



Glasgow Tandem Club Weekend (MJ242)

Fri 10th May – Mon 13th May 2024

Cycling from the club base at Bellahouston to Gourock, and then taking the ferry across the water to Dunoon. Staying dinner, bed, and breakfast, for 3 nights in the Esplanade Hotel. On Saturday we will cycle the 3 ferries route, over to Gourock, down to Rothesay, and back up to Dunoon.

This weekend is planned as a repeat of the 2023 club weekend, and the prospectus shows the 2023 routes. We will seek to develop some new routes of similar difficulty for 2024. During 2023 many members started cycling longer and more hilly rides. If anyone is new to the club please remember that we will have more time than on club runs. The routes involve some cycling on main roads, but most is on quiet roads and cycle paths.

Number of days cycling: 4

Average daily distance: 56km (35 miles)

Average daily ascent: 569m (1,868 ft)





Most of this weekend is spent cycling along the coast roads of the Firth of Clyde. Starting from the Glasgow Tandem Club base at Bellahouston, and cycling via Kilmacolm to Gourock. Sailing on the Western Ferries crossing from McInroy's point to Hunter's Quay. Dinner, bed and breakfast is booked in the Esplanade Hotel in the centre of Dunoon.

Itinerary

The following itinerary is from the 2023 tour and gives an indication of possible routes and distances. We will seek to introduce some new routes of similar distance, but need to check them for suitability for our tandem group. E.g. 1) Glasgow, Kilmacolm, Loch Thom, Gourock, 2) Dunoon, Strachur, Otter ferry and return to Dunoon and 3) Dunoon, Gourock, ferry to Kilcreggan, Balloch, Renfrew ferry and Bellahouston

Friday 10th May 2024

Meeting at the GTC shipping container in Bellahouston at 9.30, loading luggage into the van, and departing by 10.00. Cycling to Paisley and then on to Kilmacolm for lunch at the Birkmyre café, then on passed the Skelpies to Gourock. Please bring vision impaired concession cards for use on ferry.

Route distance: 51km (32 miles)

Route altitude gain: 512m (1,680 ft)

Accommodation: Esplanade Hotel

Meals: (D)



Saturday 11th May 2024

The 3 ferries. This is a classic Firth of Clyde cycle as it includes ferries and cycling along quiet roads along the water's edge. Departing at 9.15.

1st ferry to Gourock and then cycling south for 8 miles to Wemyss Bay (parts of this are on the main road),

2nd ferry to Rothesay. Optional coffee and bacon roll on the ferry! Then cycling north with views to Toward lighthouse, and west for 9 miles to the ferry pier at Rhubodach,

3rd ferry Rhubodach to Colintrave, then cycling north and east for 22 miles to Dunoon. This takes us past the head of Loch Striven which we have cycled part way up as a day trip. If the weather forecast is better for Sunday then we will swap the rides around to get the best weather for the 3 ferries ride.

Route distance: 64km (39 miles)

Route altitude gain: 742m (2,434 ft)

Accommodation: Esplanade Hotel

Meals: (B,D)

Sunday 12th May 2024

Departing at 9.30 and cycling north, round the Holy Loch, through Strone and north towards Ardentinny. There are two cafes in Strone, the Blairmore café and the Shore café. Option to cycle over the hill (about 200m and quite steep) or return along the shore road. Then on to Benmore gardens.

Route distance: 57km (36 miles)

Route altitude gain: 529m (1,736ft)

Accommodation: Esplanade Hotel

Meals: (B,D)

Monday 13th May 2024

Departing at 9.30 and cycling north to Hunter's Quay for the ferry to Gourock. Cycling back from Gourock, to Finlaystone Country Park, then on to Bellahouston Park.

Route distance: 54km (34 miles)

Route altitude gain: 494m (1,621ft)

Accommodation: None

Meals: (B)



Dates and Prices

Price

Price for the weekend is £270

Payment Schedule

A deposit of £120 is payable after booking, with the final balance of £150 to be paid by Friday 1st March 2024. Initially we will ask for booking forms by 31st October, then we will pair stokers and pilots with tandems, also plan room share arrangements, and after that ask people to pay their deposit to confirm the booking.

