

Yorkshire Dales Classic Climbs



Welcome to Peak Tours' Yorkshire Dales Classic Climbs tour, a challenging but immensely rewarding cycling adventure through one of Britain's most spectacular landscapes. Over four days of riding you'll tackle some of the most iconic climbs in the Yorkshire Dales, following roads that have tested generations of cyclists and featured in both the 2014 Tour de France Grand Départ and the 2019 UCI Road World Championships.

Yorkshire is often referred to as 'God's Own Country', and it is easy to see why. Quiet country lanes, dramatic limestone scenery, historic market towns and world-famous climbs combine to create some of the finest road cycling anywhere in the UK. Along the way you'll visit picturesque villages, ride through the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Nidderdale National Landscape, and enjoy breathtaking views from some of England's highest roads.

With two nights spent in Richmond, the tour also offers flexibility, allowing you to choose from shorter or longer loop rides depending on how your legs are feeling. Whether you want to tick off as many famous climbs as possible or simply enjoy riding through stunning scenery, this tour offers an unforgettable cycling experience.

What's included?

4 nights' accommodation, 4 breakfasts, 4 lunches

Refreshment stops with our famous red brew vans

Mechanical support including spare bikes and equipment

GPS files and route notes

Full logistical planning and support from the first to the last night including luggage transfers

2 back up vans and a guide cycling at the back of the group

Peak Tours certificate

Lots of fun!

Highlights

Ride some of the Yorkshire Dales' most famous and challenging climbs.

Experience spectacular scenery throughout the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Nidderdale National Landscape.

Visit beautiful Yorkshire towns and villages including Harrogate, Pateley Bridge, Richmond, Hawes, Kettlewell, Grassington, Settle and Skipton.

Climb legendary roads including Trapping Hill, Whipperdale Bank, Tan Hill, Buttertubs Pass, Fleet Moss, Kidstones Bank and Malham Cove.

Flexible route options on two of the cycling days, allowing you to choose shorter or longer rides.

Itinerary

Monday: Non-riding day

Arrive in the elegant spa town of Harrogate and make your way to the hotel. This gives you plenty of time to settle in, prepare your bike and meet your fellow riders before enjoying the welcome evening meal and tour briefing.

Tuesday: Day 1 Harrogate to Richmond

Distance / Elevation: 60 miles / 5,900 ft

(96 km / 1,800 m)

Our opening day begins by leaving Harrogate and heading into the beautiful Nidderdale National Landscape before entering the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

The pretty market town of Pateley Bridge provides a lovely introduction before we follow the scenic Nidderdale Valley towards our first major climb of the tour—Trapping Hill. Averaging around 10% with ramps reaching 16%, this climb soon reminds everyone that Yorkshire roads rarely come easily. Fortunately the spectacular views across Lofthouse Moor on the descent more than reward the effort.

Following lunch we continue north towards Grinton, taking on Whipperdale Bank. Although considerably gentler than the morning's challenge, it still provides a rewarding climb before leading us through classic Yorkshire scenery towards our overnight stop.

Our day finishes in the historic market town of Richmond, where we'll spend the next two nights.



Wednesday: Day 2 Richmond loops

Distance / Elevation:

Short: 50 miles / 5,100 ft (81 km / 1,560 m)

Medium: 59 miles / 7,000 ft (94 km / 2,130 m)

Long: 68 miles / 8,250 ft (110 km / 2,530 m)

Today's riding offers three different route options, allowing everyone to tailor the day to suit both their ambitions and their legs.

All three routes include the gradual climb to Tan Hill Inn, the highest pub in the United Kingdom. The long ascent steadily winds its way across open moorland before reaching this famous Yorkshire landmark.

The medium and long routes continue over the magnificent Buttertubs Pass, climbed from the northern side, generally regarded as the more challenging approach. The steep gradients are quickly forgotten as you enjoy one of the finest descents in Yorkshire towards Hawes, with stunning panoramic views stretching across Wensleydale.

