



Galloway Gravel Adventure

Summary

When gravel bikes were invented, they had places like Galloway in mind! There are hundreds and hundreds of miles of gravel roads, back lanes and byways that are ideal for exploration by gravel bike, mountain bike or sturdy hybrid. We have picked the very best of them to make a flowing 3 day journey through the largest forest park in the UK. Enjoy!

Highlights

The impressive and iconic Big Water of fleet viaduct
The otter pools on the remote Raiders Road
Glentool and its amazing history and wonderful landscape
The lovely harbour town of Kirkcudbright with wonderful places to eat and drink

Example 3-Day Itinerary

Day 1. You arrive in Kirkcudbright (pronounced Kirk-coo-bree). If you are travelling by public transport we can also collect you from Lockerbie and Dumfries and transport you to Kirkcudbright, nestled on the Solway Coast.

Day 2. Kirkcudbright to Newton Stewart – 67km/42 miles; 750 metres of ascent. A brilliant first day through unexplored forests, heading north on quiet roads and forest trails. There is a lovely section of open countryside with vast views before you reach the Raiders Road, a scenic forest road where you will find lochs and superb views along with a series of cascading pools on the Black Water of Dee. You pass Clatteringshaws Loch and a combination of trails and quiet country roads leads you to the bustling market town of Newton Stewart

Day 3. A superb loop from Newton Stewart – 78km/48 miles; 950 metres of ascent. Through the picturesque Wood of Cree, the day starts on quiet roads before entering the heart of the Galloway Forest park and the highland like scenery around Glentool. Red Squirrels are not uncommon here and deeper in the forest we have also spotted Pine Martens and Red Deer. You can then continue the iconic scenery with a ride past the 20 arches of the Big Water of Fleet viaduct before making your way along old railway lines with great coastal views, back to Newton Stewart.

Day 4. Newton Stewart to Kirkcudbright – 79km/49 miles; 900 metres of ascent. We take you on some of the best gravel routes through Kirroughtree forest (home of the world renowned 7 Stanes MTB trails). Then you have a chance of spotting wild goats and red deer before you head through remote woodland to the coast at Gatehouse of Fleet. The last section of the route changes again and you follow a wonderful coastal route on gravel trails past sweeping sandy beaches, interesting rocky coastal scenery and the islands of the Fleet Bay. Spend one final night in the lovely town of Kirkcudbright or head home straight away. Well done!

Please note that all distances can be tailored if you wish to bike more or less miles than those described above.

Duration:

3 or 4 nights' comfortable accommodation
3 days of adventurous biking

Total Distance:

225 km or 140 miles

Self guided trip includes:

- 4 nights' accommodation
- 3 days of superb gravel riding
- Baggage transfers
- Comprehensive maps, GPX files & list of services along the route
- Phone support from us

Available on request:

- Pick up and drop off from other public transport links

Grade:

Technical Grading: **Blue**

Dates:

Self-guided or Fully Supported trips are available between April and September for groups of 2 or more. Contact us with the dates you have in mind.

What bike?

The trails on our Galloway Gravel adventure can be ridden on a Gravel bike, Cyclocross bike, hardtail MTB or hybrid bike. In short any kind of bike that is ok with gravel roads!

To make a booking or for more information:

Email us: info@trailbrakes.co.uk
Phone us: +44 (0)7922 653327
or +44 (0)141 6286676



Galloway Gravel – Further Information

Accommodation and food

We use only tried and tested accommodation providers on our trips so that we know that you will receive an excellent level of service. They provide everything you could need after a long day in the saddle from bike storage to hot showers, hearty breakfasts and comfortable beds. Accommodation in bed and breakfasts and hotels are always on a bed and breakfast basis and trip prices are based on two people sharing a room, unless otherwise arranged. If you would prefer hostel or bunkhouse style accommodation, breakfast is not included although most hostels can provide meals at an additional charge. Hostels will often have cooking facilities so that you can prepare your own meals if you'd prefer. Wherever you stay you will be able to get an evening meal within walking distance. Lunches can usually be bought during the course of the day as you will be passing through towns or villages. It is advisable to carry plenty of snacks with you each day to keep the energy levels up!

Check-in at your accommodation will ordinarily be between 4 pm and 9 pm. Please telephone your first night's accommodation to let them know at what time you're planning to arrive. If you require an early check-in, most accommodation providers will try to adapt to your requirements but please phone ahead to ensure that an early check-in is possible. Sole occupancy rooms are usually available in hotels or guest houses so please ask us if you'd prefer to have your own room. A single supplement of at least £30 per person, per night will apply depending on your dates.

Clothing and kit

Southern Scotland receives a generally mild climate all year round with the Gulf Stream passing our western coastline. There are even palm trees growing in the region! The east is generally a bit drier but cooler than the west, however conditions can and do change quickly especially on higher and more exposed areas. It can rain at any time of year, sometimes all day and we often 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>) and a list of useful items will also be sent to you when you book your trip with us. General climatic information for Scotland is available here: <http://www.scotlandinfo.eu/weather-climate.html>. Up-to-the-minute weather forecasts for specific regions of the UK are available at the met office website (<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/>).

It is advisable to bring a small back-pack (between 15 and 20 litre capacity) with you on your trip, in which you can carry spare clothes and basic spares and tools that you might need during the course of a day on the bikes. In some cases, where we will be riding in wilderness for the full day, food and drink will also need to be carried.

Midges!

Midges (small biting insects) can be a pest in the south of Scotland but are usually not a problem when you're on the move. If you decide to stop for a break in a sheltered spot where there is no wind and there are trees and water in the vicinity, there will always be midges around. They rarely cause a serious problem, they're more of a nuisance, but some people react badly to their bites and develop an itchy red spot which can be irritating. Some insect repellent is advisable, those containing DEET being the most effective, and cream is available in pharmacies that relieve the irritation of the bites.

The trails

There is almost every type of trail imaginable on this trip, from purpose built cycle paths to old drove roads, forestry trails and superb single-track. The surfaces are all generally hard packed or rocky. Some parts are technically challenging so some off-road experience will be required. This trip has a **Fitness Grading of 6** which means that you should have a high level of fitness and stamina from regularly taking part in cycling-based activities. You are comfortable riding for up to 7 hours per day. The route will include sections of physically demanding terrain including long, steep climbs. This trip has a **Technical Grading of Blue**, meaning that the route is suitable for people with some off road experience. There will be no large rocks or technical trail features just bumpier and uneven terrain, sometimes on narrower tracks.

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 will provide you with everything included in our fully supported trips except the vehicle back-up service. We will 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!

Transport and baggage transfers

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 may apply to cover fuel costs.

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.

Any questions?

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: +44 (0)7922 653327 or +44 (0)141 6286676