

Spokes competition 2015, Entry 21

Best Bacon Roll in Edinburgh

2. Who is it suitable for?

Experienced cyclists / Novice cyclists

3. Where is the route located?

Ed central / Ed east

4. Brief description of route

a. Royal Commonwealth Pool

b. Circular

c. RCP, Holyrood Park, Spring Gardens, London Road, Marionville Road, Lochend Park, cycle track to Seafield Road, Portobello Prom, Joppa, Brunstane Mill Road, Brunstane Burn, Innocent Railway to RCP.

5. Any interesting / useful / beautiful features / facilities en route ...

Holyrood Park, Lochend Park, Portobello seaside, Brunstane Burn, Innocent Railway – all offroad and providing excellent rural environments within/close to the city centre. The Tide café on the prom, excellent facility.

6. Why is this a favourite route of yours?

I love this ride because it is virtually all offroad, mostly flat or downhill and allows the rider to travel along the course of two rivers (or is it one?), to discover a picturesque and interesting pond and to experience 'wild' countryside and beautiful parkland (taking in views of Arthur's Seat and Salisbury Crags). All within a short time of cycling from the city centre.

Part of this route was the first I took part in during a course run by Edinburgh Leisure and I still remember the thrill of finding myself at the seaside so soon after we left Meadowbank! The fact that I can now start from home (Liberton) and reach Portobello so easily never fails to excite me. The total circular route described is just under 11 miles and takes under two hours so is perfectly feasible for beginners and still a pleasure for more experienced riders. The hospitality, atmosphere, bacon rolls and coffee at The Tide on the promenade are in my view the best in Edinburgh.