For riders looking for the ultimate Yorkshire climbing challenge, the long route also includes Fleet Moss—Yorkshire's highest paved road and one of Simon Warren's original "100 Greatest Cycling Climbs." Rising to 579 metres above sea level, Fleet Moss is one of the country's most iconic ascents and rewards every pedal stroke with incredible views across the Dales.

Whichever option you choose, the ride back to Richmond still includes the demanding climb of Fleak Moss from Askrigg before returning to the hotel for a well-earned evening.



Itinerary

Thursday: Day 3 Richmond to Skipton

Distance / Elevation: 54 miles / 5,580 ft

(87 km / 1,700 m)

Although today's ride is shorter than the previous two, it still packs in plenty of climbing and should certainly not be underestimated.

Leaving Richmond we begin by crossing Greet's Moss before continuing through classic Yorkshire Dales scenery towards the climb of Kidstones Bank. This demanding ascent rewards your efforts with wonderful views before dropping down towards the picturesque village of Kettlewell.

From Kettlewell the terrain becomes more rolling as we continue through some of the Dales' prettiest villages, including Grassington, before reaching the magnificent ruins of the 12th Century Bolton Abbey.

Our final miles take us into the bustling market town of Skipton, known as the 'Gateway to the Dales', where we'll spend the final night of the tour.

Friday: Day 4 Skipton loops

Distance / Elevation:

Short: 40 miles / 3,900 ft (65 km / 1,200 m),
Long : 53 miles / 5,250 ft (86 km / 1,600 m)

The final day's riding offers two route options, allowing riders to choose either a shorter or longer finish to the tour.

Both routes begin by climbing towards the spectacular limestone cliffs of Malham Cove, one of Yorkshire's most iconic natural landmarks. The climb itself is steep and rewarding, while the scenery is amongst the finest anywhere in northern England.

The longer route continues around the quieter roads behind Pen-y-ghent and Fountains Fell, taking in the beautiful climb of Halton Gill before both routes rejoin in the attractive market town of Settle.

From Settle we return towards Skipton via High Hill Lane, riding through the heart of Yorkshire's limestone country and enjoying one final taste of the rolling roads that make this region such a special cycling destination.

After returning to the hotel there will be a celebratory meal before we all head our separate ways, hopefully with tired legs, fantastic memories and a long list of Yorkshire climbs ticked off.



Tour Logistics

What's Included?

- 4 nights' accommodation, 4 breakfasts, 4 lunches
- Morning and afternoon refreshments from the brew van
- Mechanical support including spare bikes should these be needed
- GPS files and route notes
- Full logistical planning and support from the first to the last night including luggage transfers
- 2 back up vans and a guide cycling at the back of the group
- A Peak Tours certificate
- Luggage transfer each day
- Lots of fun!

What's not included?

- Evening meals / dinner
- Drinks at lunchtime
- Cycle hire (available for a fee)
- Garmin hire (available for a fee)
- Transport to Harrogate before the tour
- Optional transfer from Skipton back to Harrogate
- Travel insurance

Food

Breakfast

Breakfast is included each morning and will vary slightly depending upon the hotel. Typically you can expect a choice of cooked breakfast options together with cereals, toast, fruit juice, tea and coffee, providing plenty of fuel for the day's riding ahead.

Lunch

Lunches will be provided each day and will generally be a café or a restaurant.

Evening meals

Evening meals are not included within the tour price, allowing everyone the freedom to choose from the excellent restaurants, cafés and pubs available in Harrogate, Richmond and Skipton.

On the first evening we'll enjoy a welcome meal together before the tour briefing, giving everyone the opportunity to meet the group.

Following the final day's ride there will be a celebratory meal before the tour comes to an end.

Refreshments

One of the highlights of any Peak Tours trip is the famous brew van.

Throughout the day there will be scheduled refreshment stops serving tea, coffee, hot chocolate and a wide selection of snacks. Riders are also welcome to leave a small bag with the support vehicle each morning, allowing easy access to extra clothing, food or personal items during the day.

Dietary requirements

Please let us know in advance if you have any dietary requirements or food allergies.

We'll ensure that lunch venues and refreshment stops cater for your needs, and there will always be suitable snacks available on the support vehicle.

