

Spokes competition 2015, Entry 7

Queen's Drive (or volcano bike ride)

2. Who is it suitable for? [it doesn't need to suit everyone] *circle all that apply...*

Anyone

3. Where is the route located? *circle all that apply ...*

Ed central

4. Brief description of route

Mini roundabout next to holyrood palace

b. End point (or circular)...circular

c. Brief description...

Heading east, follow road past St Margaret's loch, then turn right to go up the hill. Follow road past Dunsapie Loch then back down hill to the mini roundabout near Pollock Halls. Turn right and continue to start point.

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

A great traffic free ride when done on a Sunday between April and September.

If feeling particularly energetic leave the bike at Dunsapie Loch and walk to the very top of Arthur's seat. Described by Robert Louis Stevenson as "a hill for magnitude, a mountain in virtue of its bold design", the views from top are fantastic.

Rich in wildlife including plants like orchids and rock rose, birds like fulmars and stonechats and mammals like squirrels and brown hare, not to mention stunning butterflies during the summer. Evidence of Iron Age hill forts can be seen on the back of Salisbury crags, near the top of Arthurs Seat, Dunsapie Crag and Samsons Ribs. When the sun is low, you can see agricultural terraces on the eastern slopes of Arthur's Seat above Dunsapie Loch and rig and furrow throughout the Park.

Discover St Anthony's Well on the path up to the chapel and St Margaret's Well opposite the Broadpavement car park.

6. Why is this a favourite route of yours? [This question is very important in the judging. You can just write one or two sentences or up to *300 words maximum*].

The very first thing I did when arriving in Edinburgh, 25 years ago. All of Edinburgh in one view.