



England- Cycling Hadrian's Wall (2025)

8 Days/ 7 Nights

Individual Self-Guided



Prepare for great coastal and country scenery as you cross England by bike. This route follows close to the line of the Roman frontier during the reign of Emperor Hadrian (117-138 AD) and traces the Roman involvement in the region from the remains of the baths at Ravenglass on the Cumbrian coast to Tynemouth on the North Sea. On the way, the route passes along the Solway Firth where the ride crosses the end of Hadrian's Wall at Bowness on Solway, before turning easterly into the Eden Valley, where the route gets a lot hillier, until the River Tyne. From Carlisle you will be able to visit Roman forts and museums, quaint villages and attractive market towns, all set in a linear World Heritage Site. The cycling also takes in historic towns such as Carlisle, Hexham and Haltwhistle. During the medieval period some of these towns benefited from dressed stone pulled from the wall. The Hadrian's Cycleway, 274 km, is an easier but longer alternative to the traditional C2C (Cyclist's Coast to Coast, which we also offer). It crosses England following this generally well signed and waymarked series of minor roads and

OK Cycle & Adventure Tours Inc. - 666 Kirkwood Ave - Suite B102 – Ottawa, Ontario Canada K1Z 5X9

www.okcycletours.com Toll Free 1-888-621-6818 Local 613-702-5350

TICO Ontario Registration No: 50022848



former railway lines. There are sections on gravel, but most of the route is on tarmac. The scenery is dramatic and beautiful.

Highlights

Experience the scenic variety of northern England • Ride through the green pastoral scenes of the Eden Valley • Cycling right across England on generally quiet roads • Cycle the Solway Coast, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty • The Roman ruins of Hadrian's Wall, archaeological sites & museums

Day by Day

Day 1 Arrival in Whitehaven

Make your own way to Whitehaven, an attractive quiet coastal town with a redeveloped harbour. This used to be a Roman port and became one of the busiest in England with trade links to America from the 1600s, coal and iron production, as well as dubious links with the slave trade. Whitehaven is also the only place in England to be invaded by the young USA in 1778, and parts of the town were set on fire. All this is explained in the modern quayside museum. You can have a relaxing stroll along the sea side from the museum to visit old mining sites with memorials to what was once a busy industrial area.

Day 2 Ravenglass to Whitehaven

If you are also hiring bikes you will be collected by your hire bike provider and transported along the coast to Ravenglass to start your journey. If you are not hiring bikes or wish to start later in the day due to weather there is the option to catch the train to Ravenglass (not included in the package price). Ravenglass is an interesting little coastal village and you may wish to lock the bikes and allow approx 2 hours to take the heritage Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway for a steam excursion into the Lake District. Hadrian's Cycleway begins at the Glannaventa Roman Bath House, about 500m from the village. The route passes Ravenglass station and crosses the estuary on the railway bridge. From here you will travel on mainly quiet roads and off-road paths through the villages of Holmrook, Drigg and Seascale, then past Sellafield Nuclear Plant before turning away from the coast towards the small town of Egremont. Further on you join the Sea to Sea (C2C) Route 71 which takes you into Whitehaven.

Day 3 Whitehaven to Silloth

Heading north passing through Workington, an ancient market town. Now you are on to another old Roman town: Maryport which has an interesting aquarium and just to the north is the Senhouse Roman Museum dramatically sited on cliffs overlooking the Solway Firth, set next to a Roman fort. Climb the observation tower for a fabulous view of the site. Continue along to Silloth: a classic, unspoilt English seaside town on the Solway coast. It has an extensive town green in its centre, and its long promenade provides a lovely walk taking in the the majestic Solway Firth and views across the water to Scotland.

