

Brampton & Haltwhistle Tour

This cycle tour heads north from Alston exploiting the breach in the Pennines cut by the River South Tyne to explore the stretch of Hadrians Wall between Brampton and Haltwhistle. It is a full-on cycle tour that covers some busy sections of road as well as quiet fell lanes. The height gain and distance covered are fairly substantial, so to enjoy it you need to be an experienced cyclist. The rewards for tackling this challenging route are plentiful, and range from outstanding views of classic Pennine landscapes, through to fascinating Roman remains.

The ride heads out along quiet lanes on the east side of the River South Tyne and then braves busier fell roads to head west to Brampton. From here it turns east and shadows the impressive remains of Hadrians Wall as far as Greenhead. It then wanders off to Haltwhistle and regains the River South Tyne by quiet back lanes. The last leg back to Alston takes the climb back up head on, along the 'roller coaster' length of the A689.

CAUTION: this route features a steep descent going into a tight bend, just past Barhaugh Hall.

- 1 From the market place in Alston head downhill on the main cobbled street and turn R at the junction.
- 2 Follow the A686 to a turning on the left for Kirkhaugh Church and Randalhome.
- 3 Follow the lane alongside the river and then up a short steep hill to a T-jct.
- 4 Turn L for Barhaugh and Slaggyford. Follow the lane alongside the river, passing through two gates to come to a T-jct after crossing the River South Tyne.
- 5 Turn R onto the A689 and follow it N then NW all the way to Milton.
- 6 Take the first L at the end of Milton village (signed Farlam and Talkin), cross the railway and turn first R (signed Brampton Junction). Follow the road alongside the railway line to a T-jct.
- 7 Turn R onto the B6413 and follow it into the centre of Brampton.
- 8 Head out of Brampton on NCN 72 and follow it through Lanercost and Banks to cycle alongside Hadrian's Wall passing Birdoswald Roman Fort Visitor Centre.
- 9 At the T-jct turn R and follow the B6318 through Gilsland to Greenhead and continue out of Greenhead for 1.7km.
- 10 Turn R and follow NCN 72 into Haltwhistle town centre.
- 11 Pass under the railway to the left of the station, cross over the river and turn R. Go under the A69 and turn L to follow the cycleway east alongside the bypass for about 1km.
- 12 Turn R onto the road and immediately R again onto the old railway trackbed and follow the cycleway (NCN 68) to Wood Houses car park.
- 13 Leave the cycleway and turn R onto the road (signed Lambley).
- 14 At Lambley turn L onto the A689 and follow it S back to Alston.



Start/finish: Alston
GR NY 718 465

Distance: 47 miles (75km)

Grade: Long - Challenge

Refreshments
Cafés: Alston, Brampton, Lanercost, Birdoswald, Haltwhistle
Pubs: Alston, Hallbankgate, Brampton, Haltwhistle, Rowfoot

Newshield & W

This route climbs out of Alston and Valley. It provides a solid days ride. On day the high points of Black Hill and breeze there can be few better spots there is plenty to see particularly

Allendale was once a very important and every now and again you will find the flues that once drew fumes up from the valley bottom.

CAUTION: this route features steep and on the Loaning into Alston.

- 1 From the Market Place head downhill Turn R at the junction and follow the A
- 2 Turn R (signed for Coatlith Hill and N steep hill. Turn R at the T-jct and follow the and bear L into Nenthall.
- 3 Cross over the River Nent and immediately (sign posted for Greenend) up the hill. cobbled descent into Nenthall.



River South Tyne

Tracing the course of the River South Tyne downstream from Alston, this route provides an excellent short introductory ride to the area. It first heads out along the fell lanes on the eastern side of the river steadily gaining height to Barhaugh Hall then descending by Blackcleugh Burn to the banks of the River South Tyne. The river bank makes an excellent spot for a rest or a picnic, after which the road bridge just south of Slaggyford allows the other side of the river to be reached. The return to Alston involves another climb to start with but once height is gained glorious views open up across the fells and down into the valley where you might just spot steam trains on the South Tynedale Railway, England's highest narrow-gauge railway.

CAUTION: this route features a steep descent going into a tight bend, just past Barhaugh Hall going N.

- 1 From the market place in Alston head downhill on the main cobbled street, turn R at the jct and follow the A686 out of the town.
- 2 After about 1km turn L signed to Kirkhaugh Church and Randalhome and follow the lane as it meanders alongside the river.

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