

Cycling & Mountain Biking



around **ABERFELDY** and **LOCH TAY**

Sitting almost exactly at the centre of Scotland, Aberfeldy and Loch Tay is an area of superlatives: Perthshire's highest mountain; Scotland's longest river; Europe's oldest living thing. Cycling routes are impressive too and the heady mix of water, wood and mountain scenery epitomises the best Scotland has to offer. The area also specialises in adventure activities like canyoning, rafting and river bugging - should you want to give the bike a rest.



To Fortingall Village

Circular Road Route

Approximately 20 miles/32km

OS Landranger Map 52

Mostly on quiet, minor and secondary roads. Gentle gradients.

Start this route from Aberfeldy by taking the B846 to the village of Weem and then on to Keltneyburn. Follow the minor road west to the village of Fortingall. Shortly after leaving the village the road splits; take the left hand fork towards Fearnan. Join the A827 for the short stretch to Kenmore. Pick up National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 7 signs to leave Kenmore and eventually re-join the B846 back to Aberfeldy. Refreshments: Aberfeldy, Weem, Dull, Fortingall and Kenmore. **Highlights:** Lovely varied scenery, picturesque villages and many places to visit. Don't miss seeing the Black Watch Monument on the riverbank in Aberfeldy. Near Weem you'll find Castle Menzies, House of Menzies and The Highland Safari Lodge. Fortingall village has thatched cottages and the yew tree in the

churchyard is reputed to be at least 3000 years old. At Kenmore there is the Scottish Crannog Centre (recreation of an Iron Age loch dwelling) plus loch cruises, watersports and a beach by Loch Tay.



Cluny House Gardens and Strathtay

Linear Road Route - Approximately 6.5 miles/ 10km (one way only)

OS Landranger Map 52

Minor road/NCN Route 7. Mostly gentle gradients with one hill up to the gardens.

Set off from Aberfeldy on the B846, cross the River Tay by the Wade Bridge and head for the village of Weem. Turn right onto the small minor road/ NCN Route 7 for 2 miles/3km then follow the signs up the hill for Cluny House Gardens. Rejoin Route 7 to reach Strathtay and Grandtully. Return to Aberfeldy via the same route. Refreshments: Weem, Grandtully, Strathtay. **Highlights:** Cluny is a wild woodland garden crammed with Himalayan delights. Red squirrels play in the trees and you'll also see Britain's widest conifer. The mighty River Tay is a constant and reassuring presence on this route and, opposite the turn off for the gardens, there's a special 'Cyclist's Rest' close to the water.



Ben Lawers





Through Lonely Glen Lyon

Circular Road Route

Approximately 46 miles / 74km

OS Landranger Maps 51 & 52

Combination of minor, secondary and main roads. Mix of gradients.

Begin in Aberfeldy by taking the B846 through the village of Weem to reach Keltneyburn. Follow the minor road west to the village of Fortingall and continue on the right hand fork up into Glen Lyon. Meander slowly through this most beautiful of Scottish glens before turning left (south) at the tiny settlement of Bridge of Balgie. Cross the tarmac hill road (a steady climb) between Ben Lawers and the Tarmachan Ridge and join the A827 back to Kenmore. Pick up NCN Route 7 to leave Kenmore and re-join the B846 back to Aberfeldy. Refreshments: Fortingall, Bridge of Balgie, Lawers, Kenmore. **Highlights:** Fortingall village and yew tree (see 'To Fortingall Village' route), River Lyon, wonderfully scenic glen with high mountains and superb autumn colours. The Post Office Tearoom at Bridge of Balgie has delicious homebaking.

Accommodation



Perthshire has an excellent choice of accommodation to suit all tastes and budgets. Many establishments are members of the VisitScotland Cyclists Welcome Scheme and provide specific facilities such as cycle storage, drying areas, weather forecasts and packed lunches - all designed to make your stay more enjoyable.

Contact Aberfeldy Tourist Information Centre for details of participating local establishments

OR visit www.visitscotland.com/cycling

OR look out for the logo in our brochures.



Along the South Shore of Loch Tay

Linear Road Route - Approximately 16.5 miles / 26.5km (one way only)

OS Landranger Map 51 or Sustrans Map for Route 7

Minor road/NCN Route 7. Mix of hilly and level sections.

The attractive villages of Kenmore and Killin sit at opposite ends of this scenic route which follows the quiet southern shores of Perthshire's largest loch. The route is part of National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 7 and is well signposted. Start in either Kenmore or Killin where refreshments are available. Return by the same route. **Highlights:** See 'To Fortingall Village' entry for Kenmore attractions. Other features: Falls of Acharn, fantastic views of the loch and Ben Lawers mountain range, Falls of Dochart and Breadalbane Folklore Centre (both Killin).



