



Tour of Britain “Legacy” routes



2021 Tour of Britain

Following the successful visit of the Tour of Britain to Aberdeenshire in 2021, we can now provide our suggested “Legacy” routes so that you can enjoy sections or the full Stage 8 route from the 2021 race,

as well as some suggested shorter routes that encompass different sections of the Stage 8, allowing you to experience the Aberdeenshire roads graced by some of the world’s top cyclists.



The Kincardine and Mearns Route

King of the Mountains

“Cairn o’ Mount” Experience

Photo courtesy of SWPix

The Kincardine and Mearns Route

King of the Mountains “Cairn o’ Mount” Experience

Starting in the heart of Stonehaven, where the pneumatic tyre was first invented by Robert Thomson in 1845, this route starts at the point where the riders, in the 2021 edition of the Tour of Britain left Stonehaven. It then heads to out of the town via Kirktown of Fetteresso and south west towards Fettercairn. The route then switches north and towards one of the most famous ascents in Scotland, the Cairn o’ Mount

With a distance of 3.37km and an average gradient of 9.7% this is a test of climbing but one that is rewarded with stunning views from the summit, south to Angus, west to Glenshee and the Cairngorms and north to the Corrennie Hills and Bennachie. The climbing is also rewarded with a stunning descent to the village of Strachan, where for this route we suggest a right turn and the journey to the picturesque Falls of Feugh near

Banchory. A quick de-tour will allow a visit to Banchory itself or continue to the South Deeside Road until you meet the A957 Slug Road where a right turn takes you up the climb of the Slug and yet another amazing descent that returns you to your starting point in Stonehaven.

Aberdeenshire Residents can access Live Life Essentials and enjoy a post ride shower at Stonehaven Leisure Centre, free Wi-Fi and free access to our Press Reader programme so you can catch up on the newspapers and your favourite cycling magazines. Add in access to e-books and e-audiobooks via Libby and your Kincardine and Mearns cycling experience is complete!

<https://www.livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/live-life-with-us/live-life-essentials/>

The Kincardine and Mearns Route



This route will allow you to complete the following
Aberdeenshire Ascents climbs:

Cairn o' Mount

<https://www.visitabdn.com/ascents/cairn-o-mount/>

Linked businesses:

- Local amenities in Stonehaven, Fettercairn and Bennachie
- Falls of Feugh Restaurant
<https://www.thefallsoffeugh.com/>
- Banchory Museum
<https://www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/museums/find-a-museum/banchory-museum/>





The Deeside Route

Queen's View



The Deeside Route

Queen's View

Start your ride from Aboyne Community Centre or for a longer route Banchory Sports Village also provides an excellent start point. The route heads west to Tarland from both suggested start points and takes in the climb of Queens View, which was used in both directions over the two years that the Tour of Britain visited Aberdeenshire. The descent or ascent of Queens View provides a stunning cycling experience and the village of Tarland provides the starting point to ride the climb, also part of the Aberdeenshire Ascents experience. Once summited, the sweeping descent presents a stunning view back into Royal Deeside and the route west to the Cairngorms National Park and the climb at Cairnwell, Glenshee.

Whether you start your ride from Aboyne Community Centre or the longer route from Banchory Sports Village, Aberdeenshire Residents can access Live Life Essentials and enjoy a post

ride shower, free Wi-Fi and free access to our Press Reader programme so you can catch up on the newspapers and your favourite cycling magazines. Add in access to e-books and e-audiobooks via Libby and your Deeside cycling experience is complete.

<https://www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/live-life-with-us/live-life-essentials/>



Why not visit one of our 'From Mountain to Sea' Covid memorial benches. There is one in Doune, near Tarland – find out more at <https://www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/arts/covid-memorial/benches/>

The Deeside Route



This route will allow you to complete the following Aberdeenshire Ascents climbs:

- Queens View
<https://www.visitabdn.com/ascents/queens-view/>

Linked businesses:

- Aboyne Community Centre
<https://lifelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/sport-and-physical-activity/venues/aboyne-swimming-pool-and-deeside-community-centre/>
- Banchory Sports Village
<https://lifelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/sport-and-physical-activity/venues/banchory-sports-village/>
- Local amenities in Banchory, Aboyne, Tarland





Stage 8 Tour of Britain 2021

The Race Route

Photo courtesy of SWPix

Stage 8 Tour of Britain

The Race Route

For those seeking the ultimate challenge, you can take on the Tour of Britain Stage 8 route, 173km from Stonehaven to Aberdeen. Ride it in one day or break it up into several parts using the Kincardine and Mearns, Deeside and Garioch experiences to complete the full distance in stages. Either way you are guaranteed a memorable cycle ride that will have been graced by some of the world's top cyclists but one that provides an amazing cycling experience!

