

Cycling & Mountain Biking



around **CRIEFF** and **STRATHEARN**

An area of great scenic contrast where the rolling lowland landscapes of the south meet lochs and rugged hills characteristic of highland terrain. You'll find a tremendous variety of fine cycling options, with fascinating places to visit en-route. For 'rest days' there are miles of waymarked walks and many excellent visitor attractions.



West to Comrie

Linear Road Route

Approximately 6 miles/10km (one way only)

OS Landranger Map 52

Level minor road with a few gentle hills.

The start point for this route is the lively town of Crieff, capital of Strathearn. Leave the town on the A822 southbound, cross the River Earn and take the minor road (signposted Strowan Road) passing Braidhaugh Caravan Park on the immediate right. Follow the road to reach the village of Comrie. Return by the same route. Refreshments: Crieff and Comrie. **Highlights:** Relaxed cycling through unspoilt countryside with fantastic open views to northern hills. Both the Crieff Visitors Centre (Highland Drovers Exhibition, pottery and restaurant) and Stuart and Waterford Crystal Factory Shop are close

to the start of the route in Crieff. Comrie has several good waymarked walks and riverside picnic spots. Drummond Trout Farm and Auchingarrich Wildlife Centre are located on the outskirts of Comrie village.



A Steady Climb through Glen Artney

Linear Road Route

Approximately 7 miles/11km (one way only)

OS Landranger Map 57

Secondary and minor roads. A steady climb up the glen with some steeper sections.

This is a very straightforward route to a remote glen close to the village of Comrie. From the main street in Comrie take the B827 south to reach the junction with the minor road (second turning on the right after leaving the village). The road runs up the glen, high above the Water of Ruchill, ending at tiny Glen Artney Church and the nearby car park. Return by the same route. Refreshments: Comrie. **Highlights:** Dramatic views in a peaceful and little explored corner of Strathearn. Glen Artney was once an ancient Royal Deer Forest and was immortalised by Sir Walter Scott in the poem 'The Lady of the Lake'.



Near the Sma'Glen





Glen Almond Circuit

Circular Road Route

Approximately 10 miles/16km

OS Landranger Map 52

Secondary and minor roads. Mainly flat with a few hills.

Buchanty Spout is a spectacular waterfall and natural salmon leap on the River Almond in Glen Almond, a few miles north of Crieff. Start at the small car park on the B8063 (Grid Reference 933283) near to the waterfall and an old stone bridge. The circuit is equally enjoyable from whatever direction it is tackled but an anticlockwise approach - starting on the minor road near the car park and later re-joining the B8063 - avoids an early hill climb. Refreshments: your own picnic. **Highlights:** Excellent family cycling on quiet roads through a lovely green and peaceful glen. Buchanty Spout is worth a visit at any time of year and in the late autumn muscular wild salmon can often be seen fighting their way up through the gushing torrents.

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 Crieff Tourist Information Centre for details of participating local establishments

OR visit www.visitscotland.com/cycling

OR look out for the logo in our brochures.



Innerpeffray Library and Chapel

Linear Road Route - Approximately 4 miles/ 6.5km (one way only)

OS Landranger Map 58

Gentle cycling on level secondary roads.

Strathearn, the broad valley of the River Earn, stretches out in a green swathe to the south and east of Crieff. The best way to access 'The Strath' by bike is to set out on the B8062 - located to the south of Crieff town centre and signposted for Innerpeffray Library and Auchterarder. Follow the route to reach the signposted turn off for the Library and the small access road. Return to Crieff by the same route or enjoy a detour by exploring one of the many minor rural roads in this lovely area. Refreshments: Crieff. **Highlights:** Innerpeffray Library dates back to 1680 and is the oldest existing public library in Scotland. The adjacent Innerpeffray Chapel is even older (1508) and has fragments of medieval paintings on the walls and ceiling. Both are extra-ordinary places to visit (closed Thursdays) in a wonderful setting.



Sma'Glen to Loch Tayside

Linear Off Road Route - Approximately 17 miles/27km (one way only)

OS Landranger Map 52

Good tracks with short trackless section. Fairly level with a down hill stretch to Loch Tay.

Begin at Newton Bridge car park (on the A822) in the Sma' Glen, north of Crieff. The right of way to Ardtalnaig and Loch Tay is clearly signposted (over the bridge, on the left) and the track runs close to the River Almond for most of its length, with heather covered hills rising steeply on either side. Pass the old shooting lodge and settlement at Auchnafree before reaching the head of the glen and roughest section of the route (extends over 1.25 miles/2km). Descend to Loch Tay - once again on a good standard of track. Return by the same route or stay overnight in Kenmore and return the next day via Glen Quaich and Amulree. Refreshments: only in Kenmore, picnic essential. **Highlights:** A superb route for mountain bikes through glorious upland terrain. Keep your eyes peeled for wildlife such as buzzard and golden eagle and, on the water, dippers and heron. In autumn, red deer stags can often be heard roaring in the rut.

A few other Great Routes in the west



Loch Earn Shores

A quiet, and at times hilly, minor road runs along the southern shore of Loch Earn and makes for a lovely half day tour amidst rugged hill scenery, with lots of opportunities for stops on shingle beaches lapped by the cold, clear waters of the loch. Begin in the village of St Fillans where parking and hotels are available. Then cycle east, away from the loch, for a short distance to connect with the minor south shore road. (NB: At the time of writing (July 2005) the road is closed at Edinample (7 miles/11km from St Fillans) and cyclists must return by the same route. Expected re-opening is in 2006)
OS Landranger Map 51



Callander to Killin

National Cycle Network Route 7 (Lochs and Glens (North)) runs from Glasgow to Inverness. For an enjoyable day outing, try this section which follows the shores of Loch Lubnaig, near Callander, up through spectacular Glen Ogle to Killin. Mostly off road on good tracks. (Cycle hire at Callander: Wheels T 01877 331100)
OS Landranger Maps 57 & 51 or Sustrans Map for Route 7
www.sustrans.org.uk



The River Earn at Comrie



In Crieff Town Centre



Loch Katrine

Situated at the heart of the Trossachs, Loch Katrine is within easy day trip distance of the Crieff area. The loch has a tarmac road around much of its shoreline which is perfect for family cycling. Hilly terrain on a virtually traffic free Scottish Water road, very picturesque. It is possible to combine this route with a return journey on the paddle steamer SS Sir Walter Scott. (Further information and local cycle hire: Katrinewheels T 01877 376316)
OS Landranger Maps 57 & 56

Cycle Hire and Other Services

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



Crieff Cycle Centre, 14 Gallowhill, Crieff. Tel 01764 652599.

HIRE · SPARES · REPAIRS · SALES (including Electric Bikes)

Comrie Croft, Comrie Road, by Crieff. Tel 01764 670140

HIRE · SPARES · REPAIRS · SALES

PUBLICATIONS TO HELP YOU

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

Cycling in Perthshire – No Ordinary Journey

2000 square miles of beautiful unspoilt countryside, fresh clean air & an extensive network of quiet roads, lanes and tracks.



USEFUL CONTACTS

Crieff Tourist Information Centre, Town Hall, High Street, Crieff, PH7 3HU,
T: 01764 652578 E: criefftic@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.