

Cycling & Mountain Biking

around **BLAIRGOWRIE** and **THE GLENS**

Blairgowrie is 'The Berry Capital of Scotland', famed for its delicious raspberries, strawberries and other mouth watering soft fruits. These are best enjoyed (with a good helping of fresh cream) after an energetic day of cycling or mountain biking in the glorious surrounding countryside. The area also boasts excellent golf courses and endless walking options in the Perthshire and Angus Glens.



Magical Glen Isla

Linear Road Route - Approximately 11 miles/ 18km (to Kirkton of Glenisla, one way only)

OS Landranger Maps 53 & 43

All on secondary roads. Gentle cycling with a few hills.

Alyth is a traditional Scottish farming town and the start point for this straightforward route into magical Glen Isla, the most westerly of the Angus Glens. Take the B952 and B954 northbound out of Alyth, through gentle farming country to the junction with the B951. Continue northwards on the B951 to the heart of the glen and the village of Kirkton of Glenisla where there is a hotel and a small shop. The quiet upper reaches of the glen, past Brewlands Bridge, are also served by the B951. For those with energy and time in hand there is the option to make a clockwise loop around the base of Mount Blair on the lovely unmarked minor road that passes secluded Drumore Loch and Cray, before rejoining the B951 and the route back to Alyth. (Cycling the 8 mile/13km circuit around Loch of Lintrathen, with its array of birdlife, is another rewarding

diversion off this route or an excursion in its own right, starting from Alyth.) **Highlights:** Visit Alyth Folk Museum and the Alyth Arches (on the site of 6th century St Molagg's Church). On the outskirts of the town both Reekie Linn Falls and Loch of Lintrathen Nature Reserve (ospreys in summer) are worth a detour. Picnic tables close to the River Isla at Kirkton of Glenisla.



To Glamis - The Fairytale Castle

Linear Road Route - Approximately 13 miles/21km (one way only)

OS Landranger Map 53 & 54

Short section on main road then minor roads. Easy cycling on mainly level roads.

Begin in Coupar Angus with a short climb south, on the A923 (care required on main road). Reach the crossroads after approximately 2 miles/3km and turn left onto the minor road east, signposted for Newtyle and Glamis. Continue on this quiet road through the lush farmland of Strathmore to the

conservation village of Glamis with its striking castle. Return by the same route. **Highlights:** An easy ride through Strathmore with good views of the Sidlaw Hills. Glamis Castle is the beautiful childhood home of the late Queen Mother and has guided tours of magnificent rooms, exhibitions, Italian Garden and extensive grounds, restaurant and shop. Also in the village of Glamis is the National Trust for Scotland Angus Folk Museum - for an insight into the lives of less royal residents in the village.



Glamis Castle





Gentle Cycling from Blairgowrie Town Centre

OS Landranger Map 53

A network of quiet country roads criss-crosses the peaceful farming country to the south west of Blairgowrie making this ideal territory for family cycling. To access the area from the Wellmeadow in Blairgowrie head out of town via Allan Street, High Street, Perth Street and eventually Perth Road (A93). Reach the junction with the B947 approximately 1 mile/1.5km from the town centre. From here, secondary and minor roads extend westwards offering many possibilities for enjoyable short runs. Cycle to Loch of Clunie or to Loch of the Lowes Nature Reserve near Dunkeld.

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 Blairgowrie Tourist Information Centre for details of participating local establishments

OR visit www.visitscotland.com/cycling

OR look out for the logo in our brochures.



Dunkeld, Pitlochry and Moulin Moor Circuit

Circular Road Route - Approximately
50 miles/81km

OS Landranger Map 53 & 43

Combination of main roads and
National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 77.
Mix of gradients.

Set off from the country town of Blairgowrie on the scenic A923 towards Dunkeld, known as the Five Lochs Road. (see OS map for alternative route to Dunkeld using minor roads). Join NCN Route 77 at Dunkeld and follow the signs northwards to Pitlochry (NB: Route 77 merges with Route 7 at Logierait, approximately 5 miles/8km south of Pitlochry). Leave Pitlochry on the A924, through the charming village of Moulin and then climb steadily to cross Moulin Moor before dropping down into fertile Strathardle. At Bridge of Cally join the A93 back to Blairgowrie. Refreshments: Dunkeld, Pitlochry, Kirkmichael, Bridge of Cally. **Highlights:** A classic circuit through splendid scenery, with a huge choice of accommodation and places to visit along the way. At Dunkeld: Loch of the Lowes Nature Reserve, (see the ospreys in summer), historic cathedral on the banks of the River Tay, Beatrix Potter Exhibition and Sculpture Garden, waymarked walks and heritage trees. At Pitlochry: Festival Theatre, salmon ladder, two malt whisky distilleries and many walks. Strathardle: Dirnanean Garden and The SEER Centre.



Blackraig Forest (Bridge of Cally)

Off Road Routes on forest tracks

OS Landranger Map 53

The best starting point for those with mountain bikes is a small track which runs immediately behind the Bridge of Cally Hotel. (Parking is available in the hotel car park nearby). Conifer plantations extend northwards along Strathardle and there are over 8 miles/14km of tracks to explore (only some of which are waymarked). Cyclists can also follow the Cateran Trail signposts from Bridge of Cally to Blackraig Castle before retracing their route or crossing the river and returning on the A924. Refreshments: Bridge of Cally Hotel serves food or snacks all day. **Highlights:** Views of the River Ardlie and distant hills from forest clearings. Buzzards, red squirrels and roe deer for company (sometimes).



Into the Mountain Country (Upper Glen Isla)

Linear Off Road Route
Approximately 7 miles/ 11km (one way only)
OS Landranger Map 43

Begin past Brewlands Bridge where a minor tarmac road joins the B951 (near Meikle Forter and Little Forter). The way ahead is straightforward and follows the western banks of the River Isla for the duration of the route, firstly on tarmac (for 3.5 miles/5.5km) and then on a rough track to the head of the glen. Return by same route. Refreshments: picnic. **Highlights:** A memorable route through beautiful upland scenery.



Glen Lochsie and Glen Taitneach (Upper Glenshee)

Linear Off Road Routes - Each approximately 6 miles/9.5km (one way only)
OS Landranger Map 43

Two excellent routes start from the picturesque village of Spittal of Glenshee, both running along deep cut glens with towering hills on either side. Tracks run close to mountain burns in both Glen Lochsie and Glen Taitneach, with many tempting pools and idyllic picnic spots. Both routes are clearly shown on the appropriate OS map. Refreshments: Spittal of Glenshee.

Highlights: An escape into the mountains!



Glenshee

Cycle Hire and Other Services

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



Crighton's Cycles, 87 Perth Street, Blairgowrie. Tel 01250 874447.
HIRE · SPARES · REPAIRS · SALES · ORGANISED HOILDAYS

Nether Craig Caravan Park, by Alyth. Tel 01575 560204
HIRE

On Y'R Bike at Cairdsport, Spittal of Glenshee, Glenshee. Tel 01250 885216
HIRE

PUBLICATIONS TO HELP YOU

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

Also available:

National Cycle Network Route 77 - 'The Salmon Run - Dundee to Pitlochry'. Detailed map and route information £3.99 See also www.sustrans.org.uk



USEFUL CONTACTS

Blairgowrie Tourist Information Centre, 26 Wellmeadow, Blairgowrie, PH10 6AS

T: 01250 872960 E: blairgowriet@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.

Photography: VisitScotland / Scottish Viewpoint, Perth and Kinross Council

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