



Tour de Yorkshire – Circuit from Skipton

Summary

For many road bikers, cycling a stage on the route of the Tour de France is a great aspiration. So having had le Tour begin in the stunning Yorkshire Dales in 2014, this is the perfect opportunity to see what professional road biking is all about! Join us on a fantastic road biking holiday in the beautiful Yorkshire Dales and get a taste of the Tour de France, right on your doorstep. We've adapted the official route to avoid cycling on the busier roads but the majority of this route is exactly as Froome, Cavendish and Co. would have ridden in 2014.

Highlights

Ticking off some of the most iconic climbs in the country - in two fantastic days of cycling
Savouring the stunning views of the Yorkshire countryside
Relaxing at the end of the day with a pint of fine, locally brewed ale

Example 4-Day Itinerary

Day 1. Arrive in Skipton and stay overnight in a very comfortable bed and breakfast or hotel. You can enjoy the local hospitality and soak up the atmosphere in this lovely historic North Yorkshire market town.

Day 2. Skipton to Reeth - 62 miles/101 km; 1660 metres of ascent

Equipped with a set of comprehensive maps and some top tips from our expert team, you're ready to set off on your epic journey and head north towards the imposing rolling mountains of the Yorkshire Dales. Passing through numerous picturesque Yorkshire villages, there's plenty of opportunity to sample local hospitality, but don't dally for too long as there are a few miles to cover before it gets dark! You'll follow the River Wharfe as it meanders through the Dales before your first challenge of the day – the climb out of Wharfedale which takes you to a height of 420 metres. The blistering descent makes the effort worthwhile though and you'll soon be sniffing out some tasty cheese in Wensleydale! You'll be needing those calories as well because the infamous Buttertubs climb is next on the agenda! Reaching a height of over 520 metres, this is the highest point on your route and the 360 degree views of surrounding Dales are stunning. Once you've reached Swaledale, the climbs are a little less brutal and comfy bed waiting for you in the quaint village of Reeth.

Day 3. Reeth to Skipton - 62 miles/101km; 1765 metres of ascent

There's not much a warm-up today as your first challenge lies just around the corner in the shape of Grinton Bank, another of the toughest climbs on the Yorkshire leg of the Tour de France. There's a huge descent on the other side though and you'll soon get plenty of miles behind you as you make your way to Ripon, a good place to stop for a piece of cake or some lunch. From here the only way is up and as you cycle west, back towards the Yorkshire Dales, there are some tough climbs to negotiate, most notably the climb out of Pateley Bridge where in 3 km you'll gain over 270 metres! There are some great views from the top of Craven Moor and a nice descent back to your starting point in Skipton. Well done, you've completed one of the toughest road biking routes in the UK!

Duration:

2 or 3 days of scenic cycling
2 to 4 nights of comfortable accommodation

Total Distance:

200 km or 124 miles

Self Guided trip includes:

- 2 to 4 nights' comfortable accommodation
- Baggage transfers
- Comprehensive maps, gpx. Files & list of services on the route
- Phone support from us

Available on request:

- Pick up and drop off from public transport links
- Bike and kit hire
- Accommodation in Skipton at the end of the trip

Dates:

Self-guided cycling 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 Tour de Yorkshire route can be ridden on a hybrid, road bike or mountain bike. See below for more details.

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



Tour de Yorkshire – 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.

Clothing and kit

Northern England receives a generally mild climate all year round with the Gulf Stream passing our western coastline. 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>). General climatic information for the Yorkshire Dales is available here: <http://www.yorkshiredales-stay.co.uk/weather.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 with you on your trip, in which you can carry spare clothes, snacks and basic spares and tools that you might need during the course of a day on the bikes. Alternatively, if you're hiring bikes, we can provide pannier bags at an additional cost in which to carry supplies for the day.

The route

Our Tour de Yorkshire cycle route is a unique, specifically-designed road biking route, along quiet country roads, incorporating some stretches of National Cycle Network and including many sections of the Tour de France 2014 Grand Depart route. This trip has a **Fitness Grading of 7** which means that you should have a good level of fitness and take part in cycling based activities regularly. You're comfortable riding for up to 8 hours per day on terrain that can include long gradual climbs with steep sections and short, very steep climbs. This route is not for the faint-hearted!

What bike?

The Tour de Yorkshire route is perfect for road bikes. It is possible to complete the route on hybrid or mountain bikes but it would be a good idea to fit smooth tyres to make the bike roll more easily along the roads. Ask us if you need any further advice.

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.). 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!

Fully supported trips

Our fully supported cycling trips are designed to provide you with a completely hassle-free biking holiday experience. We will organise every aspect of your trip including 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 full support from our friendly, knowledgeable back-up team in case of technical (or physical!) emergencies. We will provide a back-up vehicle full of spares and tools to carry your baggage between your accommodation each day. Our drivers are proficient bike mechanics so will be able to help you out with common technical problems. If the issue is a bit more serious, they will be able to take your bike to a local bike shop for some TLC. Their main aim is to keep you and your bike on the road!

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