



# Dumfries & Galloway Cycling



Calling all locals and visitors – Come join us on our rides of Discovery around Dumfries & Galloway.

These circular rides are suitable for all ages and abilities and will take approximately 3 - 4 hours at an easy pace. Most rides are FREE and there is no need to book for most rides; just turn up at the Meeting point with a bike, suitable clothing, a snack, a drink and your camera for the scenery.

## **SATURDAY 11 APRIL – Dalry northwards**

We discover past goings-on at Dalry village and then head north for an interesting circuit of Dundeugh Hill (not up it!).

**Grade:** Moderate, 13 miles (2 off-tarmac). OS Maps: Landranger 77; Explorer 318 & 320.

**Meet:** Dalry at the Burning Bush sculpture below the school at **13.15 for 13.30**. On Cyclists' Byway.

## **SATURDAY 25 APRIL – Stranraer/Castle Kennedy – Woods and Lochs**

A very easy ride through woods and beside lochs of Stair Estate and Souleseat, accompanied by a wildlife ranger's expertise.

**Grade:** Easy, 15 miles (5 off-tarmac, but not too rough). OS Maps: Landranger 82; Explorer 309.

**Meet:** Westwood Ave, off London Rd (opp. Ladies' Walk), GR NX 071607, at **13.15 for 13.30**. Service 500 Bike-bus and train terminals close by.

## **SATURDAY 16 MAY – Dumfries/ Kirkconnel Flow**

Again accompanied by a wildlife ranger, we find out what *really* goes on in a bog! On Original Bicycle Festival program.

Booking advised

**Grade:** Mostly easy, but with a couple of short hills. Up to 13 miles (0.5 off-tarmac). OS Maps: Landranger 84, Explorer 313.

**Meet:** Dock Park car park at **13.15 for 13.30**, map ref. NX 974756. Service 500 bike-bus nearby; train 1 mile. On NCN R7 and Cyclists Byway. **Booking advised.**

## **TUESDAY 19 MAY – Dumfries/Irongray**

A very quiet loop including a gorge, covenanters' monument, fascinating church, Stone Circle, and a beautiful Abbey ruin. On Original Bicycle Festival program. Booking advised.

**Grade:** Mostly easy, but with one longish hill. 17 miles (no off-tarmac). OS Maps: Landranger 84, Explorer 321.

**Meet:** Dock Park car park at **13.15 for 13.30**. On National Cycle Route 7 and Byway. Service 500 bike-bus stop 0.5 mile, Dumfries train station 1 mile. **Booking advised**

## **THURSDAY 21 MAY – Dumfries/Solway coast**

An all day ride of Discovery visiting a variety of features from Dumfries' Port to Castles, to an ancient Cross and another D&G first, the Savings Bank at Ruthwell. On Original Bicycle Festival program. Booking advised.

**Grade:** Easy, except one hill, 40 miles. OS Maps: Landranger 84, 85; Explorer 321,322.

**Meet:** Dock Park car park/TIC at **10.00** (return approx 16.00). On National Cycle Route 7 and service 500 bike-bus route.

## **FRIDAY TO MONDAY, 22-25 MAY – Kirkpatrick Macmillan Cycle Rally at Barnsoul Holiday Park**

Rides of several lengths are organised. The short ones start at 09.45. Booking advised. Cost £2.

**Meet:** Barnsoul Holiday Park, 1.5 miles from Shawhead (signs from A75); Map ref. NX 874774.

## **SATURDAY 23 MAY – Spring Fling Special**

Spring Fling is an open studio weekend - all across Dumfries & Galloway artists and makers will be waiting to welcome you at their studios and workshops. Our ride visits those around Kirkpatrick Durham.

**Grade:** Moderate; approx 20 miles. OS Maps: Landranger 84, Explorer 321,320. Booking advised.

**Meet:** at 09.45 at Barnsoul Holiday Park, 1.5 miles from Shawhead (signed from A75); map ref NX 874774.

## **SATURDAY 6 JUNE – West of Annan**

A fairly easy ride taking in Kinmount Park and Repentance Tower.

