

Weekend ride

THE REIVERS ROUTE

- **Route name:** The Reivers Route. • **Start/finish:** The Beacon, Whitehaven (NX 969 182) to Tynemouth (NZ 374 691).
- **Maps:** OS Landrangers 79, 80, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90.
- **Ride length:** 276km/170 miles. • **Climbing:** 2,284m. • **Bike type:** gravel, MTB, tourer.
- **Ride level:** expert (two-day route); intermediate (three- or four-day route). • **GPX file:** cyclinguk.org/weekender-reivers-route



1 Cockermouth

The busy little town of Cockermouth makes for a fine cake-and-coffee stop on your first morning, and there are a couple of good bike shops if you need to pick up any spares etc. Famous former residents of the town include Fletcher Christian, the mutineer of 'Bounty' fame, and England cricket star Ben Stokes.

3 Kielder Forest

The main off-road section of the Reivers Route involves an easy climb up to the high point of the ride at 357 metres, from where you can enjoy inspirational views across what is one of the largest man-made forests in Europe and, of course, Kielder Water, the largest artificial lake in England.

6 TYNEMOUTH

After the solitude of most of the Reivers Route, Tynemouth comes as a bit of a shock, but Newcastle's bustling and cheerful beach resort is a great place to finish to ride, dip a toe in the sea, slurp an ice cream and enjoy an overnight stay before heading back to Whitehaven.

2 BACK O' SKIDDAW

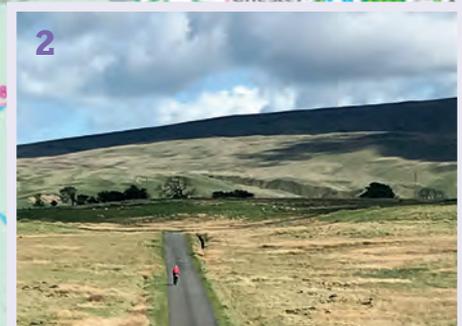
These northern fells of the Lake District are seldom visited by tourists, and the ride provides magnificent views across the wild, windblown moorlands that rise up to 931-metre Skiddaw, the sixth-highest mountain in England.

4 Bellingham

One of the larger towns on the middle section of the route, Bellingham is an appealing place to stop off, having a decent selection of accommodation, pubs and shops and an interesting history (Vikings, reivers and saints) which you can check out in the local heritage centre.

5 Thockrington

The lonely moorland road past the hamlet of Thockrington offers some of the best – and quietest – on-road riding of the route. The churchyard of St Aidan's Church is the last resting place of Lord Beveridge, founder of the modern welfare state, author Tom Sharpe, and aviatrix Connie Leathart.



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