

# **BYCYCLE RIDE FROM CALLANDER TO PERTH SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2017**

ByCycle is pleased to announce that our Special self-guided ride this year will take place on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2017 and will be the magnificent ride from Callander to Perth. As well as travelling through some of Scotland's most breathtaking scenery, short detours from the standard route take you to several interesting and historic sites. All are welcome but any under-16 year olds must be accompanied by an adult who is responsible for their safety.

The standard route will be by Sustrans Route 7 towards Lochearnhead via Strathyre, the south side of Loch Earn, St Fillans, Comrie and Crieff. The distance is about 55 miles (88k) and contains a total ascent of 640m and a descent of 711m. The route is mainly on quiet country roads and dedicated tarmac and hard core cycle paths with some woodland and stony farm tracks just before Strathyre (about ½ mile in length), and on the new cycle path between St Fillans and Dalchonzie (about 1 mile in length). Riders with dedicated road bikes may wish to walk through them or, in the case of the St Fillans to Dalchonzie cycle path, take the A85. There is no viable alternative to the Strathyre section.

Please check out the map at:

[https://www.mapometer.com/cycling/route\\_4525868.html](https://www.mapometer.com/cycling/route_4525868.html) (cut/paste, if necessary)

and the [Route Notes](#)

It is recommended that you print, bookmark or download these documents and take them with you on the ride as there will be no marshals or additional signage on the route.

As we no longer enjoy the sponsorship of Stagecoach, we have had to increase the non-refundable entrance fee to £20 to cover our additional transportation and other expenses. Registered riders will become members of [ByCycle](#). Registration for the ride is only available online at:

<http://www.fabian4.co.uk/default.aspx?EventID=1799>

The organisers wish to express their thanks to the following organisations who are supporting our ride by providing goods or services free of charge:

- Bell's Sports Centre for facilities to hold our post-ride celebrations
- Bike Station Perth for technical support
- Pitlochry Co-op for bananas
- All our volunteer supporters

If you need further information please contact [mikesimm259@gmail.com](mailto:mikesimm259@gmail.com) directly

## **A. THE ARRANGEMENTS**

Registered riders and their bikes will be transported from the **South Inch car park** in Perth (note there is now a specific entrance) and taken to Callander to begin their ride back to Perth.

**Check-in for the ride will start at 8 am and the coaches will leave for Callander at 8:45 am AT THE LATEST.**

There should be bathroom facilities available at both the South Inch and Callander. The drop off will be in the car park on Station Road, Callander. Riders will set off singly or in small groups to minimise any disruption on public roads and make it safer for everyone. There will be no official leader nor on-route marshals but there will be sweeping cyclists at the rear on the standard route.

The end of the ride celebrations will be at Bell's Sport Centre on the North Inch in Perth. Riders are asked to check-out there between 3 pm and 7 pm. or, if they decide to leave the ride at any other point or time, please check out by texting ByCycle control with your name and ride number on **07517347111** to let us know you are safe. This is also the number you should use to report any incidents during the ride. Please join in our post-ride celebrations at Bell's and enjoy tea and cake before leaving for home.

## **B. THE RIDE**

### **The Standard Route**

Start by exiting the car park onto a road that leads down a slight hill. Go across Main Street, where there are many shops and cafes, then veer **RIGHT** in the Meadows car park where you will see the signs for Route 7 to Strathyre. A hoop on a stick may help! This takes you 14 miles more-or-less to within sight of Lochearnhead before you leave the route just after a viaduct and before a bridge, turn right onto A84 then first left into South Loch Earn Road which takes you to St Fillans. A short distance on A85 in St Fillans takes you to Station Road where you join a new cycle path that takes you most of the way to Comrie then quiet back roads take you by Crieff to Perth and your post ride celebrations at Bell's Sports Centre.