To complete the full route requires the ride to begin in Stonehaven at Queen Elizabeth Park, ideally placing you to use Stonehaven Leisure Centre as your base:

<https://www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/sport-and-physical-activity/venues/stonehaven-leisure-centre/>

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where the riders, in the 2021 edition of the Tour of Britain left Stonehaven. It then heads to out of the town via Kirktown of Fetteresso and south west towards Fettercairn. The route then switches north and towards one of the most famous ascents in Scotland, the Cairn o'Mount.

With a distance of 3.37km and an average gradient of 9.7% this is a test of climbing but one that is rewarded with stunning views from the summit, south to Angus, west to Glenshee and the Cairngorms and north to the Corrennie Hills and Bennachie. Once over the top and replicating the opening King of the Mountains effort, the climbing is also rewarded with a stunning descent to the village of Strachan before turning left and heading west through Finzean and the climb of Corsedarder, King of the Mountains No 2 in the 2021 stage, which then leads to yet another fast and sweeping descent towards Aboyne.

8 Stage

Stage 8 Tour of Britain

Once into Aboyne over the River Dee, it's a left turn and onto the A93 until you reach Dinnet, where the left turn back across the river takes you to the south banks of the river and the route continues west before the final crossing of the river into the famous streets of Ballater. The final leg back towards Aberdeen now starts in earnest and who knows, you might get a tailwind just like the riders in the Tour of Britain enjoyed, so its along the A93 past Cambus O'May then left and through the Muir of Dinnet National Reserve. As you ride through Tarland and join the B9119, the climb of Queens View begins, and this is your final chance to test yourself against a King of the Mountains location on the 2021 route.

The route heads east along the B9119 until the left turn onto the B993 and north towards Millbank, where you briefly join the A944 by turning right then leave it by turning left towards Cluny and onwards through the crossroads (Give Way) and towards Castle Fraser. A sharp right takes you onto the climb past the castle entrance and the roller coaster road that reaches Dunecht after a right turn. Left at Dunecht and you re-join the A944 and the final leg into Aberdeen, passing through Westhill and joining

the dual carriageway into Aberdeen. There is a particularly good cycle lane that runs alongside the A944 should you wish to use that option and it leads all the way into Queens Road in Aberdeen.

The route now enters the busy parts of the city centre and follows Queens Road before joining Carden Place, Skene Street and Woolmanhill. Left at the Woolmanhill roundabout leads up the hill to the roundabout with Skene Square and straight on staying on Skene Square before the right turn onto Hutcheon Street. It's now downhill on Hutcheon Street, crossing George Street to reach Mounthooly roundabout and the second exit to Mounthooly Way which reaches King Street and the left turn which heads north on King Street.

Why not visit one of our 'From Mountain to Sea' Covid memorial benches. There are benches in Ballater and Doune, near Tarland – find out more at <https://www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/arts/covid-memorial/benches/>

8 Stage

Stage 8 Tour of Britain

Follow King Street and across the roundabout junction with St Machar Drive and continue along King Street until you reach the traffic lights at the Esplanade. Dismount here to cross to the River Don side of the Esplanade and you are now into the last few kilometres as you follow the Esplanade to Aberdeen Beach and the finish line beside the Beach Ballroom.

There are plenty of options in the beach area to grab some refreshments or if you are heading back to Stonehaven, either by bicycle or by train from Aberdeen Train Station, Aberdeenshire Residents can access Live Life Essentials and enjoy a post ride shower at Stonehaven Leisure Centre, free Wi-Fi and free access to our Press Reader programme so you can catch up on the newspapers and your favourite cycling magazines. Add in access to e-books and e-audiobooks via Libby and your cycling experience is complete!



This route will allow you to complete the following Aberdeenshire Ascents climbs:

- Cairn o' Mount
<https://www.visitabdn.com/ascents/cairn-o-mount>
- Queens View
<https://www.visitabdn.com/ascents/queens-view/>

Linked businesses:

- Local amenities in Stonehaven, Fettercairn, Aboyne, Ballater, Tarland, Westhill and Aberdeen City
- Castle Fraser
<https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/castle-fraser>

8 Stage

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