over 750 metres on loose rocky trails. All that effort is rewarded with magnificent views over Loch Ness and a teeth rattling descent to Laggan village.

Day 5. If energy allows we can start the day on the magnificent Laggan Wolftrax. We then follow Glen Feshie and some brilliant natural singletrack to Aviemore, we'll be treated to stunning views of the Cairngorm Mountains to the east. Our base for the night is the alpine feeling Aviemore.

Day 6. Unique trails through native pine forests on the unique Rothiemurchus estate are followed by a remote moorland crossing and a mountain pass – prepare to get wet feet! We wind up in the highest highland village of Tomintoul.

Day 7. From the height of Tomintoul we descend into the depths of Glen Builg, over some great single-track then hard packed roads to the Highland home of the royals at Balmoral. We'll stop in bustling Ballater for the night.

Day 8. Cycle trails lead us through beautiful native woodland and along the banks of the sparkling River Dee. Leaving the river behind, we'll climb to a height of over 750 metres, affording impressive views of Mount Keen and surrounding peaks. A blistering descent leads to the pretty village of Edzell.

Day 9. Brilliant tree clad trails in Drumtochty forest lead us east, with the smell of the sea getting stronger, until we finally reach the North Sea coast at Stonehaven. You now have the chance to celebrate your awesome achievement or just collapse in a heap - well done, you made it!

Duration:

9 nights' accommodation
8 days' biking

Average Daily Distance:

60 km or 37 miles

Includes:

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

Available on request:

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

Grade:

Fitness Grading: 4/5

Technical Grading: **Red/Black**

For an easier Highland C2C have a look at our Fort William Coast to Coast

Price:

From £635 per person

Please contact us with your trip specifications for an accurate price.

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.



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Accommodation and food

We have researched the best bike friendly accommodation providers who we know give a good quality service. They provide everything you need after a long day in the saddle including secure bike storage, drying facilities, hot showers, and hearty food. On this trip the accommodation provides a fantastic chance to relax and reflect on the amazing wilderness you are travelling through. **Luxury** accommodation is in a hotel of your choice from one of the many top class hotels available throughout the trip. **B & B** accommodation in biker friendly B&B's or small Inns 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, weather and midges!

Scotland is generally mild in the summer months but can sometimes 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 Highlands 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 purpose built cycle paths to old drove roads, forestry trails and superb single-track. The surfaces are all generally hard packed or rocky trails. Some parts are technically challenging so some off-road 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 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

Dress for the weather in Scotland! You can check out the kit list on the website or contact us for more detailed advice if you are not sure what to bring. There can literally be 4 seasons in a day so come prepared for all conditions.