



# Tour of Britain “Legacy” routes







## 2022 Tour of Britain

Following the successful visit of the Tour of Britain to Aberdeenshire in 2022, we can now provide our suggested “Legacy” routes so that you can enjoy the full Stage 1 route from the 2022 race, some

suggested shorter routes that encompass different sections of the Stage 1 and enjoyable family routes that allow everyone to experience the Aberdeenshire roads graced by some of the world’s top cyclists.





# The Garioch Route King of the Mountains experience

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# The Garioch Route

## King of the Mountains Experience

Starting in the heart of the Garioch in Inverurie, this route starts at the point where the riders, in the 2022 edition of the Tour of Britain, left Inverurie and heads to Chapel of Garioch via Dubston before taking in the climb near Blairdaff that as the first King of the Mountains location on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

Descending down into Blairdaff, the route then takes in My Lords Throat, which was the 2<sup>nd</sup> King of the Mountains location for Stage 1 before descending towards the undulating climb of the Brindy.

A fast descent into Auchleven then onto the Insch-Kennethmont Road and past the famous distillery before turning left towards Clatt and the Suie climb. Suie Hill was the final King of the Mountains and provides a stunning descent (after the hard bit!) towards Montgarrie and the road into Alford. Our Garioch route suggestion is to head back through Keig and retrace via My Lords Throat, with options to return to Inverurie via Chapel of Garioch or via Burnhervie.

Start your ride from Inverurie Community Campus, where you can also sign up to 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 cycling experience in the Garioch is complete!

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





# The Garioch Route



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

- My Lords Throat  
<https://www.visitabdn.com/ascents/my-lords-throat/>
- Suie Hill <https://www.visitabdn.com/ascents/suie/>

## Linked businesses:

- Local amenities in Inverurie  
<https://www.weareinverurie.co.uk/>
- Old Post Office Tearoom, Chapel of Garioch
- Bennachie Centre  
<https://www.bennachievisitorcentre.org.uk/>
- Leith Hall  
<https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/leith-hall>
- Local amenities in Alford

## The Garioch Family Experience

This enjoyable family route takes in a short section of Stage 1 of the Tour of Britain 2022, leaving Inverurie via Polinar Dam and making its way through Chapel of Garioch via Dubston, before taking a flat route back to Inverurie via Burnhervie.

## Linked business:

- Old Post Office Tea Room, Chapel of Garioch
- Local amenities in Inverurie  
<https://www.weareinverurie.co.uk/>



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



# The Donside Route Suie Loop

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CAUTION  
CYCLISTS



# The Donside Route

## Suie Loop

Why not start your ride from Alford Community Campus and head towards the stunning loop that takes in the Brindy climb and the famous climb of Suie Hill, before returning to Alford via Montgarrie. Once back in Alford you can then follow the Old Military Road through Muggarthaugh and join the A97 up to the crossroads junction, passing the fairy-tale Craigievar Castle before retracing back to Alford and refreshments at the various local eateries.

Or why not use 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 Donside cycling experience is complete!

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



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

- Suie Hill <https://www.visitabdn.com/ascents/suie/>

### Linked businesses:

- Alford Community Campus  
<https://livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/sport-and-physical-activity/venues/alford-community-campus>
- Grampian Transport Museum  
<https://www.gtm.org.uk/>
- Alford village amenities



# The Donside Route

## The Donside Family Experience

A family experience around a stunning loop that takes in the Brindy climb and the famous climb of Suie Hill, before returning to Alford via Montgarrie. Why not start your ride from Alford Community Campus and once back in Alford you can then follow the Old Military Road through Muggarthaugh and join the A97 up to the crossroads junction, passing the fairy-tale Craigievar Castle before retracing back to Alford and refreshments at the various local eateries.

Why not use 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 for all the family and your Donside cycling experience complete!

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



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

- Suie Hill <https://www.visitabdn.com/ascents/suie/>

### Linked businesses:

- Alford Community Campus  
<https://livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/sport-and-physical-activity/venues/alford-community-campus/>
- Grampian Transport Museum  
<https://www.gtm.org.uk/>
- Local amenities in Alford

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





# **The Deeside Route Queens View to Glenshee**

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# The Deeside Route

## Queens View to Glenshee

Start your ride from Aboyne Community Centre or for a longer route Banchory Sports Village provides an excellent start point. The route heads west to Tarland from both suggested start points and firstly 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.

