**The Routes**

Making the most of Dumfries and Galloway’s extensive network of quiet rural roads – enjoy miles and miles of scenic cycling guided by local cyclists. We’ve also suggested a few self-guided routes plus some options to get you to and from the nearest railway stations if you’re coming by train. The ‘family friendly’ shorter routes are designed for those riding with children (although no kids required to join these rides!) to kid-friendly destinations. These should be suitable for children cycling independently if they can manage a couple of hours riding and are able to tackle some hills, and will be at a slower pace – probably 6-8 mph, but adjusted to the needs of the group.

**Friday - 24th May**

Some shorter options for those arriving in time, setting off in the afternoon.

**Moniaive, Lochinvar and Loch Urr - Depart 12:00**

A moderately hilly circular on-road 44 miles (3200 feet of climbing) – route link & GPX below

<https://www.plotaroute.com/route/2468218>

**Morton Castle, Durisdeer and Drumlanrig - Depart 12:15**

A moderately hilly circular on-road 25 miles (1600 feet of climbing) – route link & GPX below

<https://www.plotaroute.com/route/2468230>

**Family friendly to Thornhill - Depart 12:30**

4.7 miles, taking advantage of the new active travel path. A short out-and-back to Thornhill where there are a range of shops and cafes, so useful for anyone needing an introduction to the local amenities – route link & GPX below

<https://www.plotaroute.com/route/2483945>

**Saturday - 25th May**

**Sanquhar, Crawfordjohn and Leadhills - Depart 09:30**

A hilly longish ride of 56 miles (3900 feet of climbing) out via Sanquhar and back over the Menock pass via Leadhills and Wanlockhead. Route link & GPX below

<https://www.plotaroute.com/route/2421764.>

**Thornhill, Ae, Auldgirth - Depart 09:45**

A moderately hilly circular 33 mile ride (1800 feet of climbing) with options for a café stop at Ae Forest – route link & GPX below

<https://www.plotaroute.com/route/2468205>

**Family friendly to Drumlanrig Castle - Depart 10:00**

Mostly out-and-back ride of 9.2 miles with about 500 feet of climbing (mostly one big pull up to the castle grounds). Break at the castle to explore the grounds or visit the café, and either return with the group or independently for those wanting a longer visit. Route link & GPX below

<https://www.plotaroute.com/route/2484623>

**Sunday - 26th May**

The day starts with a short ride to Keir Mill and the birthplace of the bicycle (suitable for all abilities) followed by the traditional tea and cakes in the Keir village hall. From there, join our family friendly meander back to Penpont or set off on a self-guided adventure individually or in groups (see self-guided routes below for some inspiration) Due to capacity at the church hall, this ride is only available to weekend registrants of the KM Rally and isn't offered as a day ride. Well-fuelled after the church hall, the Sunday afternoon would be a good time to enjoy one of the self-guided routes. See below for options.

**Monday - 27th May (Bank Holiday)**

**"Spring Fling" Ride - Depart 09:30**

A short morning ride, looping past and stopping at some of the artists studios taking part in this years Spring Fling. Please note that this route includes a very short section on the A76 on approach to Auldgirth.

[Spring Fling 2024](https://www.spring-fling.co.uk/)

Pick up a souvenier or some inspiration before you make your way back home. This short ride will take in some of the participating studios close to Penpont. If you are cycling back to Dumfries or Lockerbie for onward connections, then you can start your day with us and leave en-route. We be starting in the direction of the train stations before finishing up back in Penpont.

<https://cycle.travel/map/journey/564418>

This route offers opportunites to stop at galleries & studios, 84, 85, 86, 87, G2, 81, 82 & 84. See the Spring Fling catalogue link above for more details. Frequent stops will add significantly to the duration of this ride, so please allow for that. At 12 miles (Auldgirth) there is an opportunity for a quiet route back into Dumfries town & railway station. It's also a good waypoint for those who may be heading for Lockerbie station and all points east & north.

**Self-guided Routes**

Looking for inspiration for Sunday’s ride? Here are some suggestions from local cyclists

**Ballagan (13 or 32 miles)**

Great views, lots of wild flowers and several fantastic picnic spots. The ‘main route’ is 13 miles. Starts with a long, gentle climb- but the resulting views make it worthwhile. The ‘detour’ up Scaur glen to Polskeoch lengthens the route to 32 miles. The effort is worth it – for the varied scenery and picnic spots. The best picnic location is 2 miles from the junction at the start of the ‘detour’. 300-400m past the farm there is a metal gate, set back from the road… On the main route, the Glenmarlin falls near Penpont are worth a visit (between the small caravan site and the Penpont to Moniaive road)

<https://www.plotaroute.com/route/2481687>

**Morton Castle, Closeburn (18 miles)**

The rough track near Morton Castle is not great for road bikes! Route link & GPX below

<https://www.plotaroute.com/route/2481502>

**Mitchellslacks, Loch Ettrick (22 miles)**

A challenging hill but great views, route link & GPX below

<https://www.plotaroute.com/route/2481661>

**Dalswinton via Park (20 miles)**

Includes a short section on the pavement alongside the A76 near Auldgirth. There is a tiny new café in Dalswinton (Blumen Flowers and Coffee) for coffee and cake

<https://www.plotaroute.com/route/2481667>

**Dunscore via Glen Midge (18 miles)**

Despite the name, midges are not an issue! Pleasant ride along quiet roads.

<https://www.plotaroute.com/route/2623767>

**Glenkiln Reservoir (32 miles)**

A scenic figure eight past Barnsoul (where the KM Rally was held in earlier days)

<https://www.plotaroute.com/route/2481482>

**Mennock and Dalveen Passes (45 miles)**

For those who like a lot of climbing.

<https://www.plotaroute.com/route/2481682>

**Caerlaverock (63 miles)**

A lovely route along some scenic, quiet roads. Plenty of cafes along the way (Glencaple, Kingholm Quay, Dumfries). Castle is worth a visit.

<https://www.plotaroute.com/route/2481747>

**Points to Note**

Note that although Thornhill and Penpont are well served with shops and cafes, other villages around the area are not so lucky. Do not assume that you will be able to refuel unless you have checked in advance, and bring emergency provisions. The last few years of bad weather have been tough on our back roads. Whether riding independently or in a group, be prepared for potholes and gravel on the roads. You also may not always find a phone signal in some of the remoter spots. OS Explorer 321 (Nithsdale and Dumfries) covers most of the rides described above if you want a battery-free backup navigation aid. 329, 328 and 320 should cover the rest.