**Grade:** Mostly easy; 21 miles (inc. 3 off-tarmac). OS Maps: Landranger 85, Explorer 322.

**Meet:** Somerfield Car park Butt St at **13.15 for 13.30**. Train station in Annan. On NCN route 7 and Cyclists' Byway.



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## **SATURDAY 13 to SUNDAY 21 JUNE – Bike Week**

**At time of going to press, arrangements have still to be made. Watch out for press notices and posters.**

## **SATURDAY 27 JUNE – Drummore/Mull of Galloway**

We visit the most southerly point in Scotland at the time of its maximum population of nesting birds. Tea/coffee at the spectacularly sited Gallie Craig restaurant.

Grade: moderate with one big hill which we can walk if we like, 12 miles. OS maps Landranger 82, Explorer 309.

Meet: Drummore main street at **13.15 for 13.30**; Map ref. NX 365165. Sorry, no bike-bus or train nearby.

## **WEDNESDAY 8 JULY – Borgue area heritage**

A great favourite easy ride visiting a quaint church, a Viking harbour, a wonderful coastline and more, including an ice-cream stop at “Cream o’ Galloway”.

Grade: Easy, 12 miles (inc. 2 off-tarmac). OS maps: Landranger 83, Explorer 312. Booking: advised.

Meet: Borgue village at **13.15 for 13.30**. On NCN Route7; service 500 bike bus stops on A75 Gatehouse turn-off, 5 miles. .

## **SATURDAY 11 JULY – Lockerbie/nature reserves.**

This is an easy ride visiting two nature reserves, with the expert company of a wildlife ranger to keep us well informed.

Grade: Easy, 12 miles (inc. 2 off-tarmac). OS maps: Landranger 78,85, Explorer 322. Booking: advised

Meet: Lockerbie Cemetery Lodge car park at **13.15 for 13.30**, map ref. NX 121810. On NCN R74.

## **SATURDAY 25 JULY – Ardwell/Central Rhins**

There is so much to see here! Famous crosses, a west-coast hideaway, gardens, a Telford harbour, a Broch, and more.

Grade: fairly easy; 17 miles (inc. 3 off-tarmac). OS maps: Landranger 82, Explorer 309.

Meet: Ardwell Picnic site at **13.15 for 13.30**, map ref. NX 109454. Sorry, no Bike-bus or train nearby.

## **SATURDAY 8 AUGUST – Kirkcowan/Bladnoch valley wildlife lookout**

This is a new ride for us. Suggested by the local wildlife ranger, we are looking forward to it very much. It includes the famous Torhouskie Standing Stones and Circle, and perhaps also the Hole Stone, where you can reaffirm your marriage vows!

Grade: Easy; 16 miles. OS maps: Landranger 82, 83, Explorer 311

Meet: Kirkcowan Village Hall **13.15 for 13.30**. Map ref. NX 329607. Service 500 bike-bus stops here.

## **THURSDAY 13 AUGUST – Port William area**

This ride has an absorbing mixture of features from bronze age to very recent, and a few miles of coastal scenery to boot.

Grade: Easy, 17 miles (inc.1 off-tarmac). OS maps: Landranger 82, Explorer 311. Booking: advised.

Meet: centre of Port William village at **13.15 for 13.30**, Map ref. NX 337435.

## **SATURDAY 22 AUGUST – Sanquhar/Wanlockhead**

This is admittedly our most strenuous ride this season, but handsomely rewards our efforts with spectacular views and the absorbingly interesting lead mine associations at Wanlockhead. Possible extension to the top of the Lowthers in the afternoon. Afternoon reward is the long glide down the Mennock water with the possibility of seeing gold panning gong on. Lunch at the Wanlockhead café.

Grade: strenuous, 24 miles (inc.11 off-tarmac, so **wide tyres required**). OS maps: Landranger 78, Explorer 329.

Meet: large car park top of Simpson Rd (from the south, turn right at bus stop), **10.15 for 10.30**; Map ref. NS 782099.