

Cycling & Mountain Biking



around **PITLOCHRY** and **HIGHLAND PERTSHIRE**

The magnificent scenery of Highland Perthshire has been popular with visitors since Victorian times. It is a wonderful area to explore by bicycle with excellent quiet roads, off road trails and interesting places to visit. Pitlochry has many attractions including Pitlochry Festival Theatre, famed for its programmes of comedy and drama.



By The River Garry to Blair Castle

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

OS Landranger Maps 52 & 43

**Gentle cycling on secondary roads,
with the option of an alternative route.**

Set off from the centre of Pitlochry and cycle north on the B8019 to reach the Garry Bridge. The route continues straight ahead on the B8079 but it is worth pausing a moment on the bridge itself to admire the view along the dramatic Pass of Killiecrankie. Continue northwards (on the B8079) to reach the villages of Killiecrankie and Blair Atholl. Blair Castle is well signposted and access is via an impressive mile long driveway from the centre of Blair Atholl. Return to Pitlochry by the same route. (For a steeper route, turn left across the Garry Bridge and then first right onto a small minor road. Continue to the Shierglas Quarry Road and then turn right to cross the river again before joining the B8079 to Blair Atholl). Refreshments: Killiecrankie and Blair Atholl. **Highlights:** An attractive

cycle run combined with two historic attractions. The National Trust for Scotland Visitor Centre at Killiecrankie tells the story of the famous Jacobite battle fought here in 1689 and the natural history of the gorge. At Blair Castle you can explore over 30 rooms of fascinating treasures, gardens and waymarked footpaths.



By Tay and Tummel

Circular Road Route

Approximately 37 miles/60km

OS Landranger Map 52

**A good combination of level sections
and demanding climbs on secondary
and minor roads.**

Start this route from Pitlochry Festival Theatre and follow National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 7 south to Logierait. Keep following the Route 7 signs and join the B898 for a short stretch alongside the River Tay. The route then crosses the river and follows a lovely minor road (part of Route 7) which meanders through the Tay Valley. Continue straight ahead through Strathtay, Weem and the small community of Dull before climbing steeply for approximately 5 miles/8 km on the B846 across to Strathtummel. The road then descends rapidly to Loch Tummel providing a breather for the lungs and a chance to take in the open views ahead. Leave the B846 and take the minor road signposted for Foss. This takes you along the picturesque south shore of Loch Tummel and then on to Loch Faskally. Just before reaching Pitlochry the road goes under the busy A9 and then follows a tarmac track for a short section before arriving back at the theatre - in time for dinner and an evening performance. Refreshments: Logierait, Grandtully and Weem. **Highlights:** A beautiful tour through the

rough scenery of Highland Perthshire. The woodland gardens at Cluny House, located near the village of Strathtay, have many rare Himalayan species. Just west of Weem, look out for Castle Menzies, a 16th century edifice which once sheltered Bonnie Prince Charlie, and the House of Menzies, a high quality retail outlet with home baking and a coffee shop.





Loch Rannoch - on the Road to The Isles

Circular Road Route

Approximately 22 miles/35km

OS Landranger Map 51

A gentle cycle on secondary and minor roads.

In the far west of Perthshire, 20 miles from Pitlochry, lies Rannoch - a wild area with a true sense of remoteness. The circular cycle of Loch Rannoch is a delight, with quiet roads, virtually no hills and spectacular views. Begin in the village of Kinloch Rannoch and take a clockwise direction along the minor south shore road to reach the small village of Bridge of Gaur. Join the B846 to complete the loch circuit and return to Kinloch Rannoch. Refreshments: Kinloch Rannoch. (The hilly westward detour to Rannoch Station and the Rannoch Moor Visitor Centre, is worthwhile) **Highlights:** Look out for Clan Trail information boards around the loch shore, these depict the colourful history of local families. The Black Wood of Rannoch, on the south

shore, is a remnant of the ancient Caledonian Forest and, on the north shore, there are fantastic sandy beaches with vistas across the water to the shapely peak of Schiehallion.

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 Pitlochry Tourist Information Centre for details of participating local establishments

OR visit www.visitscotland.com/cycling

OR look out for the logo in our brochures.



Allean Forest

(by Loch Tummel)

Off Road Routes on forest tracks

OS Landranger Map 43

Allean Forest is part of the Tay Forest Park and is located just west of the Queen's View Visitor Centre (off the B8019). Cyclists can enjoy wonderful views of Loch Tummel, Glen Errochty and surrounding mountains from waymarked trails through the working forest. A car park at the entrance to the forest is the best starting point. OS Landranger Map 43 recommended. A 'Guide to the Tay Forest Park' is available from the Visitor Centre or Pitlochry Tourist Information Centre. Refreshments: Queen's View Visitor Centre. (NB: this is a working forest and diversions, to ensure user's safety,

may be in place) **Highlights:** Make time to see the Queen's View before starting off - the sweeping panorama across Loch Tummel can be enjoyed from a viewpoint near the Visitor Centre. The forest has two interesting archaeological sites both of which are near to the trails; a partly restored 18th century farmstead and the remains of an 8th century 'ring fort'.



Loch Rannoch and Schiehallion

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





Atholl Estates

(Blair Atholl)

Off Road Routes covering a total distance of nearly 40 miles/ 64km using tracks on Atholl Estates.

OS Landranger Map 43

Atholl Estates is a large highland estate, with daily activities concentrating on farming, forestry and fieldsports. These practices have created a rich landscape and a network of excellent tracks extends throughout the uplands and glens around Blair Atholl, perfect for exploration by mountain bike. Tracks are not waymarked (OS Map essential) but all link together to enable cyclists to plan their own routes. Follow the course of the River Tilt to Marble Lodge and Falls of Tarf or ride up Glen Banvie to the deserted settlement of Chapel Town. A leaflet/map detailing the cycling routes on Atholl Estates is available from the Estate Information Centre in Blair Atholl (www.athollestatesrangersonline.co.uk) or from Pitlochry

Tourist Information Centre. Cyclists are asked to respect other path users and remember that the estate is a place of work, as well as a popular location for recreation. **Highlights:** The tracks take you through woodlands, alongside rivers, past waterfalls and onto open moorland, with many fine views to spectacular mountains en route.



National Cycle Network (NCN)



Pitlochry is a focal point on both Route 77 (Dundee to Pitlochry) and Route 7 (Inverness to Glasgow). This opens up all sorts of appealing possibilities for day trips or longer more adventurous cycle touring expeditions. Further details and comprehensive Sustrans Maps are available from Pitlochry Tourist Information Centre or go to www.sustrans.org.uk



Near Kinloch Rannoch



Blair Castle (Blair Atholl)

Cycle Hire and Other Services

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



Escape Route, 3 Atholl Road, Pitlochry. Tel 01796 473859.

HIRE · SPARES · REPAIRS · SALES

Basecamp Bikes, The Firs, St Andrews Crescent, Blair Atholl. Tel 01796 481256.

HIRE

PUBLICATIONS TO HELP YOU

Pitlochry 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 Pitlochry, Blair Atholl and Highland Perthshire. £1.00

‘Discover Atholl Estates - Cycle Routes from Blair Atholl’ - simple map showing over 40 miles/64km of routes. 50p

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

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

National Cycle Network Route 77 - ‘The Salmon Run - Dundee to Pitlochry’. Detailed map and route information. £3.99

See also www.sustrans.org.uk

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



USEFUL CONTACTS

Pitlochry Tourist Information Centre, 22 Atholl Road, Pitlochry, PH16 5BX
T: 01796 472215/472751 E: pitlochrytic@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

July 2005