



Southern Highlands and Borders Tour

Day 1

Arrival

Evening Overnight stay in Kinross for welcoming Dinner and Familiarisation of what tour entails and times for departing on

Day 2

After we have a hearty breakfast, we will commence on route to what we know will be an exciting and awe-inspiring Southern Highlands and Borders Tour.



We start this tour which takes in some of the best loved local bike routes Scotland has to offer. We will take in some of the West coast's delights, island hop, forests of Galloway and the Borders. This 6-night 7-day tour is set to excite all the scenes in one package.

We will head Northwest in the direction of Crieff, then on route for Loch Earn where the road hugs this beautiful 6.5-mile Loch which is simply spectacular. Heading up through Glenogle, this truly magnificent biking road does not disappoint. On the West side of the Glen, you can still see the 12 segmental Viaduct that was completed in 1870 with the first trains heading between Callander and Oban. This was prematurely closed due to a landslide in 1965 and is now part of the conversion works that hosts the Rob Roy Way footpath.

Biking on now towards Tyndrum which is a weekend stop for most bikers in this area and where we will stop for a quick coffee and reflect on the roads so far.

After refreshments we embark over towards the West coast now giving a view into what the Highlands of Scotland can offer as a biker, winding roads through the most spectacular scenery where there are different views around every corner, and the reason this draws all kinds of tourists to our shores.

Riding along the shores of Loch Awe we pass the Falls of Cruachan where now they boast part of the Hydroelectric Station and dam that feeds electricity to over 500,000 homes and is hidden deep within (the hollow mountain that is) Ben Cruachan. There is a Visitors Centre for anyone who would like to stop. Heading now on to Oban where will have lunch.

After the delights of Oban and lunch we head South now down past Loch Feochan which is a Sea Loch that is renowned for its good fishing, we ride the shores and inlets where we are never far away from water, and we will arrive at our hotel for the night.



Day 3

After a restful night and breakfast, we start our journey down onto the Campbeltown peninsula, which is simply a superb biking road. Skirting the Atlantic coastline with the Isles of Jura and Islay visible on a clear day, we pass the Isle of Gigha which translates to (Good Isle) in Norse where they ruled for over 400 years and after a few battles its now owned by the community and managed by The Heritage Trust.

Still heading South, taking in all that this epic coastal road has to offer we head inland and arrive in Campbeltown where we can stop for refreshments and stretch our legs. This town was once known as the Whiskey capital of the world, where it was home to Thirty Distilleries' but today there are only three left, between them they share the tastes and blends that made Campbeltown famous, and it is still a world player alongside other famous brands.

Heading out East we leave Campbeltown where you get a glimpse of the properties that were built on the prosperity of the whiskey industry around the 1800s onwards.

Now we are travelling north again and the roads on this side are B rated but are fully tarmacked with passing places at some points, but they don't detract from the scenery where we hug the east coast of the peninsula. You can catch a glimpse of Goat Fell over on the right which is the highest one of Four Corbett's that make up the mountain range of the Isle of Arran.



We follow up the East Coast to a small Ferry port and catch the Claonaig Ferry onto Arran. Once over on to the island we disembark at Lochranza Pier. We head South to circumnavigate around the island. The centre of Arran was once a volcano which collapsed into itself to form what we see today. Arran is known as Scotland in miniature as it packs so much into its small 20 mile by 10-mile size where it can boast two Distilleries, we will stop and have a look around as this area this area of the Island is directly on the South Coast which boasts a magnificent view over the Ocean.

On now still hugging the coastline up to Whiting Bay, we are literally almost riding on the beach where we get a view of the Holy Isle. There is a Spring or Well which is said to have healing properties on the island where you can find holiday accommodation. Hikers challenge themselves to get spectacular views from the summit of the island. We head up the coast through Lamlash Bay where we find our next nights resting spot.



Day 4

We head for the port of Brodick and catch the ferry over to the mainland at Ardrossan. Riding now through town for a short while then out on the outskirts following the roads down towards the open fields again through some typical Scottish Villages. Away from the coast, the landscape becomes more into the rolling hills and farmland before entering the Galloway Forest Park. After the delights of the Forest roads we are now on route for the Mull of Galloway and sea views again come into the mix with some truly stunning Views.

It is well worth the long road down the peninsula when we come upon the Lighthouse and Visitor Centre. We can walk down to the Lighthouse where two ocean currents meet, and the water seems to be bubbling in a torrent. From this Viewpoint we can see the Northern Ireland coastline and the Isle of Man.

After refreshments we make our way back up the peninsula and head for our stay for the night in one of the peninsulas villages where we can relax and have dinner.





Day 5

Up again and after breakfast we are ready for another day in the saddle heading East towards and through the Galloway Forest on the Queens Way, which is known as the Cairnsmore of Fleet National Reserve. Passing the Clatteringshaws Loch where an impressive dam was built as part of the Galloway Hydro Electric Scheme completed in 1934. Onwards up the Eastern flanks towards New Galloway where we will stop for coffee.

After our brief stop, we will ride some of the Lowland Moors where you will see how diverse and changeable Scotland's roads are while they all have their own beauty attached to each area we travel on this Tour. We arrive now in Dumfries where we will stop for lunch which is steeped in ancient history, boasting a large Roman presence and a Royal Burgh to Scottish independence which includes name such as Robert the Bruce, William Wallace and Rabbe Burns who's remains are still in the town.

After refreshments we head North now back up to the town of Moffat which is a local haunt for bikers at the weekends due to the nature of its perfect biking roads, where we will stop for the night.





Day 6

Breakfast taken care off, now we ride South then East again towards Eskdalemuir where we come upon the Samey Ling Tibetan Buddhist Centre which is an unlikely find in the heart of the Scottish Borders.

We can stop here if you wish as it is quite an interesting site and it has of course a Visitor's Centre, heading North we bike up through more moorland which you can see changing into a hillier terrain past St Marys Loch onto Megget Reservoir and Talla Reservoir where the scenery has now changed again on these truly awesome roads, they become a bikers playground at the weekends.

Onwards now to Biggar where we will stop for lunch and discuss the mornings pleasures before making our way on the last of the great roads before we skirt through the suburbs of Edinburgh, and on to the first motorway of the Tour but not for long back to where we started to enjoy a farewell dinner and a night's stay.



Day 7

In the morning after a peaceful night's sleep, you will have a lovely, relaxed breakfast after which we will say our goodbyes. You will then have time to relax before checkout.

We wish you all the best and a safe onward journey.
(go dte tu slan from Ecosse Moto Tours)

Inclusions and Exclusions

What's included in the Highlands, Islands and National Forest Loop.

6 Nights' accommodation in good quality hotels
Welcome Dinner on the 1st night with bed and breakfast.
First class accommodation throughout tour.
Great Scottish breakfast throughout tour.
Fully guided tour with experienced guides.
All ferry tickets.
Awe inspiring scenery.
GPS route available.
Access to all photography taken on tour.
Moto Tours T-Shirt and sticker.
Farewell dinner on last night.

What's not included

Lunches, dinners and drinks other than above.
Fuel.
Travel/breakdown Insurance.
Insurances.
Admissions to any attractions.
Occasional hotel parking.
Any Fines.
Coffee breaks throughout tour.
Repatriation costs.
Any tourism costs.