

TRIP: Torrid Affair
ACCOMMODATION: Lodge, B&B

TECHNICAL GRADING: 3++

ENDURANCE GRADING: 3++

TRAVEL

OUTWARD (please use the [hyperlinks](#) for maps/directions)

Please confirm your travel plans and pick-up point with the office in advance.

- Initial departure point: 08:45, [Co-op Supermarket](#), Innerleithen
- Pick-up point two: 09:30/45, [Edinburgh Park train station](#)
 - Rendezvous point: Lochside Avenue entrance / Premier Inn (Gyle) side of the track ([Edinburgh Airport Tram connection is available](#), 12 min journey).
- Pick-up point three: 10:30/45, [Perth Services Travelodge Hotel](#), Perth
- Pick-up point four: 12:30/45, [Aviemore Train Station](#), Aviemore
- Journey time to the accommodation in Strathcarron is approximately five hours excluding stops
- Near Aviemore, we'll have a quick lunch in a fantastic bistro and afterwards enjoy a short two hour ride to sample the trails and stretch the legs before continuing northwards
- In Inverness – approx 17:00/30 - we'll refuel and pick up essential supplies before the last leg of our journey to Strathcarron, arriving at the lodge approximately 19:30

RETURN

At the end of the trip, we will be arriving back in the Edinburgh (Park) area around 15:00/16:00, and Innerleithen by 16:00/17:00.



DJ Skinnyphat

1 review · 1 photo

★★★★★ 4 months ago

What an incredible trip. The planning, guiding and overall service from Andy and Andy (yes 2 for the price of 1) was off the hook (American term). I'd still be lost shriveled up in a bothy somewhere if it weren't for them. Don't even think about MTBing in Scotland without their services.



 Helpful?

Response from the owner 4 months ago

Thanks so much for sharing your experience of mountain biking in Scotland, and we hope it's not the last time! All the best from 'the two Andys' :)

SAMPLE ITINERARY

Saturday

Trips typically begin with a fresh coffee (of course!) and for our first pick up, a rendezvous at 08:30 am in the Tweed Valley with alternative pick-ups in Edinburgh, Perth and Inverness.

After high-fives and handshakes, we safely secure our precious cargo onto our custom bike trailer, load the minibus, turn on the tunes and kick off the adventure!

As we truck north to our secret loch-side HQ, we'll treat ourselves to a tasty ride on some lesser-known trail delights near Aviemore.

By the time we swing into the Glen we'll be ready to crack open the beers and rustle up a hearty dinner together - and maybe even enjoy an ale or a dram* by the fire overlooking tomorrow's mountains.

*Maybe best not overdo it though...Day 2 might be a big one!

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Sunday

Waking up to 360 degree epicness - stunning views of mountains rising straight from the loch; it's quite a spot to polish off a hearty breakfast, drain the last drop of fresh java from the cafetière before donning bike gear, fettling bikes and steering a course for those very same peaks.

This could be a 'three-sandwich' kind of day...whichever route we pick, prepare to be out in the mountains all day, picking the best lines amongst the boulder strewn singletrack the northwest highlands are notorious for. You can expect the bike to be over your shoulder or on your back at points - the riding in this part of Scotland has its challenges for everyone, but the best descents in Europe are well worth the effort. And the awesome mountain backdrop helps take the sting out of the climbs so don't forget your camera!

Plus, we all know the beer tastes sweeter when it's earned.

Monday

On day three, it's time to return to the big mountain buffet for a flavour of your choosing: there's no shortage of new trails and new views to blow your socks off! With a good night's sleep and a hearty breakfast under our belts, there should be plenty of fuel in the tank to get right back to it and get stuck into the good stuff.

By now you'll be getting your eye in, and hopefully understanding why we just can't keep ourselves away from this place. Big climbs, big scenery, big smiles - it's all there to be earned. Serious days call for serious relaxation back at base though, so alongside a hearty evening meal we can raise a glass to our achievements so far.

Tuesday

We'll see how everybody's feeling after two big mountain days - today's an optional 'lighter' ride day.

You might be curious to see the area at a slightly more leisurely pace, or just burning to know what the local whisky tastes like! As good as it is, this part of Scotland has a lot going for it to compliment the great riding, so we'll make sure to show you a little of the special character of the area.