OK Cycle & Adventure Tours Inc. - 666 Kirkwood Ave - Suite B102 – Ottawa, Ontario Canada K1Z 5X9

www.okcycletours.com Toll Free 1-888-621-6818 Local 613-702-5350

TICO Ontario Registration No: 50022848

Day 4 Silloth to Carlisle

Rolling out from Silloth your attention turns to the East as you turn and head around the splendid Solway Firth, which is all that separates you from Scotland. On the Cumbrian side, much of the coastline is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; the muds and sands, make this a major coastal bird area. The minor roads head around the marshes before winding west then back east via the village of Bowness on Solway. This is at the western end of Hadrian's Wall and is marked by a pavilion on the small coastal cliff. The Wall originally was made of mud in this area and not much survives, however the village is situated on the site of the Roman fort called Maia, which was the second largest on Hadrian's Wall. You then cycle through Port Carlisle, which sounds big but is only a tiny place, built in 1819 to service a canal link to take goods to Carlisle Basin. The canal was closed in 1853 and Port Carlisle silted up. Then you briefly meet the River Eden before pedaling into Carlisle. This is a border city that has changed nationality a few times through its turbulent history.



Day 5 Carlisle to Haltwhistle

After Carlisle, ascend out of the Eden Valley and head into the Pennines. Mostly you will be riding gentle hills although there are a couple of steep ones. On the way you could have a break in Bampton, or you can visit the café at Lanercost, a useful stop before the route climbs up for the first views of Hadrian's Wall. You then cycle alongside the wall for the next three miles or so, with views over the Irthing Valley to the south. Cycling past Banks with various remains of wall turrets and signalling stations, you arrive at the large site of the Roman fort at Birdoswald. The route then descends to cross the River Irthing near Gilsand and on through Greenhead with the option to visit the ruins of Thirlwell Castle on the way. From here a traffic-free path runs beside the railway line, after which comes the steepest hill on the whole



route up to Greenhead Bank with its Roman Army Museum. You then descend into bustling Haltwhistle, the town is claimed to be the most central to the British isles.

Day 6 Haltwhistle to Hexham

Today is a shorter ride, not only because it is hilly but so that you can take in the museum sites along the way. Soon after Haltwhistle, there is a steep ascent from Bardon Mill back towards Hadrian's Wall and you will be able to take a short diversion to the pub and the Northumberland National Park visitor centre at Once/Twice Brewed. Otherwise it is on to the museum remains at Vindolanda - the most impressive site along Hadrian's Wall. This remote outpost of the Roman Empire has been extensively excavated and many relics are housed in the museum. The road is roughly surfaced past Vindolanda, and after 1/2 a mile of climbing, you reach the highest point of Hadrian's Cycleway. Now you have 6 exhilarating miles of descending on a largely straight road taking you to the banks of the River Tyne. The route will now follow the river closely all the way to the North Sea, but first you arrive at the busy market town called Hexham. Probably the most picturesque town on the trip, it has abbey ruins with a Saxon crypt which dominate the town centre.

Day 7 Hexham to Tynemouth via South Shields (official end of Hadrian's Cycleway)

Leaving Hexham having crossed the River Tyne, it's not far to Corbridge, a smaller, attractive town, uniform in its stone buildings and slate roofs. Continuing on from Prudhoe to Tynemouth the route is almost entirely traffic-free, following the north bank of the River Tyne. The cycle route glides serenely into town, sometimes green, sometimes built-up, but always interesting. The route briefly crosses the Tyne on a rickety road bridge, to join the Wylam Waggonway – a tramroad dating from the 1740s. You soon arrive at Newcastle's riverside, with seven bridges in the space of a mile. The newest, the Gateshead Millennium Bridge, is reserved for cyclists and walkers. Staying on the north bank you now climb above the river onto a railway path. There are dramatic views back down to the river and the site of the old Swan Hunter shipyard, and you ride around the rather built up riverside district passing the last Roman fort museum at Segedunum. Cross the river on the ferry and cycle the last mile to Arbeia South Shields Roman Fort, the official end of the Hadrian's Cycleway. From here you retrace your cycle back to the ferry where upon crossing, turn right and make your way into Tynemouth. You can celebrate your achievement in local style with fish 'n' chips and a pint.

