

Peak District Cycling Weekend

Trip code: PDC



Overview

 Total 3 days

 Hotels

 Difficulty: 

 Cycling 2 days

 England, UK

 March - November

The Peak District is cycling heaven, the perfect mix of stunning scenery, quiet roads, challenging climbs and epic descents. This is all topped off with a comfortable stay in our fabulous hotel, with local cafes and restaurants showcasing the culinary delights of this delightful region. Based in our fantastic hotel in the iconic spa town of Buxton, this centre-based trip consists of two brilliant guided routes through the first ever National Park in the UK, tackling some classic climbs in addition to a few lesser known back lanes.

Highlights

- Tackling Winnats Pass, a classic climb through a jaw-dropping limestone valley
- Descending through the Hope Valley in the shadow of the gritstone edges of Kinder Scout
- Stopping in for refreshments at the Cat and Fiddle Inn
- Exploring the magnificent architecture and gardens in the spa town of Buxton
- Sampling the local delicacies of the region, including the infamous Bakewell Tart!
- Riding through quaint English villages made from millstone grit
- Dining on a delicious lunch at Chatsworth House, a magnificent stately home
- Relaxing each day in our beautiful spa hotel in Buxton

Detailed Ride Itinerary

Day 1: Meet at Buxton hotel

The trip begins in our hotel in Buxton. If you're driving then we'll meet you at the hotel. If you prefer to arrive by public transport we can meet you at the train station to transfer you, your bikes and luggage to the hotel. At the hotel you will be met by the More Adventure team for a trip briefing and evening meal in preparation for tomorrow's ride.

Day 2: Winnats Pass, Chatsworth & Bakewell (87km & 1500m[±] / 54 miles & 4700 feet[±])

After breakfast in our hotel, we'll begin our first ride of the trip. It begins by heading northeast out of Buxton then onto open farmland as we enter Derbyshire Dales National Nature Reserve.

After a stunning descent we reach Castleton village at the western end of the Hope Valley. This pretty village is situated between the gritstone plateau of the Dark Peak and Kinder Scout to the north, and the gentler limestone of the White Peak to the south. It also marks the starting point of one of the most famous climbs in the Peak District, Winnats Pass. This limestone valley is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and home to countless fossils of sea creatures. The road carves its way up through the steep sided valley past the popular Speedwell Cavern museum, with the steepest sections near the top. After a breather and plenty of photos, we continue up to the col beneath Mam Tor, a 517 metre hill adorned with Bronze Age and Iron Age hill forts.



From here a dazzling descent leads to the Hope Valley floor as we follow the River Noe under the shadow of the gritstone edges of Kinder Scout. Once we reach Hathersage, we continue south following the river Derwent into the grounds of Chatsworth House. Aside from the striking architecture, this outstanding stately home also contains an exquisite art collection and is home to some world class gardens. It has featured heavily in period dramas and films, including *Pride & Prejudice* and *Peaky Blinders*. From Chatsworth our route heads west through the charming town of Bakewell, home to the infamous *Bakewell Tart*, it would be rude not to sample it! Just beyond here we reach Ashford in the Water from which a challenging climb leads to open farmland lined with traditional stone walls. It's then a few undulating last few miles back west back to Buxton and to our hotel.

Day 3: Goyt Valley, Cat & Fiddle, Arbor Low loop (78km & 1700m[±] / 48 miles & 5600 feet[±])

After a good night's rest we begin our second day cycling, a slightly shorter route but with more ascent than the previous day. We begin by climbing up and due northwest from Buxton then turning off for a great descent into Errwood Reservoir in the Goyt Valley. From here a sharp yet short climb leads up into open farm and moorland with views of the gritstone edges at Windgather Rocks. We'll cross over the Macclesfield canal just west of the town then continue east beneath the prominent peak of Tegg's Nose,

once the site of millstone grit quarries. Both Tegg's Nose and Macclesfield Forest are now carefully managed country parks with a rich diversity of wildlife and are extremely popular with hikers, mountain bikers, horse riders and runners. Our route passes alongside three reservoirs from which our main climb of the day begins. We ride through the dense woodland of Macclesfield Forest then after the brief respite of a short descent, join the road up to the infamous Cat & Fiddle. The Cat & Fiddle Inn was built in 1813, is the second-highest public house in England and lies on the Cheshire-Derbyshire border. From the inn we descend through open moorland to Earl Sterndale then onto Parsley Hay. Nearby lies the ancient stone circles of Arbor Low, a well-preserved Neolithic henge built from fifty large limestone blocks.

Our route continues north to Monyash which lies at the mouth of Lathkill Dale, a pretty limestone valley popular with hikers. From Taddington we descend into Miller's Dale and to the River Wye from which our final main climb of the day begins. At the summit of Worm Hill it's a short descent then into Buxton. Here the trip comes to an end and we say our farewells. If you're travelling by train, we'll transport your bikes and luggage to the train station for your onward journey.

Included

- Cycle guide(s)
- Support vehicle (for larger groups)
- 2 x night's spa hotel accommodation (twin sharing)
- 2 x breakfasts
- Bicycle and luggage transfer from/to Buxton station (if required)
- GPX files of the route

Not Included

- Bicycle and helmet
- Transport to and from start and finish points
- Travel/bicycle Insurance



This itinerary is a guide only and can sometimes be subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Whilst we endeavour to uphold the proposed daily mileages, this cannot be guaranteed due to changes to hotel bookings.

