



Tailor made Cycling Adventures

North York Moors (4-day itinerary) See the best of North Yorkshire by bike

This bespoke 193 mile loop takes you around the North York Moors from hill to sea and back over the moors

This loop around the North York Moors is designed to take in the full variety of landscapes and sights the area has to offer, from barren moorlands to pleasant market towns, high cliffs and coves down to the seaside culture of coastal towns. Enjoy riding the beautiful roads visited by the professional peloton of Tour of Britain, away from the crowds and in one of the most spectacular and lesser-known national parks in the UK.

Tour Highlights

Outstanding scenery – spectacular and contrasting scenery through the North York Moors National Park, the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast.

Cultural heritage – Historic industrial, coastal and rural towns such as Darlington, Thirsk, Scarborough and Whitby.

Sense of achievement – as you circle the North York Moors national park under your own steam.

Itinerary

Day 0 - Arrival Darlington

You will arrange your own transport to the accommodation in Darlington, where the Tour Leader will be available with the bikes from 18:00hrs, followed by an evening meal and briefing at 19:30hrs. Long term parking is available at the council car parks for around £7.00/day, free parking may be available in other locations.

Overnight: tbc, Darlington
Included meals: Breakfast.

Day 1 - Darlington to Thirsk

We begin our tour in the historic industrial town of Darlington, where, on the Stockton to Darlington line, George Stephenson's Locomotion No. 1 became the first steam engine to haul passengers and goods. Darlington played a central role in both railway manufacturing and bridge building until well into the second half of the 20th century, and still houses many engineering companies. Heading initially south out of Darlington, we turn west on quiet country lanes into the historic county of Cleveland – and, in doing so, steeply up onto the North York Moors at Chop Gate. From Chop Gate, we turn south over Boltby Bank and a steep descent into the picturesque medieval market town of Thirsk, home to both James Herriot and Thomas Lord (who gave his name to Lord's Cricket Ground).

Total distance: 47 miles / 75 km

Coffee Stop: tbc
Lunch: Osmotherley Tea & Coffee Shop (25m/40km)
Overnight: tbc, Thirsk
Included meals: Breakfast.

Day 2 - Thirsk to Pickering

After a hearty breakfast in Thirsk, we wiggle through country lanes in the Howardian Hills, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, including the college town of Ampleforth and the picturesque village of Coxwold, where an impressive church houses the grave of the last officer of the Charge of the Light Brigade. From here, we turn north into the Moors once again, past the Norman church at Lastingham and through the grounds of the ruined Keldy Castle, requisitioned as an army camp in the Second World War. From here, it is down the valley to the medieval town of Pickering, home to Pickering Castle and the North Yorkshire Moors Heritage Railway, and interestingly also a gas processing plant for a gas field under the North York Moors.

Total distance: 48 miles / 77km

Coffee Stop: tbc

Lunch: The Corner Café, Kirkbymoorside (25m/40km)

Overnight: tbc, Pickering area

Included Meals: Breakfast.

Day 3 (Saturday 16th May): Pickering to Whitby

Climbing back onto the moors through the North Riding Forest Park, we cross into Langdale and the River Derwent and descend to the coast at the resort town Scarborough, where we may even enjoy a well-earned ice cream. Scarborough has a long creative and cultural history and is now enjoying something of a digital revolution and is in fact the only town to have featured as a stage start/finish town in every edition of the Tour of Yorkshire. From Scarborough, we turn north along the coast and briefly back up into the moors, before descending into Robin Hood's Bay and the Georgian spa town of Whitby, full of maritime history and overlooked by the imposing ruins of Whitby Abbey.

Total distance: 48 miles / 77km

Coffee Stop: tbc

Lunch: Waterfront Café, Scarborough (26m/42km)

Overnight: tbc, Whitby area

Included Meals: Breakfast.

Day 4 (Sunday 17th May): Whitby to Darlington

From Whitby it is a bumpy morning's riding up and around the Esk Valley, through Glaisdale, Castleton and Kildale, where Captain Cook grew up in the late 18th century. Castleton's slightly morbid claim to fame is the Danby Hand of Glory, a dried and pickled severed hand found in a cottage wall - such hands were usually from men hanged for murder, and historically believe to be attributed certain powers to unlock doors or render enemies motionless. Continuing our descent out of the Moors by the River Leven, we pass through the market towns of Stokesley and Yarm before completing our loop and tour in Darlington.

Total distance: 50 miles / 81km

Coffee Stop: tbc

Lunch: The Velveteen Rabbit Luncheon Club, Great Ayton (29m/46km)

Overnight: NA

Included Meals: NA

The tour is designated as “self-guided with support”: Pedal Power will arrange the accommodation and provide route mapping, kit lists and training advice, GPX files, route notes and daily briefings, along with luggage transfer and mechanical support where required. Where possible, the support van will meet the group en route at various points during the day.

Bikes

If not riding your own bike, we can provide you with a hybrid or cyclocross/gravel bike (+£95.00). The bike will come in a frame size that suits your height. The bikes have a high range of gears and fast-rolling 700c wheels and are perfect for these routes. The bikes are fitted with a bottle & bottle cage and come with a pannier bag, spare innertubes x 2 and tyre levers, pump and bike lock. If you wish to bring your own saddle and pedals these can be fitted to the bikes for you.

What to bring

We recommend you wear/carry with you when riding:

- Appropriate cycling clothes (including some padded shorts)
- Waterproof jacket and warmer long-sleeved tops and bottoms;
- Padded cycling gloves and some thicker, warmer gloves;
- Some stiff-soled shoes to cycle in (we can change pedals for any you bring if you prefer);
- Suncream (lets be optimistic!!) and sunglasses;
- Wallet (with cash as well as card for cafés);
- Camera;
- Phone with navigational capabilities (GPS devices also strongly recommended as more weather-proof navigational aids);
- Water bottle/carrier and snacks;
- Pump, multi-tool, lock, 2 x inner tubes;
- Plenty of your favourite snacks (cake and snacks on offer in the van, but it is always wise to carry some in case the van is tied up with another situation!)

For your evenings, the oft-forgotten items are:

- Evening clothes and shoes;
- Toiletries & personal medication;
- Relevant chargers;
- Any evening entertainment (e.g. playing cards or a good book!)

Training

The North York Moors is one of the hilliest areas in the UK which contributes to their outstanding natural beauty. Our experience is that the biggest factor in enjoyment and success of your trip is often the effort put into training, with which you will find yourself enjoying the challenge and the scenery much more. We recommend having cycled 40-50 miles per day, on some good hilly routes, on at least 3 or 4 occasions in the month leading up to your ride.

What's not included

Personal travel insurance, any relevant entrance fees, meals other than those mentioned in the itinerary, any charges for travelling with your own bike, taxi fares to/from Darlington station.

Any questions?

If you'd like further information or have any questions about our cycling holidays or bike hire, please feel free to get in touch on 07790596782 or email info@pedal-power.co.uk
