

8 Home from Armadale

27 miles ⌚ 3-4 hours  

This route features great open views and pleasant woodlands. You pass the 'Pyramids' sculpture and picturesque Livingston Village. In Almondell Country Park there is a canal feeder and a wooden tunnel beneath a viaduct.

You're never far from a railway station, so there's scope for shortening or lengthening the ride. You cycle on quiet roads and paths, most of which are well-surfaced, with easy navigation.

Start: Armadale Station (on Edinburgh to Helensburgh line) **End:** Fountainbridge

- ▶ From Armadale Station, follow NCN 75 east alongside the railway line towards Bathgate.
- ▶ Stay on NCN 75 as it weaves through Livingston, passing the Pyramids and Livingston Village.
- ▶ The path continues under the Camps Viaduct and enters Almondell Country Park.
- ▶ Leaving the park by the south gate, continue on NCN 75 all the way back to Edinburgh. The route crosses the A71 (care needed), and then goes by way of Kirknewton, Long Dalmahoy Road, Balerno, the Water of Leith path and the Union Canal.

Variations: Leave the park by the north gate, then after half a mile turn right to join the canal. Stay on the towpath (NCN 754) for a level nine-mile ride to Fountainbridge. Alternatively, stay on NCN 75, but where the road turns right to Balerno, continue east along Long Dalmahoy Road to the Heriot-Watt campus. From there, you can link up with Ride 3, in either direction



David Monaghan

David got back into cycling when he found that it was his only practical way of getting to work. Until recently, he used his bike mostly for getting around town, never cycling more than ten miles at a time. But now he rides for fun as well, and enjoys longer trips outside Edinburgh.

Why this is my favourite ride:

This ride is so different from the 'grim bits' of West Lothian you might be expecting. There's plenty of coasting on the gentle descents. You pass through lots of open country with fine views to the south and east, and there's plenty of woodlands.