To enhance the climbing aspect of this amazing journey across Deeside, the suggested route travels over the Gairnshiel climb before descending to Crathie, and a chance for a break at Balmoral Castle car park (or a visit to the estate) ahead of the section to Braemar and the summit climb at Glenshee. Follow in the footsteps of some of the world's top cyclists who raced to the ski centre on 4th September 2022. This does involve riding on the A93 main road and

has several challenging ascents and is recommended for experienced cyclists. The return leg is a retrace of the route to Crathie and the less challenging South Deeside Road routes back to Aboyne or Banchory.

*\*A lower level route can be achieved by heading for Dinnet from Tarland and crossing the A93 to join the South Deeside Road west to Ballater and onto Crathie.*

This route does involve riding on the A93 main road and has several challenging ascents and is recommended for experienced cyclists. The return leg is a retrace of the route to Crathie and the less challenging South Deeside Road routes back to Aboyne or Banchory.

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.



# The Deeside Route



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

- Queens View  
<https://www.visitabdn.com/ascents/queens-view/>
- Gairnshiel  
<https://www.visitabdn.com/ascents/gairnshiel/>
- Cairnwell (Glenshee)  
<https://www.visitabdn.com/ascents/cairnwell/>

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

## Linked facilities/businesses:

- Aboyne Community Centre  
<https://livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/sport-and-physical-activity/venues/aboyne-swimming-pool-and-deeside-community-centre/>
- Banchory Sports Village  
<https://livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/sport-and-physical-activity/venues/banchory-sports-village/>
- Local amenities in Banchory, Aboyne, Tarland, Crathie, Balmoral and Braemar
- Glenshee Ski Centre  
<https://www.ski-glenshee.co.uk/>







# Stage 1 Tour of Britain 2022

## The race route

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*Photo courtesy of SWPix*



# Stage 1 Tour of Britain

## The Race Route

For those seeking the ultimate challenge, you can take on the Tour of Britain Stage 1 route, 182km from Aberdeen to Glenshee. Ride it in one day or break it up into several parts using the Garioch, Donside and Deeside 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 and described by former Tour de France King of the Mountains winner Phillipa York as "One of the most brutal days to open a stage race that you will ever see".

<https://www.tourofbritain.co.uk/video-relive-the-tour-of-britain-2022/>

To complete the full route requires the start point in Aberdeen City Centre on Union Street then heading to King Street and the right hand turn onto East North Street before heading down the Beach Boulevard and past the Beach Ballroom onto the Beach Esplanade heading north.

Turn right onto Ellon Road from the Beach Esplanade and turn left into Balgownie Road, continuing to the left turn onto Scotstown Road. Follow Scotstown Road to leave the city boundary and continue on the B977 to the left hand turn at the Parkhill junction. Continue on the B977 to the crossroad junction with the A947. Cross the A947 and now follow the B977 into Aberdeenshire.

Your route now follows the B977 before turning right and following the unclassified road through Kinmuck and joining the B993 via the left turn junction at Keithhall. Follow the B993 and descend with "Caution" into Inverurie, past the famous Bass in the old cemetery and follow the route through High Street, West High Street and Blackhall Road before turning left into Nether Davah Way. At the roundabout join Upperboat Road which leads to St James Place then turn right onto the unclassified road towards Polinar Dam, where the right turn leads to the left turn to Dubston and towards Balquhain down a fast descent.

# Stage 1



# Stage 1 Tour of Britain

The route now turns left towards Chapel of Garioch, ascending up to the village via a short twisty climb then turning left at the Old Post Office Tearoom and following the road towards the Bennachie Visitor Centre, with some stunning views of the eastern flanks of Bennachie as you ride along.

As you ride past the entrance to the Bennachie Visitor Centre you now begin to take on the first King of the Mountains ascent of Stage 1 of the Tour of Britain 2022, climbing steadily to the summit that then brings a fast sweeping descent through Blairdaff and onwards to the right hand turn to enter My Lords Throat, arguably one of the most stunning locations of the stage route. Continue west through the forest lined road that initially runs adjacent to the River Don before ramping up into a series of short snappy climbs and culminating with the “Aberdeenshire Ascents” feature of My Lords Throat which was also the second King of the Mountains ascent in 2022.