Accommodation

Accommodation has been carefully selected to provide comfortable and welcoming places to stay after each day's riding.

The tour includes one night in Harrogate, two nights in the historic market town of Richmond and the final night in Skipton, allowing you to experience some of Yorkshire's most attractive towns as well as reducing the need to continually pack and unpack.

You may choose between:

- Single room accommodation.
- Sole occupancy of a double room.
- Twin or double rooms for those travelling together.
- Most rooms are en-suite. Where this is not possible, en-suite facilities are guaranteed for guests booking sole occupancy of a double room.

Tour Logistics

Travel—The start of the tour

The tour starts in the elegant spa town of Harrogate on Monday.

Harrogate is extremely easy to reach and there are two main options for travelling to the start.

By train

Harrogate has direct rail connections, making it straightforward to travel with your bike. The hotel is approximately 0.4 miles (650 metres) from the station, around a ten-minute walk or a few minutes by bike.

By car

Harrogate is easily accessible via the A1(M), making it convenient for those travelling from anywhere in the UK.

Many riders choose to arrive a day or two early to explore Harrogate and enjoy the surrounding countryside before the tour begins, making the most of everything the area has to offer.

Accommodation on the Monday night is included within the tour price and we'll meet for the welcome meal and rider briefing during the evening before beginning our first day's ride on Tuesday morning.

Travel—The end of the tour

The tour finishes in Skipton on Friday following the final day's ride.

After returning to the hotel there will be a celebratory meal before the tour officially comes to an end.

From Skipton you have several options:

- Continue your holiday by spending a few extra days exploring the Yorkshire Dales.
- Travel home directly from Skipton railway station.
- Take advantage of our optional transfer service back to Harrogate, allowing you to return to a vehicle left at the start of the tour or catch your onward train from Harrogate.

The transfer can carry you, your bike and your luggage and can be arranged when booking the tour.

We can also take your bike back to our HQ in Glossop for you to collect at a later date.

Support

Usually each tour has 3 guides:

- One driving the 'brew van' – each day will usually have a morning and afternoon 'brew stop,' with a table full of snacks and drinks. You will also bring a small bag/rucksack to the morning brief and leave this in the 'brew van' which can be accessed throughout the day.
- One driving the 'luggage / lunch van' – transporting your luggage from hotel to hotel, as well as setting up your lunches.
- One riding at the back of the group – you will have detailed route notes so that you can go slower or faster than the leader if you prefer or you can cycle with the tour guide at the back so that you don't have to navigate at all.
- Mechanical support: we carry a range of spare parts so that repairs can be made en route and we also have spare bikes available in the event that your bike has a serious breakdown. If we can't fix your bike then we will get it to the nearest bike shop.
- Each guide will be contactable by phone during the day so if you have any issues you can get straight in touch with them.
- For smaller groups you might only have one guide that cycles with the group and one back up driver or for groups of 12 or less just one tour leader will provide back-up for you.



Tour Logistics

Bikes

This tour is best suited to a road bike with appropriate gearing for steep climbs.

We strongly recommend using gearing that allows you to climb comfortably, as several of the ascents include gradients well into double figures. A compact or sub-compact chainset paired with a wide-range cassette is ideal for most riders.

Please ensure that your bike has been fully serviced before the start of the tour. Having your bike checked a few weeks before departure gives you time to make any adjustments before the ride begins.

Our support vehicle carries a selection of spare parts and even spare bikes should a serious mechanical issue arise during the tour, but arriving with a well-maintained bicycle will help ensure you get the most from your experience.

We can transport people's bikes to the start and end of the tour, though lots of people will choose to arrive with their bike via train or car travel.

If you would like us to take your bike to and from the tour, you have the following options for getting your bikes to and from us.

Bike transport—Start of the tour

You can get your bike to the tour in the following ways:

- getting your bike to Glossop around 7 days before the tour begins, we will pack it onto our vans from here
- Meeting our guides at a motorway service station en route from Glossop to Harrogate, on the Monday (arrival day)

Bike transport—End of the tour

If you need to get back to Harrogate, there is a transfer service for you, your luggage and your bike (additional charge).

