



The Highland Gravel Trail

Summary

Our fabulous Highland Gravel Trail is an extended and more challenging version of our classic Rob Roy Way tour. There is more off road, more dramatic scenery, more miles and more adventure, through one of the prettiest parts of Scotland. This version of the ride is ideal for off-road biased gravel bikes or hardtail mountain bikes, combining wilderness trails with more mellow forest and lochs. There are many options; the trip can be as hard or easy as you would like it to be (you can average from 50 to 90km each day – you decide!), we will give you options that you can choose when you are on the trip.

Example 5-Day Itinerary

Day 1. Arrive in Pitlochry then transport to Drymen (approx. 1.5 hours). Stay overnight in a nice hotel, in readiness for the adventure ahead!

Day 2. Drymen to Callander, distance approx. 32 miles/52km with around 900 metres of climbing. Our fantastic route explores Loch Ard forest on some great gravel trails. A real highlight of the day comes after Aberfoyle, with some beautiful trails in the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. Our favourite, wonderful trail leads you round Loch Venachar to stay the night in Callander.

Day 3. Callander to Killin, distance approximately 26 miles/45km with 600m of climbing. A great old railway line makes up the next section past the scenic Loch Lubnaig and Loch Earn. Rob Roy's grave is en-route. The scenic Glen Ogle Viaduct is the next fantastic section of the route, then a fast downhill follows to Killin and the impressive waterfalls.

Day 4. Killin to Crieff, distance approximately 35 miles/56km with 1150m of climbing. More scenic road miles lead you through the Tay Valley, before one of the most impressive rides on the trip. Climb up to a remote valley that will lead you through the mountains to Crieff – the superb scenery and riding is well worth the effort!

Day 5. Crieff to Bankfoot, distance approx. 30 miles/48km with around 950 metres of climbing. Today kicks off with a lovely ride round the 'Knock of Crieff' before you head into more remote territory. You ride up into Glen Shee for some wonderful scenery and back country biking. End the day at a lovely little hotel.

Day 6: Bankfoot to Pitlochry, distance approx. 30 miles/48km with around 850 metres of climbing. A lovely day through the Tay Forest Park, passing the wooded and hilly areas near Birnham, Dunkeld. There is some remote feeling biking once again and beautiful lovely views of the Perthshire countryside. Stay in a nice hotel in the pretty village of Pitlochry, with lots of fantastic restaurants and a great distillery.

Day 7: Depart from Pitlochry

Includes:

- 4 or 5 days of fantastic biking (can be up to 6)
- 5 or 6 nights' comfortable accommodation including breakfast
- Baggage transfers
- Comprehensive maps and gpx.files & list of services along the route
- Phone support from us
- Transport from Pitlochry to Drymen

Available on request:

- Pick up and drop off at public transport links

Average Daily Distance:

Easier route 50km/30 miles
Harder route – up to 90km/55miles per day

Grade:

Average Technical Level: **Blue**

Dates:

Self-guided biking trips are available between April and October for groups of 2 or more.

Please just contact us with the dates you have in mind.

What bike?

The Highland Gravel Trail is perfect for off road biased gravel bikes or hardtail mountain bikes.

To make a booking or for more information:

E: info@trailbrakes.co.uk
P: +44 (0)7922 653327



The Highland Gravel Trail – Further Information

Accommodation and food: We pride ourselves in using the best quality accommodation on our trips at every price point. We have worked with many of the hotels for years, so we know that you will receive an excellent level of service.

Hotels/guest houses: We generally use 3 or 4 star accommodation that will provide everything you could need after a long day in the saddle from bike storage to hot showers, hearty breakfasts and comfortable beds. Almost all of the accommodation we use is en-suite and we will let you know if it is not possible to book en-suite rooms. Wifi is universal in every location.

Cheaper options: If you would prefer hostel or bunkhouse style accommodation it is possible in some locations (and we can mix and match between accommodation types). In a bunkhouse breakfast is usually not included, although many bunkhouses can provide meals at an additional charge. Bunkhouses will often have cooking facilities so that you can prepare your own meals if you'd prefer.

Evening meals: Wherever you stay you will be able to get an evening meal at a pub or restaurant within walking distance.

Lunches: can usually be bought during the course of the day or before you depart in the morning. We will give you advice about this in your trip information. It is advisable to carry plenty of snacks with you each day to keep the energy levels up!

Single occupancy rooms: are usually available in hotels or guest houses, so please ask us if you'd prefer to have your own room. We find that in most hotels and guest houses a single supplement of at least £30 per person, per night will apply, depending on your dates.

Clothing and kit: Scotland receives a generally mild climate between April and October, with the Gulf Stream passing the western coastline. However, conditions can and do change quickly especially in higher and more exposed areas. It can rain at any time of year and we can get four seasons in a day, so come prepared! A full kit list is available on our website (<http://www.trailbrakes.co.uk/kit-list-equipment-recommendations>).

Weather and Climate: General climatic information for the UK is available on the Met Office Website - <https://weather.metoffice.gov.uk/climate/uk-climate>

Up-to-the-minute weather forecasts for specific regions of the UK are available at the met office website (we find this is only accurate a couple of days before) - <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/>

The trails: Our Highland Gravel Trail biking route explores one of the best gravel biking areas in the UK. The terrain varies a lot, from quiet country roads to forestry tracks, surfaced cycle paths and easy going singletrack. There are some short, steep climbs and some more rocky areas that might require you to push for a short section if you are on a gravel bike. This trip, if completed in 5 days, has a **Fitness Grading of 6** which means that you have a good level of fitness and take part in cycling based activities regularly. You're comfortable riding for up to 7 hours per day on terrain that can include steep (sometimes loose) climbs. This trip has a **Technical Grading of Blue**, meaning that the route is suitable for intermediate cyclists. Trails may include obstacles including small rocks and roots.

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Self-guided trips: Our self-guided trips are the most popular choice and are designed for cyclists who are comfortable carrying their own basic tools and spares along with them each day so that they can fix any minor technical issues encountered along the route (punctures etc.). For our self-guided trips we organise quality accommodation, bag transfers each day, detailed information about the route, official maps of the route, pick-up and drop-off at locations convenient for your travel plans and a comprehensive list of bike shops that are located along the route. We will always be only a phone call away should you require any additional advice/support so you'll never be truly on your own!

Bike hire: We can arrange gravel or mountain bike hire for this route, including electric bikes

Transport: We are always happy to help you to get to where you need to be as quickly and easily as possible. We can provide transfers from any local airport, train or bus station or ferry terminal to your accommodation at the beginning of your trip and back again at the end. Just let us know where and how you intend to arrive at your destination and we will arrange a pick-up for you. Please note that an extra charge will most likely apply for extra transport but we will always help you work out the best way to travel.

Baggage transfers: We transport your bags between each night's accommodation during your trip, leaving you free to carry a small day-pack containing some spare clothes, food and drink. Please note that baggage should be limited to one bag per person, not exceeding 20kg per bag unless prior arrangements are made.

Any questions?

We've tried to cover everything on our website and this information pack but If you'd like some further information or want to ask us anything at all about our biking trips please don't hesitate to contact us on the details below:

Email: info@trailbrakes.co.uk

Phone or Whatsapp: +44 (0)7922 653327

We look forward to seeing you on one of our fantastic biking adventures!