



Coast and Castles

Summary

Take between three and five days to explore the stunning coastline and historical remains along the east coast of the Scottish Borders and Northumberland. This fantastic cycle route, from Tynemouth to Edinburgh, takes in some of the country's most well-known historical sites, including Bamburgh Castle and Lindisfarne Priory, as well as skirting around National Nature Reserves and wildlife-rich mud flats.

Highlights

Endless coastal views across the North Sea
Exploring museums and defensive forts and castles dotted along the coast
Finishing the journey in the beautiful Scottish capital, Edinburgh

Example 4-day itinerary

Day 1. Arrive in Newcastle and meet with our support team for a pre-trip briefing. We'll equip you with a set of comprehensive maps, detailed directions and some top tips from our expert guides so that you're ready to hit the road first thing in the morning.

Day 2. Your journey begins at Tynemouth with a relaxing jaunt along the stunning waterfront, through vibrant seaside towns. With cliff top views at every stage of the journey, your first day of cycling is the perfect introduction to this brilliant trip. The pretty fishing village of Alnmouth is your home for the night.

Day 3. The cooling North Sea breeze will accompany you along the cliff tops north as you pass ancient castles and picturesque seaside villages and towns. You'll have plenty of time to explore the plethora of historical buildings, including Bamburgh Castle and Lindisfarne Priory and Castle en route to Berwick-upon-Tweed where you'll spend the night.

Day 4. Crossing the border into Scotland, the fantastic coastal views continue as the cycle route winds its way north. Historical priories, castles, forts and settlements litter the countryside and there will be ample opportunity to visit these fascinating sites as you cycle past. Your bed for the night can be found in the quiet fishing village of Dunbar, where grey seals can be seen relaxing on the tide.

Day 5. The cliff tops give way to golden sandy beaches as the cycle route hugs the coast heading north, then west as Edinburgh draws ever closer. Historical sites and wildlife reserves of national importance lie along your path. The magnificent castle in the heart of Scotland's beautiful capital city is your spectacular journey's end.
You now have the chance to celebrate in Scotland's vibrant capital!

Duration:

4 days' cycling
5 nights' accommodation

Please contact us if you'd like to make your Coast and Castles cycling adventure shorter or longer than 4 days.

Average Daily Distance:

60 km or 37 miles

Includes

- 5 nights' accommodation
- Baggage transfers
- 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: 2

Price:

From £340 per person

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

Dates:

Self-guided cycling trips are available all year round 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 fantastic coastal scenery 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 and weather

Northeast England and eastern Scotland is generally mild in the summer months but can sometimes be wet. The North Sea breeze can sometimes be brisk and cool so warm clothes may be required, even in summer months. Conditions can sometimes change quickly, so light waterproofs are advisable.

The terrain

This is a well-used National Cycle Network route, along quiet country roads, purpose built cycle paths and disused railways. The terrain is suitable for any type of bike, however a hybrid or touring bike is ideal for the terrain that you'll encounter.

Self guided trips

We'll do all of the organising for you and you'll be provided with comprehensive 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

There will always be a back-up vehicle full of tools and spares 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

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 you're 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 the northern half of the UK! 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.