The guides return from Skipton to Glossop, and they can take your bike with them if you would prefer.

- You can then collect your bike from Glossop or we can courier it to you (extra charge)

Alternatively you can hire a bike from us, please see our website for more information.

Kit list

Clothing for all weathers is recommended so waterproofs are essential.

A full recommended kit list is provided and we are always happy to answer any questions that you may have. You can see details of a kit list [here](#).

Luggage is restricted to a maximum of 18kg per person—we have to look after our guides and their backs as they will be carrying your luggage in and out of the hotels!

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out adequate insurance for your tour which, as an absolute minimum should cover accident & medical expenses, should cover cancellation, personal accident, loss or damage to your bicycle and personal belongings.

You should be aware that if you have an accident or fall ill while on the tour you will lose the money paid for the trip. A travel insurance policy would allow you to reclaim most of the money as well as providing insurance in case you lose your bags or if your bike is stolen, broken etc.

Your policy should also cover cancellation costs if you cancel the tour within 8 weeks of departure. If this happens we will try to fill your space and return your funds to you but if we are unable to fill your place you will lose the funds paid for the tour.

We have partnered with Yellow Jersey who provide Travel and Cycle insurance for UK residents. You can find further details [here](#).

Am I fit enough?

Difficulty

The Yorkshire Dales Classic Climbs is one of our more challenging UK tours and is graded as a Grade 8. See details of difficulty rating [here](#).

Although the tour is shorter than many of our overseas challenges, the Yorkshire Dales are renowned for their steep climbs, relentless terrain and punchy gradients. There are very few flat roads, meaning that you'll spend much of each day either climbing or descending.

Depending on which route options you choose, the tour covers between 205 and 235 miles (330–380 km) with between 20,600 and 25,000 feet (6,300–7,600 m) of climbing over four cycling days.

This tour is aimed at riders who enjoy climbing and are comfortable spending long days in the saddle. It is particularly suited to cyclists who have previously completed one of our more demanding tours such as Classic Cols of the French Alps, LEJOG, Channel to Med or Munich to Rome.

The two loop days do provide some flexibility, allowing you to choose shorter or longer routes depending on how you're feeling. However, the transition days between Harrogate, Richmond and Skipton must be completed and these are still challenging rides in their own right.

How fast do I need to be?

Most riders on this tour will comfortably average around 10–12 mph (16–19 km/h) over the course of the day.

Remember that this average speed includes all of your climbing, descents, refreshment stops and lunch breaks.

The emphasis throughout the tour is on enjoying the riding rather than racing. Everyone rides at their own pace using the GPS files and route notes, while a guide rides at the back of the group for anyone who prefers company.

Most days begin at around 8:30 am, and we ask riders to aim to arrive at the hotel by early evening, giving plenty of time to shower, relax and explore the towns where we're staying.

Are there any hills on the tour?

In a word... yes!

This tour has been designed to showcase some of the finest climbs in the Yorkshire Dales, many of which have featured in professional races including the Tour de France Grand Départ and the UCI Road World Championships.

Amongst the famous climbs included are:

- Trapping Hill
- Whippetdale Bank
- Tan Hill
- Buttertubs Pass
- Fleet Moss
- Fleak Moss
- Greet's Moss
- Kidstones Bank
- Malham Cove
- Halton Gill
- High Hill Lane

Many of these climbs feature sustained gradients of 8–10%, with sections exceeding 15%, so good climbing fitness is essential.

Fortunately, every climb is rewarded with spectacular scenery, quiet roads and unforgettable descents.

Training

The fitter you are before arriving, the more you will enjoy the tour.

We recommend building your fitness gradually during the months leading up to the trip, with an emphasis on regular riding rather than occasional long rides.

If possible, include plenty of hilly routes within your training. Consecutive days of riding will also help prepare your legs for the demands of the tour.

If you have any questions about your training or whether this tour is suitable for you, we'd be delighted to discuss it with you before you book.

We also have a suggested training programme available, which we're happy to provide on request.