Day 8 – Depart After Breakfast

Arrangements end after breakfast

Accommodation There is a variety of accommodation along the route ranging from bed and breakfasts, guesthouses and small hotels. They are run by walker friendly hosts offering en-suite or private facility rooms with a tasty breakfast to get you ready for the walk 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.

OK Cycle & Adventure Tours Inc. - 666 Kirkwood Ave - Suite B102 – Ottawa, Ontario Canada K1Z 5X9

www.okcycletours.com Toll Free 1-888-621-6818 Local 613-702-5350

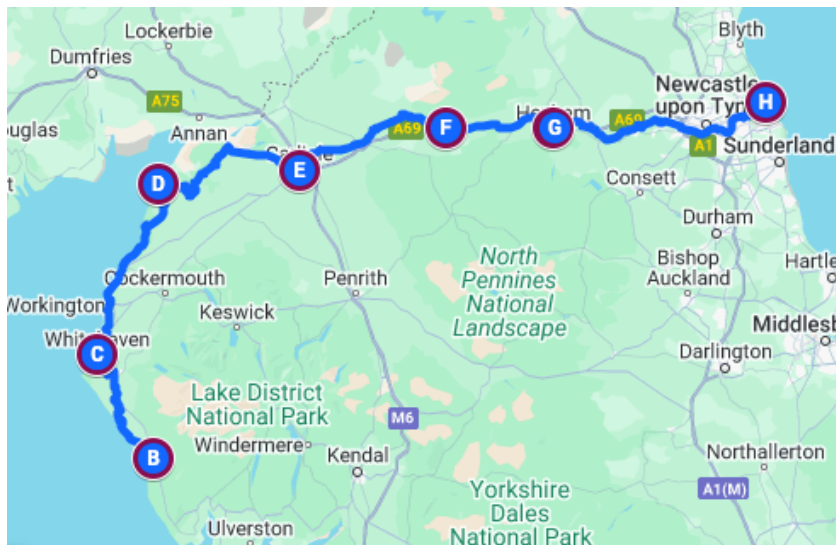
TICO Ontario Registration No: 50022848



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 offer a packed lunches 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 most sections you will also pass a café and/or shop but on some 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.

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 there are daily trains, usually with a change of 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



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. Average difficulty Some longish days (up to 56 km) and a few steep climbs and descents. Generally however undulating. Mixed weather can be expected at anytime.

OK Cycle & Adventure Tours Inc. - 666 Kirkwood Ave - Suite B102 – Ottawa, Ontario Canada K1Z 5X9

www.okcycletours.com Toll Free 1-888-621-6818 Local 613-702-5350

TICO Ontario Registration No: 50022848



**OK CYCLE &
ADVENTURE
TOURS** SINCE 1995

Travel Season: April to September

Price

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

Double Occupancy	£ 992
Single Occupancy	£ 1290
Solo Traveler	£ 1625
Bike rental	
Delivery & pick up (up to 4 bikes)	£264
Standard mountain bike	On request
E-bike	On request

Included

- 7 nights' accommodation with breakfast (twin share basis with ensuite facilities where available)
- Luggage transport between accommodations
- Digital detailed description of the routes and maps
- Access to the trip on GUIBO navigation app
- 24-hour telephone assistance

Not included

- Dinner, lunch and drinks
- Bike hire (see above for rentalbike information)
- Public transport on day 2
- Any entrance fees
- Travel insurance
- Travel to the start and from the end point of the trip
- Personal expenses such as laundry and phone calls
- Unscheduled transfers required during the trip

This is a Partner Tour

OK Cycle & Adventure Tours Inc. - 666 Kirkwood Ave - Suite B102 – Ottawa, Ontario Canada K1Z 5X9

www.okcycletours.com Toll Free 1-888-621-6818 Local 613-702-5350

TICO Ontario Registration No: 50022848