



SECRET BOTHY

the wee cottage with big ideas

CYCLING

Highland Perthshire is undoubtedly one of the best places to ride your road bike in the UK. Whether you are looking for a pleasant, traffic-light road in order to explore the surrounding countryside at your own pace on two-wheels or a club-cyclist looking to emulate Chris Froome with some serious climbing training you will find routes to suit all tastes around Killiecrankie.

Every year thousands of cyclists find out why Perthshire is increasingly being tipped as a cycling destination at the annual Etape Caledonia Sportive. This event hosts 5000 riders and was for a time, the only fully closed-road amateur cycling event in the UK. The increasing popularity of cycling helped in a large part by the success of Sir Chris Hoy in the velodrome as well as Team Sky at the Tour de France with the likes of Froome, Sir Bradley Wiggins, Geraint Thomas and Mark Cavendish has ensured that more and more events in the mould of Etape Caledonia have sprung up in recent times. However, we are proud of the fact that our own event was in many ways a trend setter in the cycling revolution of the UK.

If you have not yet done the course, you can stay at Secret Bothy and give it a go in your own time before taking on the challenge of race day. Start in Pitlochry and head north before turning left at The Garry Bridge and heading towards The Queens View. From here go through Tummel Bridge and head towards Kinloch Rannoch. A circuit of Loch Rannoch follows before the fabled ascent of Schiehallion. You may want to train on this climb a few times in order to earn those all-important King of the Mountains points! An exhilarating descent follows in to Coshieville. After taking in the picturesque Fortingall, return towards Aberfeldy via Weem and Dull and head along the Strathhtay road before arriving in Pitlochry via Logierait and Dunfallandy.

The 83-mile sportive course is a fantastic route and takes in some dramatic scenery. Importantly it also passes some excellent tea-rooms where you can refuel and enjoy some excellent home baking! However, there are a number of other routes in the area that will prove equally picturesque and worth riding if you are here for a few days.