



Top to bottom:
Traffic-free Larpool Viaduct outside Whitby. Climbing up from Levisham station. Dalby Forest

Weekender

Dalby & Troutsdale
A 38-mile road ride nearby: cyclinguk.org/route/troutsdale-and-dalby-loop-dan-joyce

Route YC Adventure Weekender

The Yorkshire Coast has lots of gravel tracks, forest trails, cycle routes and quiet roads. **Markus Stitz's** loop from Whitby uses some of the best

YC stands for Yorkshire Coast. Route YC was originally developed as a 420km driving route by the architect of the North Coast 500, Tom Campbell. In mid-2023 I was commissioned to adapt Tom's route into a collection of multi-day and day trips, using my experience from devising routes for the books *Bikepacking Scotland* and *Great British Gravel Rides*.

One of the 12 routes developed is the Route YC Adventure Weekender, a 147km gravel/bikepacking route. It features stunning coastal scenery as well as the wide-open moorlands and extensive forests of the North York Moors National Park, with plenty of little villages and towns along the way.

It is easily accessible by train. While Whitby is the suggested starting point, there are also stations in Ruswarp, Egton Bridge, Seamer, Filey and

Scarborough. If you are a fan of vintage steam trains, the North Yorkshire Moors Railway, which allows you to bring your bike for a small surcharge, also services Levisham station on the route.

The Adventure Weekender is a great choice for your first bikepacking adventure. While it was designed to be ridden anticlockwise, you can also reverse its direction. There are no technical singletrack or hike-a-bike sections, and the tracks are wide enough to tow a trailer if taking kids or dogs. The YHA hostels in Whitby, Lockton and Scarborough cater well for bikepackers, and a good tea room is never too far away to fuel you.

An organised event, the Yorkshire Coast Dirt Dash, will take place on the route next summer. Find out more – and download route GPX files – at routeyc.co.uk and dirtdash.cc.

