

England- Cycling Coast to Coast (2025)

7 Days / 6 Nights

Individual Self-Guided



The 'C2C' stretches from the harbour at Whitehaven on the Irish Sea to the Abbey and castle at Tynemouth on the shores of the North Sea. The ride is 142 miles long. It is a great way to see northern England and how the landscape changes sometimes abruptly, and then more gently as you cycle along. There is so much to see, the Cumbrian lakes and fells, the bleak Pennines, beautiful Dales, towns and villages of all sizes. Along the way you should find plenty of time to visit tea shops, pubs and interesting historical and industrial sites. There are some quite big hills as well, but nothing that could be classed as Alpine. The weather of course can do anything, but you will generally be pedaling with the wind at your back.



Highlights

Ride across England from Irish to the North Sea, crossing the Lake District and Pennines • Biking through the hills and dales • Attractive hamlets and villages • Industrial heritage, lead mines and the River Tyne • A satisfying challenge ride

Day by Day

Day 1 Arrival in Whitehaven

Make your own way to Whitehaven. This is a pleasant blustery Georgian seaside town, with an attractive harbour and remains of pit wheels and shafts from its mining past. There is an interesting harbourside museum and you can visit the church where George Washington's grandmother is buried.

Day 2 Whitehaven to Keswick

Having dipped your wheel in the sea, the ride rolls out gently for the first few miles along the former Ennerdale Railway Line. Leaving this, you approach the Lake District with views over Ennerdale Water and then you pedal around Loweswater. The big hill of the day is up over Whinlatter Pass (318m), shortly after the top there are views over Keswick and to the peak of Skiddaw. It is then a fast and undulating descent and ride into one of the most popular towns in Cumbria: Keswick. Literally, an old cheese town, with a market charter going back to the 1200s. From those days the town grew wealthy from local mining, from the popularity of Lakeland poets and writers and finally from the coming of the railways and the growth of popular tourism in the Lakes. There are plentiful shops, pubs and restaurants. Keswick is a town that nestles beneath giant Skiddaw by the shores of Derwentwater.





Day 3 Keswick to Penrith

The hardest but perhaps most picturesque day. A steep climb out of Keswick takes you to the famous ancient stone circle, which bestrides a hillside reflecting the contours of the mountains around it. Descending to cross the River Greta, you wheel through pretty Threlkeld Village before a quiet road takes you on a loop round the hamlet of Mungrisdale, which at intervals offers beautiful views of the northern Lake District. Next is a long traverse of the Vale of Eden starting with a visit to the 'Green Village' of Greystoke and then on to historic Penrith.

Day 4 Penrith to Alston

Today is punctuated by a number of steep climbs culminating in the longest ascent of the trip up to Hartside Summit 1903 ft / 580 metres, which is also the watershed between the Irish and North Seas. Here you enter the Pennines, great viewpoint from the summit over the Vale of Eden and there is a convenient cafe stop, before a fast ride down into the traditional market town of Alston.

Day 5 Alston to Edmundbyers

Leave Alston and begin your ascent into the region of old lead mines, passing through the village of Nenthead. A steep climb out of the village takes you to Black Hill, the highest point on the Coast to Coast (C2C) route, where you transition from Cumbria into Northumberland. Descend into the valley of the River East Allen, passing through the village of Allenheads. Here, you'll find a heritage centre and a coffee shop, as well as fascinating Victorian pumps, including the Armstrong steam pump, which was historically used to drain water from the lead mines. From Allenheads, the route climbs steadily to the summit at Currick, where you enter County Durham, accompanied by the calls of curlews. This is followed by a long descent into the Rookhope Valley, where scars (or "hushes") from centuries of lead mining are still visible. A short climb out of the valley leads you toward Blanchland, offering stunning views across open moorland before a picturesque descent to Derwent Reservoir. The day's ride ends at Edmundbyers, where you will stay at the Derwent Arms..