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Wednesday

Today's one of those mornings where the mountain views from a cosy bed may slow up progress for a while, but what's waiting for us on the Isle of Skye has a stronger pull than the duvet!

We'll pick a tasty route - whether an epic point-to-point, a stunning coastal loop, or a short uber-technical alpine sortie, or even a combo if time and stamina allow. We'll grab coffee and cake after the ride (are you sensing we like our coffee!!) and by the time we roll back to HQ in the evening, it'll be time for a loch side BBQ, a hearty home-cooked meal or some pub fayre served locally.

Thursday

Retracing the ancient coffin road (singletrack) across the Applecross Peninsula we'll climb onto an exposed headland with stunning views all around, before weaving our way to the coast, climbing and descending on some of the world's most ancient rock. Singletrack created by the Gods!

Your prayers will be answered because the ride takes us nearby one of Scotland's finest and friendliest seafood restaurants - the Applecross Inn. After lunch at the Inn, we'll either retrace our steps for a ride that feels nothing like the inward leg before lazily heading back to HQ.

Friday

Just as you're getting into the groove, you realise it's our very last day. There might be some legs that are glad for the relief, but we reckon your head will be bursting with ideas and dreams to come back here!

After a relaxed breakfast, we'll sort out our kit, take one last look at this incredible part of Scotland before starting our homeward journey south with stops along the way for coffee and lunch.

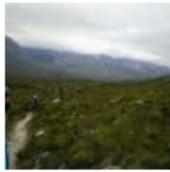


Sinéad Hynes

4 reviews · 1 photo

★★★★★ 3 months ago - 

Go-Where were fun, professional and full of knowledge. The best week you could spend on a bike. Had a mix of sunshine and rain and the routes were chosen accordingly with great expertise. A really good challenge and a week I will remember forever.



 Helpful?

Response from the owner 3 months ago

Aw, thanks so much Sinéad. Hope to share many more mountain bike adventures in Scotland with you in future!

LUGGAGE / BIKE TRANSPORTATION

- For all trips, there is allowance for one large holdall plus riding backpack per person
- Regrettably, we do not have provision to store/carry bike bags and boxes during trips but we're happy to assist with arrangements
- Bikes are securely carried (fully-assembled) and attached to our custom [Burtech](#) trailer
- We always recommend guest bikes are fully insured - we have negotiated a 5% saving on policies from [Bikmo \(use code: GOWHERE\)](#)

ACCOMMODATION

We use the best accommodation available to suit the trip. This is detailed on the trip webpages. For the Torrid Affair, or base for the week is the lovely Cam Allt Na Mara - <http://www.camalltnamara.com/>

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For those requesting single or private accommodation – in some instances, where this is available – an additional supplement may be chargeable.

FOOD & DRINK

Your trip offers up many opportunities to enjoy great fresh Scottish fayre and of course a dram or two and a fine ale!

- **Breakfasts** Breakfast supplies are provided on a help yourself basis e.g fruits, yogurts, muesli, cereals, juices, breads etc
 - **Lunches** There will be opportunities for you to buy packed lunch provisions to carry on the rides, or depending on routes we may enjoy a great cafe stop
 - **Evening Meals** Meals are enjoyed in a few locally selected inns and bistros, or, provisions can be purchased to enjoy preparing meals as a group at the beautiful accommodation facilities. A lochside BBQ is also a regular occurrence.
 - **Budget** We estimate a budget of £20 to £35 per person per day is adequate for lunches and evening meals depending on how much partying you enjoy!
-



John Smith

1 review

★★★★★ 4 months ago

Yes another 5 star review...Why?...Because they are that good. I put my trust in Andy to make a special birthday trip for myself back home to ride with 4 of my riding buddies from MA a truly epic experience. They didn't fail to deliver creating a Custom Big Mountain Safari that took on board all my personal requests and made it even better than I could have imagined. Transport, accommodation, knowledge, experience and fun factor were all faultless

 Helpful?

Response from the owner 4 months ago

John! It was an absolute pleasure and especially knowing how proud you are of your homeland and how keen you were to share it with your American chums. There's so much more to show you and I hope we can welcome you back in future. All the best, Andy & The Clan

DAILY SCHEDULE

Over a beer in the bar, after dinner or breakfast we'll discuss what's in store for the day ahead.