Trip Notes

Trip suitability

You will be cycling for between six and eight hours each day but this is not a race! This is a group trip and we like to cycle as such. You will be cycling through rolling countryside which will be hilly, and the pace will be determined by your Cycle Leader. If you are unable to keep to this moderate pace, you will be asked to travel in the support vehicle.

You must prepare before coming on the trip, anything cardiovascular will help as will of course cycling. Importantly you need to do some 6+ hour cycles so you will know what is required. **You will need to get some hill practice in!**

A link to our trip grades that explains in depth our star rating is here:

www.moreadventure.co.uk/cycling-grades

Weather & Climate

The weather in the Peak District is variable throughout the year and in a single day you can experience all four seasons. **It is absolutely essential that you are prepared for all weathers and be able to carry up to 1.5 litres of water.** Whilst the area has its fair share of good weather, it can rain at any time of the year and mornings can be chilly. Our recommendations on what clothing to bring will be issued upon booking.

Health

Your health and safety is our number one priority during any trip with More Adventure. For this reason, our leaders are the very best in the business, they all hold relevant outdoor First Aid Certificates, and have hands-on practical medical experience in a variety of environments.

It is recommended that you visit your GP well in advance to discuss your trip and any pre-existing medical conditions you have. We will require a comprehensive medical declaration form that may need to be verified by your GP.

Insurance

We recommend that you obtain personal travel insurance before booking any trip. Personal travel insurance is compulsory on any More Adventure trip and as a minimum, we require your cover to include medical expenses including emergency repatriation. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and damage/loss of luggage and personal effects (including your bicycle).



We also recommend you take out bicycle insurance for this trip. If you're looking for reasonably-priced, specialist bicycle insurance, we have teamed up with [Yellow Jersey Cycle Insurance](#).

They offer specialist cover for bicycles including all the standard cover you'd expect but also cover other things like race fee cancellation, crash damage, wheels cover and even theft from inside a vehicle. Use the code **MOREADV5** for 5% off.

Please be aware that your More Adventure leader will be checking your insurance documents on the first day of this trip and may refuse you to join the trip if your insurance cover is insufficient. The insurance company's 24 hour emergency contact number will need to be seen by your leader.

Money

Lunches tend to cost between £5 and £10, evening meals between £10 and £20 each. You will need British pound sterling to spend in England.

Accommodation

Accommodation for this trip is in an excellent quality hotel in Buxton which has hot water showers, excellent amenities and secure bicycle storage. It is based upon twin sharing.

Food

Breakfast will vary each morning but will generally consist of continental-style with some hot food items, hot drinks and juices. Lunches will be eaten in local cafes along the way featuring some fabulous local food and drinks. We will also be stopping at shops and cafes along the way for you to buy snacks and drinks.

Lunches, evening meals and drinks are not included in the price and we will eat out as a group at a local cafe/restaurant.

Equipment

We recommend road bicycles for this trip. Please contact us if you are unsure whether your bike is suitable.

Bikes are not included in the price. It is very important that your bike is in good working order and that you bring plenty of spares. Please bring at least two spare inner tubes. Your Cycle Leader will assist you with any minor bicycle repairs.

You must bring suitable, reasonably new tyres (e.g. Continental Gatorskin, Bontrager AW2; Schwalbe Marathon Plus). We recommend using [Wiggle \(click HERE\)](#) for the best value and quality in cycling clothing and equipment.

We do not provide helmets but it is essential you bring your own to wear.

If you wish to hire a bicycle instead of bringing your own then please get in touch. If you choose to hire we will visit the hire shop on Day 1 to pick your bike up and the More Adventure team will drop it back off on the final day.

Clothing

It is crucial to be prepared for the weather! The trip will continue in all but the absolute worst of weathers. Generally the best clothes to wear while cycling are light and comfortable. Please bring a lightweight waterproof top and a lightweight windproof top for the long descents. Make sure you bring enough clothes for each day cycling and for evening meals. Better to “have and not need than to need and not have”!

Luggage

All luggage will remain in the hotel as you cycle but you will need to carry inner tubes, snacks and water. The support vehicle will however also be on hand to carry further spares and layers whilst cycling if required. Bike boxes and bags will be transported to the hotel upon arrival.

Leaders

This trip is led by at least one experienced and qualified cycle leader who will cycle with the group at all times. They guide and encourage the group, and help deal with any bicycle mechanicals. In addition to this, for larger groups another leader drives a support vehicle offering assistance where necessary.

This trip will run on a minimum number of 2 persons. Please do not book any transport to/from the trip until it has been confirmed by email that it will run.

How to book (we recommend you have adequate travel insurance before booking any trip)

1. Find a date that suits you on our website
2. Click 'Book Now'
3. Fill in your personal details (if you are booking for a group, there is an option here to do so)
4. Fill in your medical details
5. Invite your friends if you wish!
6. Click on 'Make Payment' and securely pay a 40% deposit through Worldpay
7. **Congratulations - you've now secured your place!**
8. You will receive a confirmation email and further information about the trip
9. The remaining balance needs to be paid no later than 5 weeks before the trip begins. This can be paid in installments or in one payment through your More Adventure account.