

## **A quick guide to taking your bike on trains and buses**

### **Main source Highland Perthshire Cycling plus additional material**

#### **Taking your bike on the train**

Follow the link for some useful information and search for Cycle-Rail Toolkit 2 on [www.raildeliverygroup.com](http://www.raildeliverygroup.com)

Virtually any train\* (in Scotland) can carry bicycles, look out for the symbol on the carriage door. It's free! (the bike not you)

For most services (shorter journeys) booking is not necessary, simply turn up at the station and enter the carriage with the bicycle symbol.

There is a rack for the bike usually a hoop or sometimes a vertical rack. If unsure the guards can help. On some longer distance routes, a free, compulsory cycle reservation is required – this applies to services between: Glasgow and Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Inverness and to points beyond e.g. Kyle of Lochalsh, Mallaig, Thurso and Stranraer.

Caledonian Sleepers between London and Scotland

*Warning: when booking online we have found that NOT all available bike places are reservable.*

Cycle reservations are free, and are available up advance either from principal staffed stations Telesales on 08457 55 00 33. Online to Scotrail or Virgin.

- Scotrail offer a free rescue service (must hold a valid train ticket for that day) if your bike is stolen, vandalised, etc they will get you to the station.
- Cycle storage available at virtually every station.
- Cycle trailers cannot be carried, although I think this may be at the discretion of the guard.
- Discount on cycle hire - available at Nevis Cycles Fort William/Oban, Ticket to Ride in Inverness and Basecamp Bikes Blair Atholl. You must produce a valid Scotrail ticket when hiring.

\*Electric trains, subway trains and others differ, please check with provider before travelling.

#### **Taking your bike on the bus**

Most operators will accept a bike on a bus if it's a folding bike in a bag or packaged appropriately, i.e. box, etc. For all operators their policy is to only accept bikes if there is sufficient space so please call ahead to check before travelling.

- Citylink - 'Subject to availability of accommodation, bicycles in a box/bag and skis/surfboards will be carried.'
- Stagecoach - 'Non folding bicycles are only carried on a very limited number of buses specifically modified for the purpose. Generally, bicycles may be carried at the owner's risk on coaches, as opposed to buses, where luggage boots are available. Folding bicycles, safely and securely stowed in the designated luggage area in a suitable bag or box, may be carried on all vehicles.'
- Megabus - 'Bikes aren't carried (unless they're folding bikes in a bag) and the reason for this is that they can damage luggage when they rub against it and they can also put oil and grease on luggage. Having said that I've seen some drivers accept a bike and then put it in the seperate rear luggage hold where it's on its own because there's not much luggage on that trip. The owner may look happy that they've managed to get their bike on the bus, but will they ever get it home again?'
- National Express coaches - 'You may take your bicycle on your National Express journey, as long as it is designed to fold in half by means of a special link in the main frame and is carried in an appropriate padded bag or hard case, suitable for the purpose.'

- First group carried out a trial in Autumn last year where local bus services in Aberdeen and Glasgow could accept a standard sized bike on a normal local service for £1 at off peak times. I am waiting to hear back with how this trial went.

On the above services there is no mention of an additional cost only that the bicycle counts as your one piece of luggage in the hold so only a small item of hand luggage would be allow in addition. I assume additional space may be purchased but contact the operator for more information.

There are a few dedicated bike buses (or buses that you can book bikes on):

*If anyone has more information about other cycle friendly buses, please Contact Us at*

[www.bicycle.org.uk](http://www.bicycle.org.uk)

Our favourite is Fishers Tours. Weekly day trips to such destinations as Fort William, Inverness, Oban, Aberdeen, Stirling, Callander, Largs, Ayr and Livingston. No need to wrap the bike, which goes in the luggage hold. No trouble booking the bikes (we've had up to 5!). Book in advance. They take bus passes too! [www.fisherstours.co.uk](http://www.fisherstours.co.uk) Tel: 01382 227290

Ring of Breadalbane Explorer

[www.breadalbane.org/ring-of-breadalbane-explorer](http://www.breadalbane.org/ring-of-breadalbane-explorer)

Edinburgh to Glentress and Innerleithen

[www.bikebusglentress.co.uk](http://www.bikebusglentress.co.uk)