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Because the weather plays such a big part in which routes we ride, and for how long we'll be out riding in the mountains, sometimes we have to modify the itinerary. For this reason, we do not provide fixed itineraries as we need a degree of flexibility built in. This allows our guides to select the best rides for the prevailing conditions, weather, trail conditions, group fatigue etc and because ascent/descent/distance figures are largely meaningless for the terrain you will encounter.

Your guides are experts in these areas, and have extensive experience; and from the feedback provided by our clientele - providing you with hard and fast trail statistics can be misleading. For that reason, please refer to our own trip gradings for guidance.

Daily ride time vary from 4 - 8 hours, with climbing/descending ranging from 300 - 1000+ metres per day depending on the rides picked by your guides.

TRIP GRADING

Please read the following guidelines carefully to ensure the mountain bike holiday is suited to your skill and fitness. If you are unsure if the trip is right for you, please [contact us](#).

Please note, we use '+' to designate when a trip is at the top of a grading e.g 2+ is just below grading 3 and '++' when a trip grading subsumes all other higher gradings e.g. 3++ would be suitable for 3+ riders as well as grading 4 and 5 riders.

TECHNICAL RATINGS

The Torrid Affair trip is recommended for Level 3++ riders.

The goal of the Technical Rating is to understand the ability of the rider as it pertains to obstacles, conditions and trail design. This means it has nothing to do with your physical endurance, but is instead strictly a measure of your technical ability.

Rating: 3

You are a confident mountain biker and have been riding technical terrain for at least 2 years including exposed singletrack and rough landrover track, on uneven, loose and frequent steep gradients, with frequent variation in trail surfaces from rocks to roots. You are comfortable riding on trails approximately 12 inches wide that vary greatly in

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their stability and may be unpredictable including loose rock. You are comfortable regularly traversing unavoidable obstacles such as roots, rocks, logs and drop offs up to 15 inches tall, and some obstacles encountered may exceed that.

Rating: 4

You are an expert mountain biker and have been riding expert level trails for at least 5 years. You think of yourself as a 'mountain biker' and you already know that the more competent a bike handler you are beforehand, the more you'll get from the trip; you're confident riding unpredictable terrain and using bunny hopping and front/rear wheel lifting techniques and relish unpredictable, varied natural ungraded trail surfaces including a mix of flowy and loose rocky or rooty singletrack, landrover tracks, steep technical climbs (including hike-a-bike sections) and descents, frequent rocks, slabs and water bar drainage features.

You are comfortable riding on trails of any width that are highly unstable and are completely unpredictable including loose rock. You are comfortable regularly traversing unavoidable obstacles such as roots, rocks, logs and drop offs well over 15 inches tall, and many obstacles encountered will exceed that. You are comfortable riding any technical trail features that may be present on the trail.

Rating: 5

Level 5 is reserved for our Level 4 Expert riders who live and breath mountain biking and take every opportunity to manual, nose-wheelie and bunnyhop the trails. You love the biggest, most technically challenging trail features - up or down. Speaking of which, you also know that in order to go down, you must pedal (and carry) up and can handle any trail conditions or obstacles identified in Level 4.

ENDURANCE RATINGS

The Torrid Affair trip is recommended for Level 3++. The goal of the Endurance Rating is to understand the ability of the rider as it pertains to overall physical endurance.

Rating: 3

You are an avid mountain biker riding twice a week or more, and the weather isn't a big factor for you. You are at an above-average fitness level, and regularly do other activities that qualify as exercise. You usually find yourself riding for 3 hours on the trails, you'll ride on consecutive days, and you ride at a moderate pace.

Rating: 4

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You are a very avid mountain biker, who is considered an 'athlete' by friends and only getting out on the trails twice in the week is a bad week for you. Riding and exercising is a frequent part of your weekly routine: you relish sustained challenging riding including long rides of 4 - 6 hours at a moderate pace for four or more days in a row. The weather is never a factor for you, rain or shine – you are riding.

