

My Favourite Place by Bike:

My favourite place by bike is the view that greets you on rounding the corner from the back of Arthur's Seat, and starting to see the city opening up before you.

Why it's my favourite place by bike...

The slog of pedalling up the back of Arthur's Seat is more than rewarded by the view that is first glimpsed from the peace of the south side of the hill. Framed by the rocks through which the road passes, the castle rises slowly, solidly and stately over the crest of the hill, and then, like a panned camera view, the thin, dark spire of the Tron appears, while the castle slides out of sight again. The dome of the McEwan hall and the crown of St Giles mark the skyline, and pedalling on, the whole view opens and becomes complete. Pause awhile and enjoy the city from this height; the stately Victorian tenements to the south, the regular newer academic buildings closer by, the changing clouds above. Dollops of trees intersperse and soften the browns and greys of the buildings, marking the line of roads. The view crested by Corstorphine Hill and undergirded by the Queen's Park, the whole city seemingly sheltered in the lee of Salisbury Crags.

Looking south – the fields bordered by the brooding Pentlands with the scars of scree and ski slope; and north – the hills of Fife, framing the city in its bigger context.

Stilled and restored, cycle on, swooping down and back into the bustle of the city.

