

**Dornoch**  
You can do it all from here

Do more  
cycling



**EIGHT CYCLE ROUTES  
AROUND DORNOCH**

# CYCLE ROUTES AROUND DORNOCH

## ROUTE 1

### Loch Fleet

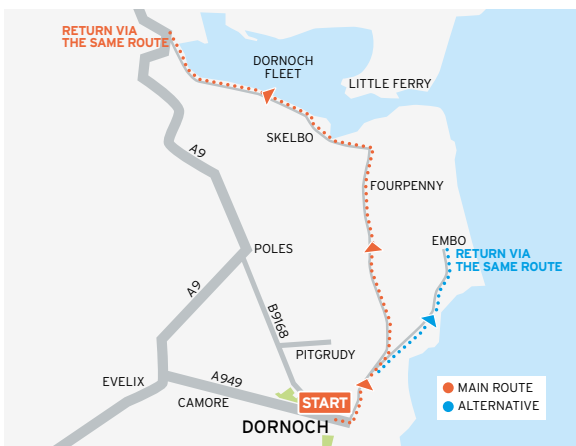
Distance: 12.5 miles

Grade: Easy

Description: Route 1 takes you past the fishing village of Embo and to Loch Fleet, an internationally-renowned nature reserve where you can see a range of ducks, seals and wading birds.

Directions: Travel out of Dornoch on Station Road towards Embo. Continue on this road for 3 miles. Turn left and ride along the shores of Loch Fleet for 2 miles until you reach the junction with the A9. Turn around and follow the same route back into Dornoch. An alternative off-road section is indicated on the map, following the disused railway line.

**Family Friendly**



## ROUTE 2

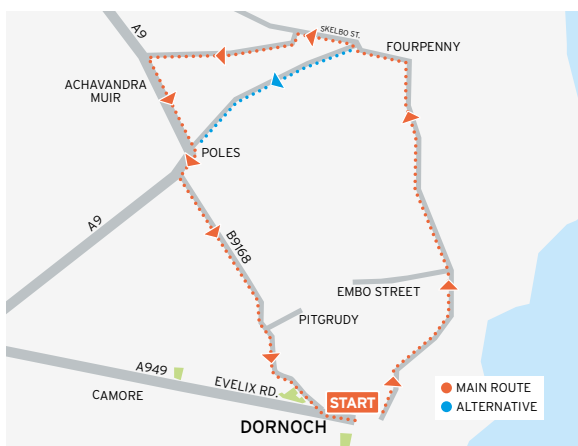
### Skelbo Street

Distance: 8 miles

Grade: Medium

Description: Route 2 takes you past the fishing village of Embo and past Skelbo Forest.

Directions: Travel out of Dornoch on Station Road for 2.8 miles (past Embo junction) until you see a sign on the left for Skelbo Forest Walk. Follow this route over a staggered junction into Skelbo Street, then past the forest walk entrance. Turn left onto the A9 for 0.5 mile then left onto the B9168 (Poles Road) for 2 miles. Turn left onto Castle Street and back into Dornoch town centre. (Alternative route avoiding most of the A9 - turn left at the staggered junction to come out at the Trentham Hotel and Poles Road).



## ROUTE 3

### Meikle Ferry

Distance: 11 miles

Grade: Easy

**Description:** Route 3 will show you the disused Dornoch Firth ferry terminal at Meikle Ferry, site of a great disaster in 1809 when 99 passengers were drowned in a storm. It took nearly 200 years to bridge the Firth here, although lighthouse designer George Stephenson drew up plans for a huge wooden bridge in 1831 which you can see in Dornoch's Historylinks Museum.

**Directions:** Head west on Castle Street for 250 metres and turn left onto Sutherland Road for 3.8 miles. Bear right and go over a small stone bridge. Turn left onto the A9 for 550 metres. Turn right down a minor road signposted Meikle Ferry. Continue for 1.5 miles before turning around and travelling back the way you came.



## ROUTE 4

### Loch Buidhe

Distance: 31 miles

Grade: Hard

**Description:** Route 4 is for the energetic romantic, following the old A9 towards Bonar Bridge and 'cutting the corner' through Migdale's 'Fairy Glen', an area of outstanding natural beauty. Then over the moor - where you may see a Buzzard or two, a Peregrine, a Hen Harrier or even a Golden Eagle - to Loch Buidhe and the magical route down Strath Carnaig, with its waterfalls, wild flowers and Iron Age settlements, to emerge at the Fleet Nature reserve. The section of road from Loch Buidhe down to the A9 is quite rough in places.

**Directions:** Head west on Castle Street for 250 metres and turn left onto Sutherland Road for 3.8 miles. Bear right and go over a small stone bridge. Turn right onto the A9 for 0.9 miles. Turn left onto the A949 at Clashmore, signposted Spinningdale, for 5 miles. Turn right at Spinningdale, signposted Migdale, for 4 miles. Turn right at the crossroads, signposted Loch Buidhe. Continue along this road for 11.5 miles. Turn right onto the A9 for 0.5 miles. Bear left along Loch Fleet for 2 miles before turning right towards Embo and Dornoch for 3 miles. Follow this road back into the centre of Dornoch.



