

Scotland - The Castle Trail Bike Tour (2025) Individual Self-guided 8 days / 7 nights



The riverside city of Perth is the gateway to the Scottish Highlands. It is the starting point for a tour which combines beautiful scenery with history and splendour. Only 4 kilometers from Perth is Huntingtower Castle with its splendid painted ceilings and at Dunkeld beside the River Tay is the ancient Cathedral. Blair Castle with its thirty two rooms of beautiful furniture, fine paintings, china, embroidery and armour is only 8 kilometers from your overnight stop at the Victorian Highland Resort of Pitlochry. Next day follow the valley of the River Ardle and on through peaceful Glenisla to Glamis Castle. This is the home of the Earls of Strathmore and Kinghorne and contains magnificent rooms with a wide range of historic pictures, fine furniture, porcelain and tapestries. The ancient university town of St Andrews is the home of golf and has a fine golf museum. The ruined Castle and massive Cathedral are well worth a visit. Before returning to Perth pause to visit Falkland Palace, a fine example of Renaissance architecture with a beautiful Royal Chapel. At Perth, Scone Palace has rare porcelain, needlework, fine furniture, clocks and the unique Vernis Martin Collection



Itinerary Day to Day

Day 1: Arrive Perth

Perhaps time to stroll to the shops, walk by the River Tay or climb Kinnoull Hill for a magnificent view of Perth and the Tay Valley. Evening 7:00 pm: collect cycles and equipment, route briefing.



Day 2: Perth - Dunkeld 40 km

Cycle 3 kilometers from Perth to visit Scone Palace and from there north through the rolling farmland of Perthshire to the historic cathedral town of Dunkeld. Situated on the banks of the River Tay it has a peaceful character and charmingly restored eighteenth century houses forming a small Square. Cathedral Street leads from there to the partly restored cathedral construction of which began in 1318.

Day 3: Dunkeld - Pitlochry 24 km

Leave Dunkeld along the riverside path to the Cathedral imagining the many years of history that it has seen. Follow the river on a peaceful route away from traffic for 3km before using the main road bridge to reach the minor road to Logierait. Another bridge to cross and a climb before the quiet elevated road gives wonderful views of the fast flowing Rivers Tay and Tummel. Past the Dunfallandy Stone and into the busy Victorian town of Pitlochry. One of the town's best-known attractions is Pitlochry Dam and Fish Ladder. Created in the 1950s the Dam has an underwater viewing chamber, which allows visitors to watch salmon navigating the specially constructed fish ladder, which bypasses the dam.

Day 4. Rest Day Pitlochry 24km

A chance to visit the large Blair Atholl Distillery or Scotland's smallest Distillery - Edradour. 7 miles north of Pitlochry is Blair Castle with its 32 fully furnished rooms fine furniture, paintings and armour.





Day 5. Pitlochry - Glamis-St. Andrews 65 km

Morning transfer to Glamis Castle. Visit Glamis Castle family home of the Earls of Strathmore and a royal residence since 1372. Remodelled in the seventeenth century the Castle contains magnificent rooms with a wide range of historic pictures, furniture, porcelain and tapestries. Travel through the small villages and fertile farming land of the Vale of Strathmore to Newtyle. A climb over the Sidlaw Hills leads to the outskirts of the riverside city of Dundee. Situated at the mouth of the River Tay this industrial city has a long and chequered history. Cross the Tay Bridge to Newport and you are now in Fife. Continue round the coast and spend a little time away from the tarmac on the tracks of Tentsmuir Forest. Through Leuchars village with its busy air base and a climb to reach the village of Strathkinness. A lovely panoramic view over the Firth of Tay and beyond as you descend into St Andrews. Once the ecclesiastical capital of Scotland, St Andrews is now better know as the "Home of Golf". It is also home to Scotland's oldest university with many fine buildings set in a combination of medieval, Edwardian and Victorian streets. Visit the ruined Castle and Cathedral or take a stroll on wide expanse of golden West Sands.



Day 6: Rest Day St Andrews Explore the East Neuk of Fife 39/55 km

Either spend the day exploring in St Andrews or cycle to the charming East 'Neuk' (Scots word for corner) of Fife. Visit the picturesque fishing villages of Crail, Anstruther and Pittenweem where whitewashed buildings with red pan tiled roofs overlook cobbled, winding streets leading to the harbours. Overnight in St Andrews.

Day 7: St. Andrews - Perth 56 km

Leave St. Andrews on the cycle route past Craigton

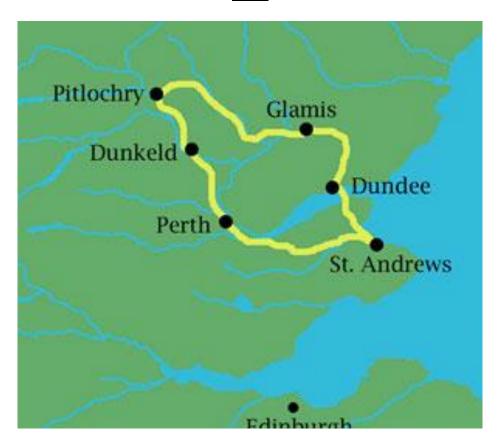
Park and continue to visit the Falkland Palace, set in the heart of a unique medieval village. It was the country residence and hunting lodge of eight Stuart monarchs. It includes the exceptionally beautiful Chapel Royal and is surrounded by internationally known gardens. Perhaps take tea in Auchtermuchty before climbing the hill to Pitmedden Forest and then down into the Tay Valley and Perth.

Day 8: Depart Perth





Route



Technical Characteristics:

Tour Profile: Average. Mostly long cycling days of 40 to 64 km with longer uphill rides. A moderate level of fitness is required.

Distance: 325 km

Travel Season: Departures daily from April 1 to October 31



Price per person in GBP all prices subject to confirmation on booking

Double Occupancy	£ 1035
Single Occupancy	£ 1345
Child Rate (0-11 years old, sharing a room with two adults)	£ 828
Bike Rental	£ 110
E-Bike	£ 220
Extra Nights Double Occupancy	£ 85
Extra Nights Single Occupancy	£ 125

Included:

- Bed & Breakfast accommodation in twin/double or single rooms with shower/wc facilities in 3 or 4 star graded guesthouses for 5 tours nights and 2 nights in a hotel in Pitlochry (or private houses inspected by the operator).
- Tour information including maps and detailed route description
- Luggage transportation (maximum one piece up to 20 kg)
- Emergency support

Not Included:

- Entrance fees for castles
- Lunches and Dinners
- Bike Rental





Bikes





Brand: GT Transeo 3 or Forme Peak Trails

Number of gears: 24 Brand of gearshift GRIPSHIFT/RAPID FIRE Sizes of frames: LADIES 15" or 17". GENTS 19" 21" or 23"

Addition information: Bikes are equipped with suspension forks & seat posts, mudguards, rear pannier frame, stand, bell, and water bottle holder. Rental equipment includes rear pannier bags (1 set per person), helmet, pump, tool kit, lock, map holder, cycle computer, water bottle, reflective vest, lights

E-bike



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