<https://www.visitabdn.com/ascents/my-lords-throat/>

Once over the climb and it's another sweeping descent towards the right turn at the junction near

Keig and travel north over the climb of The Brindy and a fast descent into Auchleven (caution required at left sweeping corner at the entrance to the village.) Continue north through Auchleven and at the junction with the B9002 turn left and follow to the village of Kennethmont before turning left onto the unclassified road towards Clatt. Once through Clatt you will approach Suie Road and the final King of the Mountains ascent of 2022 on the famous Suie Hill, another climb that features as part of “Aberdeenshire Ascents”

<https://www.visitabdn.com/ascents/suie/>

Suie Hill's northern flank is very steep and has a near hairpin corner mid-way up that then leads to the last section before an amazing descent, which needs some caution half way down on a sweeping left hand bend. This offers a stunning view of Donside and in the distance the first sights of the Deeside mountains near your end goal of Glenshee Ski Centre.

West to Glenshee  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6XRY\\_HrnGSM&t=2s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6XRY_HrnGSM&t=2s)

# Stage 1

# Stage 1 AJ Bell Tour of Britain

At Tullynessle Village Hall, your route turns left and enters Montgarrie before turning right towards Alford on Montgarrie Road and a left onto the A944 then right into Kingsford Road and the route heads south west to turn tight into the Old Military Road past Muggerthaug then left at the junction with the A980.

The A980 takes you south past the fairy-tale Craigievar Castle, which is on your right, and you will then reach the junction with the B9119 where you will turn right and head towards Tarland. You will now head west on the B9199 and encounter yet another sweeping descent that will open up the Deeside skyline in all its glory, as you come down Queens View (which was an ascent in the opposite direction during Stage 8 of the Tour of Britain 2021 from Stonehaven to Aberdeen). Through the village of Tarland and turn right into Burnside Road riding past the Tarland Trails MTB centre and westwards through Migvie to the junction with the A97 where you will turn left and head south through Logie Coldstone before turning right onto the B9119 and entering the Cairngorms National Park.

The B9119 takes you through the Muir of Dinnet National Nature Reserve to the right hand turn at the junction with the A93 Aberdeen to Braemar Road, with your prize now in sight as you head through Ballater village centre and follow the A93 towards Crathie and Balmoral Castle and Braemar. The route is now nearing its conclusion as you ride through Braemar, through the snow gates and begin the final ascent to Cairnwell and the Glenshee Ski Centre, scene of Corbin Strong's (Israel Nation- Premier Tech) securing the win and the Leaders jersey on Sunday 4th September 2022. You have also just secured your third "Aberdeenshire Ascent"

<https://www.visitabdn.com/ascents/cairnwell/>

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

# Stage 1



- Banchory Sports Village  
<https://livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/sport-and-physical-activity/venues/banchory-sports-village/>

**Public transport is available via:**

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/public-transport>



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

- My Lords Throat  
<https://www.visitabdn.com/ascents/my-lords-throat/>
- Suie Hill <https://www.visitabdn.com/ascents/suie/>
- Cairnwell (Glenshee)  
<https://www.visitabdn.com/ascents/cairnwell/>

**Linked facilities/businesses:**

- Local amenities in Aberdeen City
- Inverurie businesses (We are Inverurie)  
<https://www.weareinverurie.co.uk/>
- Old Post Office Tearoom, Chapel of Garioch

- Bennachie Centre  
<https://www.bennachievisitorcentre.org.uk/>
- Leith Hall  
<https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/leith-hall>
- Local amenities in Alford
- Aboyne Community Centre  
<https://livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/sport-and-physical-activity/venues/aboyne-swimming-pool-and-deeside-community-centre/>
- Local amenities in Banchory, Aboyne, Tarland, Crathie, Balmoral and Braemar
- Banchory - Ride Coffee House, Birdhouse Cafe, The Liberty Kitchen, The Cowshed Restaurant, Tease Coffee Bar
- Aboyne - Spider on a Bicycle, The Boat Inn
- Crathie - Tarmachan Café, The Highlanders Bakehouse, Balmoral Café (at Balmoral)
- Ballater – The Bothy Ballater, Bridge House Café, Bean for Coffee, Brown Sugar Café
- Braemar – The Bothy Braemar, Braemar Chocolate Shop (not a café, but definitely worth a visit for artisan chocolates made on site), Gordon's Tearoom
- Glenshee Ski Centre <https://www.ski-glenshee.co.uk/>

# Stage 1





# Tour of Britain “Legacy” routes



Photo courtesy of SWPix