## ROUTE 5

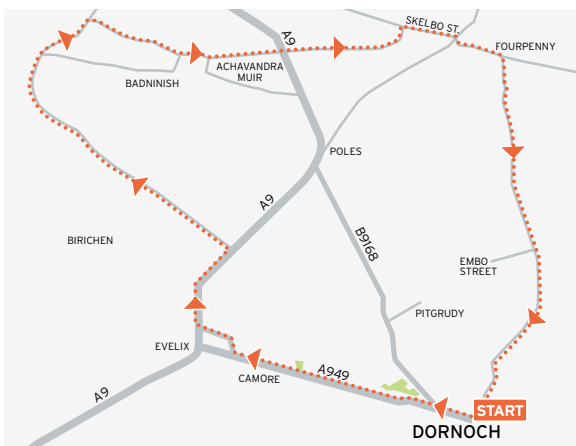
### Badninish and Achavandra

Distance: 11 miles

Grade: Medium

**Description:** Route 5 will show you the delightful crofting communities on our inland plateau, with enchanting names like Lednabirichen, Achavandra and Fleuchary. The area contains a wide range of birds, animals and plants specific to this habitat, including the Goldcrest - Britain's smallest bird. This ride is mostly on quiet roads with great views over the Dornoch Firth.

**Directions:** Travel out of Dornoch on Castle Street and continue on to the A949 (Evelix Road). After you leave Camore turn right 300 metres after the de-restriction sign (to improve access to the A9) and follow this road until it meets the A9. Turn right on to the A9 for 0.6 mile and then turn left signposted Birichen, Balvraid, Fleuchary, Reaquhar. After 480 metres, take the right fork for Balvraid, Birichen. Continue for 2.6 miles, taking the 2nd right for 1.4 miles. Cross the A9 go past Skelbo Forest and across the staggered junction to Fourpenny, then turn right and head back to Dornoch on the Embo Road and Station Road.



## ROUTE 6

### Achvaich

Distance: 18 miles

Grade: Medium

**Description:** Route 6 takes you into the crofting hinterland and towards the Sutherland hills. Although the same route is followed on the way back, the views are quite different. Enjoy the peace and tranquility of the countryside and look out for wildlife.

**Directions:** Travel out of Dornoch on Castle Street and continue on to the A949 (Evelix Road). After you leave Camore turn right 300 metres after the de-restriction sign (to improve access to the A9) and follow this road until it meets the A9. Turn right onto the A9 for 160 metres and then turn left signposted Astle. After 1.6 miles, turn left to Astle for 0.5 miles. Travel to the road end and then retrace the route to the junction. Turn left signposted Reaquhar for 1.1 miles, then turn left signposted Achvaich for 1.7 miles to the end of the tarred road. Retrace the route back to Dornoch.



## ROUTE 7

### Camore Woods

Distance: 4.5 miles

Grade: Easy

**Description:** Route 7 is a family friendly ride around Camore Woods: Soak up the tranquility of the forest whilst watching out for buzzards hunting voles, roe deer flitting through the trees and woodland birds feasting on wild raspberries and blaeberrries in summer. Hidden in the forest are more than 25 hut circles and chambered cairns. You can also drive to this wood instead of cycling the loop from Dornoch town centre. There is a simple 1 mile loop in the woods suitable for younger children.

**Directions:** Travel out of Dornoch on Castle Street for 250 metres and turn left onto Sutherland Road for 2 miles. Turn right into Camore Woods and follow the track through for 1.5 miles, then through a gate, along a narrow path and a further gate. Turn right onto the A949, past the schools and into the centre of Dornoch. For a traffic free option, drive to Camore Woods car park.

**Family Friendly**





## ROUTE 8

### Kyle Loop

Distance: 35 miles

Grade: Hard

**Description:** Route 8 is not for the novice cyclist but is a fantastic day long ride which takes in the stunning Kyle of Sutherland and Dornoch Firth. Stop and take in the sights from the two viewpoints on the Struie, including the famous 'Million Dollar View'. There are places to eat in Ardgay and Bonar Bridge and also a bike shop in Ardgay.

**Directions:** Travel out of Dornoch on Castle Street for 250 metres and turn left onto Sutherland Road for 3.8 miles. Turn left onto the A9 for 2.7 miles. At the roundabout, take the 3rd exit onto the A836 for 2.1 miles. Turn left in Edderton at Station Road for 3.1 miles. Turn right onto Struie Road/B9176 for 4.5 miles. Turn left onto the A836 for 3 miles. After travelling over Bonar Bridge, bear right and continue on this road for 9 miles. Turn right onto the A9 and then first left to Cuthill retracing your route back to the centre of town.



## INFORMATION / RESOURCES

**This part of Sutherland was made for cycling - quiet roads, gentle gradients, and just so much to see. All our cycle routes start at the Visitor Centre in The Square, Dornoch, where you'll find a vast amount of information and local knowledge.**

Routes have been planned to avoid major roads and steep gradients wherever possible, whilst taking in the most spectacular scenery, historical sites and places where you're most likely to see some of our Highland wildlife. Please take care on A9 as traffic travels at speed.

Take your time, take care, and enjoy touring this unique, unspoilt part of Britain on your bicycle allowing you see it all from a totally different perspective. For more information about Dornoch, visit our web site at **[www.visitdornoch.com](http://www.visitdornoch.com)** and download the **FREE** Discover Dornoch Mobile App. available from the App Store, Google Play and Windows Store.

### **The Good Cycling code**

Obey the rules of the road and always follow the Highway Code.

#### **Be courteous:**

- Give way to pedestrians
- Remember that some people are hard of hearing or visually impaired, so don't presume they can see/hear you.

#### **Care for the environment:**

- Make sure you take any litter home with you.

#### **Look after yourself:**

- Take special care when at junctions, cycling downhill and on loose surfaces.
- Keep your bicycle roadworthy; use lights in poor visibility.
- Ensure you have the correct clothing and accessories; helmet, bell, lights, hi vis clothing.

### **Enjoy your cycle ride in Dornoch!**