When you are on the National Cycle Network (NCN) you will see these signs. The number on the signs relates to the route you have chosen to follow.





The Wood and The Trees at Griffin (near Aberfeldy)

Off Road Route

OS Landranger Map 52

Good forest tracks with some steep sections.

Griffin Forest extends south and east from Aberfeldy and offers several popular off road routes for families and mountain biking enthusiasts. The best starting point is the car park off the A826 approximately 4 miles/6.5km south of Aberfeldy at Grid Reference 886452. From here a path leads directly into the forest. There are information boards at this point as well as further south at Loch Creagh and Loch Kennard and routes are waymarked. For a more adventurous option, an off road route links Aberfeldy and Dunkeld - suitable for mountain bikes only. With a good choice of accommodation available in both towns this expedition can be enjoyed as a weekend break. Refreshments: Aberfeldy or Dunkeld.

Highlights: The route to Grandtully Hill has great views over Strathtay and

there are delightful lochs amidst the trees. Dunkeld attractions include the cathedral, Beatrix Potter Garden and the Birnam Oak. Dewar's World of Whisky, in Aberfeldy, is ideal for a relaxing dram and tour at the end of an energetic day in the forest.



Historic Drummond Hill (Kenmore)

Off Road Route

OS Landranger Map 52

Forest tracks across varied terrain: steep demanding routes and easier circular alternatives.

The wooded slopes of Drummond Hill dominate the surrounding landscape and provide superb opportunities for mountain biking and walking with fine views across Loch Tay, Strathtay, Kenmore and Glen Lyon. Two Forestry Commission car parks are located off the minor road that extends round the base of the hill and links Kenmore and the B846. Information boards in the car parks illustrate the different routes. A 'Guide to the Tay Forest Park' is available from Aberfeldy Tourist Information Centre. Refreshments: Kenmore. **Highlights:** This is the site of Scotland's first managed forest, planted in the 17th century. Lovely mix of broadleaf and conifer trees, Black Rock viewpoint, Caisteal MacTuathal (Iron Age hill fort), Scottish Crannog Centre at Kenmore.



Overlooking Kenmore

Cycle Hire and Other Services

(Advance booking advised. Delivery of bikes may be possible).



Abernethy Trust, Ardeonaig, Killin. Tel 01567 820523.
ORGANISED MOUNTAIN BIKING

Dunolly Adventure Outdoors, Taybridge Drive, Aberfeldy. Tel 01887 820298.
HIRE · ORGANISED MOUNTAIN BIKING

Freespirits, The Riverside, Grandtully, by Aberfeldy. Tel 01887 840400
HIRE · ORGANISED MOUNTAIN BIKING · ON ROAD AND OFF ROAD ROUTES

Perthshire Mountain Bikes, 31 Taymouth Drive, Kenmore. Tel 01887 830291
HIRE

PUBLICATIONS TO HELP YOU

Aberfeldy Tourist Information Centre stocks a wide range of local Ordnance Survey Maps to help you explore the area by bike.

Also available:

‘Cycling in Highland Perthshire’ - On and Off Road Routes for All. Excellent simple map showing routes around Aberfeldy and Highland Perthshire. £1.00

‘A Guide to Tay Forest Park’ - has information on cycle routes and walks at six woodland sites throughout Highland Perthshire. 50p

Mountain Bike Routes - Aberfeldy Area - 6 laminated route cards. £3.50

National Cycle Network Route 7 - ‘Lochs and Glens North - Inverness to Glasgow’. Detailed map and route information £5.99. See also www.sustrans.org.uk



USEFUL CONTACTS

Aberfeldy Tourist Information Centre, The Square, Aberfeldy PH15 2DD
T: 01887 820276 E: aberfeldytic@visitscotland.com

www.perthshire.co.uk for information on cycling, other activities & places to visit in Perthshire.

VisitScotland T: 0845 22 55 121 E: info@visitscotland.com W: www.visitscotland.com/cycling

Visit the website to request free brochures packed with information on cycle routes throughout Scotland, holiday operators, tips and maps.

Perth & Kinross Cycle Campaign (ByCycle) W: www.bycycle.org.uk

Sustrans/ National Cycle Network Information Line: 0117 929 0888 W: www.sustrans.org.uk

Travelling with your bike: First ScotRail T: 08457 484950 or www.firstscotrail.com



BE SAFE, BE AWARE

- Always exercise your access rights responsibly in accordance with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code www.outdooraccess-scotland.com
- Adhere to guidance signage and requests from land managers, countryside rangers and estate staff.
- Always give way to walkers and horse riders.
- Take special care cycling downhill.
- Wear a cycle helmet and be prepared for emergencies.



VisitScotland Perthshire is committed to ensuring that our natural environment, upon which our tourism is so dependent, is safeguarded for future generations to enjoy.