Rating: 5

You are fit! You devour 6 - 8 + hour rides for five or more days in a row. You are an XC or Enduro racer who probably missed their flight to the World Cup / Enduro World Series this year because you were too busy training so you opted to come for a ride with us instead. You train on your mountain bike daily, and you are comfortable riding on trails for distances in excess of 60km per day and climbing vertical in excess of 7000 feet in a day. You ride your bike everywhere, in all weather conditions, and would likely enjoy riding in a hurricane.

SUITABLE BIKES

A fully serviced 3 - 6 inch travel full suspension bike with dropper seatpost and hydraulic disc brakes is recommended.

It's entirely possible to take part in our trips on more modest setups or hardtails but we find that over the course of several consecutive days riding, the added comfort and confidence of a full suspension trail bike is a real asset, and enhances the overall experience.

RENTAL BIKES

If you've hired a bike, for your safety and comfort we always recommend bringing your own helmet and pedals.



April Mazzuca

1 review

★★★★★ a month ago

Fantastic trip with Go-Where Scotland. The trails and guides were truly amazing! Highly knowledgeable of the trail system across the highlands. Hope to ride with them again. Definitely recommend a trip with this crew!

 Helpful?

Response from the owner 2 weeks ago

Thanks, we loved having you April and hope it's not too long until we see you again! (Aneela)

ESSENTIAL GEAR

Our recommendations are based on many years experience of riding in Scotland, and regardless of season we recommend that you prepare for a wide range of conditions and temperatures – that way you'll be fully prepared and get the most from your trip. Please also note that mechanical failures do happen and spares are limited (if you're prone to breakages, please bring spares) - so here are our kit suggestions (please note the list is not exhaustive):

- 16 - 20 litre+ backpack (i.e. sufficiently large for you to carry your gear and foodstuffs, plus any group shared kit that will be divided up e.g. storm shelter, long-range radios) e.g. [EVOC Enduro](#)
- Fully serviced bike in good working order with fresh brake pads
- Cash and credit card (access to cash machines is limited in some locations)
- Cycling glasses / protective eye wear
- Cycling gloves
- Cycling shoes (with cleats) or flat pedal trainers (hire bikes come with flat pedals; if you want to use spd's please bring your pedals with you)
- [Helmet](#) is essential
- Inner tubes (Presta valves x 4 minimum) or spare sealant if running tubeless tyres
- Leggings or long trousers (not cotton) for riding
- Padded cycling shorts
- Personal first aid and medication you require (guide must be informed of relevant medical history prior to the tour)
- Protective Gear (knee/shin pads): we wear [soft knee pads](#) as a precaution
- Pump & shock pump

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- Riding socks
- Seatpost: for those using dropper posts please consider bringing spare parts or a spare seatpost
- Snacks / energy bars / drinks
- Sufficient base layers including long sleeved tops
- Tools / spares / lubricants specific to your bike (including wet lube, brake pads x 2 sets minimum, chain power links, gear cables, replacement gear hangers, puncture repair kit, and tyre boot for repairing torn tyres)
- Tyres: dependable robust all-mountain tyres are a must (not flimsy/lightweight XC tyres); tubeless is recommended
- Warm clothes: fleece top, lightweight fleece jacket or gilet, warm fleece hat or buff
- Warm cycling gloves e.g. [Sealskinz](#)
- Water bottle or hydration system
- [Waterproof jacket](#)
- [Waterproof socks](#)
- Waterproof trousers / [shorts](#)

DESIRABLE GEAR

- Dropper Seatpost (see note above)
 - Camera (waterproof case is a good idea)
 - Sun protection
 - Lip balm
 - Insect repellent (we suggest 'Smidge') and midge net (hood)
 - Torch or head torch
 - Waterproof overshoes
 - Earplugs (especially useful in group accommodation)
-



Jessica Wiegand

1 review

★★★★★ 5 months ago - 

You do not get better than this! The biking is epic - just truly brilliant trails with unbeatable local knowledge to get you out into the best that Scotland has to offer. Combine that with the irreverent banter, humour, care and warmth that come as part of the package and you have a completely winning combination. There's not a single thing I'd change - I recommend them in a heartbeat!

 Helpful?

Response from the owner 5 months ago

Jessica! Thanks so much for your wonderful feedback and looking forward to the next time we can share another mountain bike adventure with you. :)

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