

Gourmet cycling break in Yorkshire



Highlights

We love the great outdoors and the beautiful English countryside, so this one is a must as far as we are concerned. Organised by local expert Colin, these weekend breaks in Yorkshire allow you to explore the undiscovered Forest of Bowland by bike, stopping off along the way to sample local produce and admire the views...

The Bowland Forest is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in North West England. Relatively undiscovered, the picturesque villages nestle in deep lush valleys whilst the heather covered moors are populated with many birds and wildlife, including ring ouzels, hen harriers and whinchats.

You will be met off the train in Settle by Colin and the team and pick up your bike, then you can set off at your own pace along the beautifully quiet country lanes to Bashall Barn. Run by Simon Barnes, this farmshop sells locally produced meats, cheeses, pickles and preserves. (And if you are wondering how you will be able to get one of their delicious hampers home, don't worry as they can be picked up at the end of your tour back in Settle.) If you decide not to buy anything here, you absolutely have to try some of their award winning ice creams.

The next day, cycle to the 17th century village of Chipping. You might want to pop into the Leagram Organic Dairy here to sample their delicious crumbly Lancashire cheese, or perhaps even try their latest Lancashire soft cheese. All of the cheeses are waxed by hand, feel free to ask questions as they demonstrate the cheese-making process to you. By now, you may have worked up an appetite, so you might want to have lunch at the local Sun Inn and then for pudding, try some of Uncle Bob's ice cream. Made locally by the Robinson family, they produce mouth-watering flavours such as Amaretto & Black Cherry or Irish Cream.

The following day will see you heading back to Settle where you will pick up your bags and (reluctantly) head back home.

Is it for me?

Do you love cycling and fine food? Then yes, this tour is for you. Yes, it does involve cycling, so some physical exertion is inevitable, but the routes have been designed flexibly to suit your fitness level, so you can choose between more adventurous or gentler routes making these weekend breaks in Yorkshire accessible for riders of any level. This isn't a race, so you can happily explore at your own pace, with lots of time to stop for rests and to take in the view as you go. Families are more than welcome to come along, with children's seats and trailers provided.

Accommodation

Your first night's stop is at Gibbon Bridge Hotel. The 30 bedrooms here have each been individually designed (some even have whirlpools where you can soak your weary muscles) Head chef Gary uses the kitchen garden here as his inspiration for the menu and you can choose from the many vegetables, herbs & fruit that are grown just outside the kitchen door. You don't get much more locally-sourced than that! The restaurant overlooks the award winning gardens, so sit back and enjoy the view.

Prices from

295 GBP (3 days) per person

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The second night's accommodation is in a building dating back to the 1300's. the Inn at Whitewell is best described as down to earth luxury. The dining room overlooks the river Hodder, so you can sit back and contemplate the magnificent views whilst savouring some of the locally-sourced food cooked up by head chef Jamie.

The accommodation is not owned by Off the Rails and as such during the busier times of the year it may not be available. If this is the case, you will either need to choose alternative dates, or Colin will arrange alternative hotels.

Details

Getting there

The office is just outside Settle train station, which makes it easy to access by rail.

Price includes

Included is breakfast, a 3 course dinner each night and use of all hotel facilities.

Price details

Price is based on 2 people sharing

When is best

Whilst you can enjoy this trip throughout the year, the weather for cycling tends to be best April - October.

Available

Jan—Dec

Typical Duration

3 days

Comfort level

Refined (boutique or luxury accommodation and food)

Experience required

A reasonable level of fitness and interest is all that is needed