Check out the [Route Notes](#) for details

## C. ESSENTIAL SAFETY INFORMATION

### Potential hazardous areas are:

- The roads throughout the ride are generally quiet but watch/listen out for other vehicles particularly on blind bends and take care going down hills as some are quite steep with gravel in the bottom.
- Be aware that many cars are pulling trailers
- On leaving the car park in Callander, you join a road. Check in both directions before exiting.
- There is a steep hill down to the A84 which should be joined and ridden along with care.
- South Loch Earn Road is narrow in places and you may have to leave the road to allow vehicles to pass. Also be aware of broken surfaces and gravel.
- Take care joining and riding on A85 through St Fillans
- Take care joining and riding on A85 through Comrie. Also EXTREME care turning right from A85 onto Bridge Street, just after a white painted church, as it is preceded by a blind bend. Consider pulling in to the left and walking across.
- Extreme care turning right from A822 in Crieff as it is preceded by a blind bend and is a double right turn, Consider walking across.
- Take care when turning right onto Madderty Road
- There are extensive road works being undertaken near Almondbank that may require your detouring. Latest information will be provided immediately before the ride.

Technical support during the ride will be provided by [Bike Station Perth](#). If you need their assistance, please call them on **07753708934**. Be aware they may not be able to reach you directly on the cycle path to Lochearnhead nor the one from St Fillans.

While ByCycle will take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of riders, participants ride at their own risk and neither ByCycle nor its office bearers accept any responsibility for loss, damage or injury during the ride. ByCycle's sole role is to arrange transportation to the start point by approved carriers. Riders should ensure that they are fit enough for the ride in the prevailing weather conditions and their bikes are in good working order and suitable for the terrain. Please make sure your tyres are at the correct pressure and bring at least one spare inner tube that fits your bike. Please make yourself familiar with the route you intend taking and the potential hazards and/or carry appropriate maps (OS Landranger 51, 52, 57, )

ByCycle has **NO** capability to transport riders or bikes to Perth after the drop off in Callander. There are no railway stations on the route. If you leave the ride before Bell's Sport Centre in Perth and so are unable to checkout, please text **07517347111** with your name and ride number so we know you are safe.

## **D. REFRESHMENTS, ETC.**

- Wheelology is a bike shop at 4 Ancaster Square, Callander. It should be open when we arrive.
- There are numerous cafes and shops in Callander's Main Street, if you need anything before you set off.
- The Broch is a super cafe in Strathyre. You reach it by leaving the cycle path, marked to Strathyre, just before you join the new cycle lane
- The St Fillans Shop and Cafe on A85 serves excellent coffee, tea, etc.
- There are cafes in Comrie or grab something from the Chip Shop and picnic down by the river just behind the toilets. Good place for lunch as halfway home.
- There are lots of facilities in Crieff but they are up the hill from the standard route

## **E. DETOURS**

### **Ballquihidder and Rob Roy's Grave**

This is the alternative and original Route 7. At Strathyre, do not take the right turn to the new cycle path but continue on, climbing up through tremendous woodlands then ride an excellent road to Ballquihidder. Visit Rob Roy's grave in the churchyard then continue on to rejoin the standard route just before the road joins A84. This detour adds about 3 miles to the journey.

### **Earthquake House, Comrie**

This is not a spectacular site but is of historical interest and only adds a few hundred yards to the journey. At the end of Dalchonzie Road and just as you enter Comrie turn right rather than left over the bridge (signed Dalrannoch and The Ross) and the earthquake house is just around the corner.

<http://www.strathearn.com/pl/earthquake.htm>

### **Cultybraggan Camp**

VisitScotland describes Cultybraggan as

“Cultybraggan Camp, near Comrie, Perthshire is the last remaining WWII high security Prisoner of War (POW) Camp in the UK. Cultybraggan Camp 21, near Comrie, Perthshire, has been assessed by Historic Scotland as a Unique Heritage Asset of International Value. Named PoW Camp No 21, also as the “Black Camp of the North”, it was built in 1941 to house up to 4,000 Category A prisoners. It had a notoriously hard reputation housing dozens of SS officers, members of the Wehrmacht, Luftwaffe & Marine Corps among others.”

There is a self guide tour described in leaflets found in Camp Guardroom 1 at the entrance. The detour adds about 2 miles onto the journey and is reached by not turning left on to the South Crieff Road but continuing on the Braco Road B827.

### **Innerpeffray Library**

This is Scotland's oldest free lending library with some spectacular books that you can look through. It is only open on a Sunday between 2-4 pm and needs about an hour to appreciate it. It is to be found down a tarmac road off B8062 so do not take

the Southwood Road, Madderty turnoff but continue onward. Adds about 6 miles to the journey.

<http://www.innerpeffraylibrary.co.uk/ - &panel1-1>