Day 6 Edmundbyers to Tynemouth

Beginning the day with a short climb out of Edmundbyers to join the Waskerley Way, a reclaimed railway path. The route takes you across the impressive Hownsgill Viaduct, bypassing Consett, and onto another former railway cycle path along the Derwent Valley. Enjoy beautiful views of the Durham countryside as you ride. The route eventually crosses the River Tyne and enters Newcastle, passing beneath its iconic bridges, including the famous Tyne Bridge, constructed by the same company that built the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The Tyne widens as you approach Gateshead, where the Millennium Bridge and a dedicated cycle café make for an excellent stop. Leaving Newcastle's suburbs, the route passes Wallsend, the official eastern terminus (or starting point) of Hadrian's Wall. The final stretch leads through docklands and new marinas to the bay near Tynemouth. Here, you can ceremonially dip your wheel in the sea. The ride concludes at Tynemouth Castle and Priory, perched high above the water. Celebrate your achievement at the nearby pub, a fitting end to the famous Coast to Coast route.



Day 7 – Depart After Breakfast Arrangements end after breakfast



Getting there and away

Whitehaven has a train station with regular services on either the Carlisle – Barrow line (everyday) or the Manchester Airport - Lancaster - Barrow line (not Sundays). Or from London Euston daily trains, usually with a change trains at Lancaster or Carlisle. The station is in the town centre. Newcastle railway station (get there from Tynemouth by metro) is well connected with major train stations across the country, such as York, Carlisle and Edinburgh.

Please note that bicycles have to be reserved on train services. Please do so when booking your train ticket. For Train Information and Tickets – www.nationalrail.co.uk / https://redspottedhanky.com/ You are advised to book tickets and reserve a seat (and your bike) in advance. Tickets are usually more expensive if bought on the day of travel.



Route



231 km We will provide a digital mobile app through GUIBO with every booking. This will include a personalised itinerary, GPX files, and detailed route information. You will also receive a personalised link to download your customised PDF roadbook and trip information.

Accommodation There is a variety of accommodation along the route ranging from bed and breakfasts, lodges, pubs and small hotels. They are run by cycling-friendly hosts offering en-suite or private facility rooms with a tasty breakfast to get you ready for the day ahead. Further facilities such as washing and drying facilities, packed lunches and packed lunches are available in some accommodations, you will be advised on your listing of what is available.

Meals The overnight accommodations are on a bed & breakfast basis, you will have a selection of cold and hot options each morning to choose from. Most accommodation can provide packed lunch that can be booked and paid for on arrival at your accommodation. They offer a good selection of sandwiches, snacks and drink for you to then take with you for that day's walk. On a few sections you will also pass a café and/or shop but on many days you will not pass anything between the start and finish. For evening meals you will have a variety of lovely pubs and restaurants to choose from or your accommodation will provide a tasty meal.

Travel dates: April to Early October

Season 1 April & October

Season 2 July & August

Season 3 May, June, September



Prices

Price per person in British pounds - all prices subject to confirmation on booking

	Season 1	Season 2	Season 3
Double Occupancy	£ 920	£ 920	£920
Single Occupancy	£ 1300	£ 1300	£ 1300
Solos Traveler	£ 1600	£ 1600	£ 1600
Bike Rental			
Delivery and pick-up	£ 265		
fee- per group- up to 4			
Mountain bike	On request		
E-bike	On request		

Included

- 6 nights' accommodation with breakfasts
- Luggage transport (1 piece per person) not exceeding 20kg
- Digital detailed route notes and maps
- Access to the trip on <u>GUIBO navigation app</u>
- 24-hour telephone assistance

Not included

- Dinner, lunch and drinks
- Bike hire (please contact us for rental information)
- Travel to the start and from the end point of the trip
- Admission fees
- Personal expenses such as laundry and phone calls
- Unscheduled transfers required during the trip

This is a Partner Tour