Price Includes

- 3 nights hotel accommodation in Dunoon, on a shared basis
- Breakfast and dinner for 3 days
- Ferry tickets between McInroy's Point and Hunter's Quay
- Ferry tickets for the 3 Ferries ride
- Luggage transfer from Bellahouston to Dunoon. This is by van and **is limited to 8kg per person**. Ideally in one bag.
- Entry fee into Benmore gardens

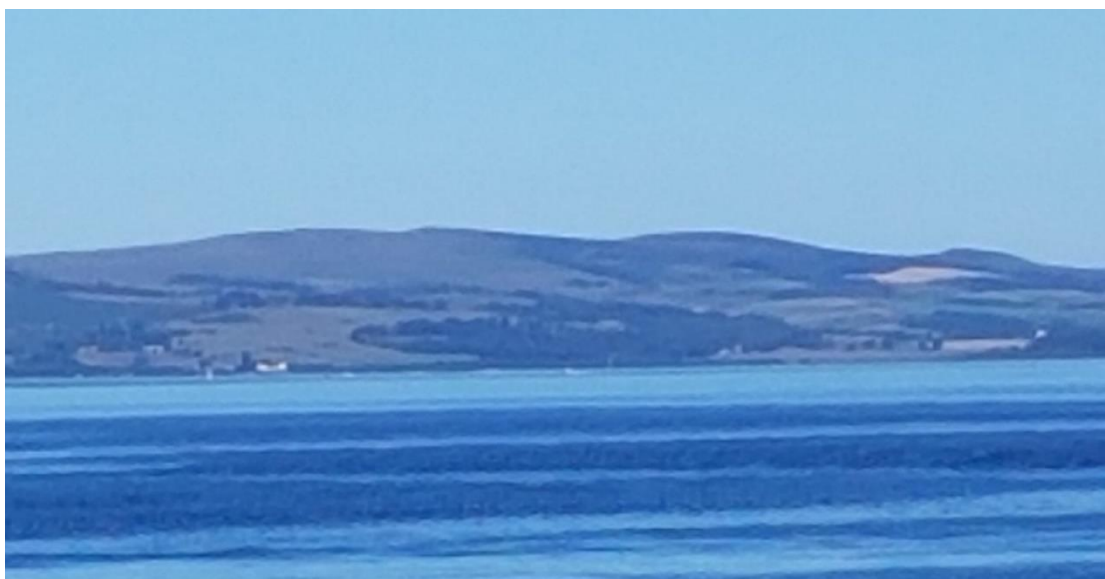
Price does not include

- Travel to or from Bellahouston Park
- Drinks with evening meals
- Lunches
- Any other personal costs
- Travel Insurance

Cancellations

Written Notice Received: Cancellation Charge:

- Before 1st March 2024: £120 (deposit)
- After 1st March 2024: £270



Holiday Information

Accommodation

The club stayed in the Esplanade Hotel in April 2023, and feedback was pretty positive. It has 3 stars from the Scottish Tourist Board, and as the name implies is located on the shore at Dunoon. They have a lockable garage for bike storage

Rooms

Twin rooms have been booked for most of the group, and we also have a smaller number of double rooms available.

Breakfast

Breakfast is included each day on our stay at the hotel.

Lunch

Lunch is not included on any of the days.

Dinner

Dinner is included each night of our stay in the hotel, but please do advise of any dietary requests when booking.

The nature of the Club Weekend

This is a Glasgow Tandem Club (GTC) weekend and we will seek to cater for the interests of all who come. We need both pilots and stokers, and ideally also a few solo bikes as well. It is important that everyone is able to cycle the distances and ascents described.

The booking process will include matching up pilots and stokers with tandems, as well as arranging for room shares. We would like everyone who wants to come to submit the

booking form by 31st Oct 2023 to let us know who wants to come. We will then start the process of pairing people and tandems, as well as room shares. If you intend to bring your own tandem, and if you have agreed a room share, then please let us know.

Once pairings have been organised, we will email with information to enable you to pay your deposit into the Trust Account.

If the available places are not all filled by the GTC we will open the tour for others to come.

Travel

Travel will be by cycle path for most of the route to Greenock, then by road and ferry for the remainder of the tour.

Roads Used

The roads used on the Cowal peninsula have less traffic than the mainland roads. However, we do use some roads on the mainland to get to Gourock, and also on the first 10 miles of the 3 ferries route from Gourock to Wemyss Bay.

Group Information

The group size is limited by the availability of tandems and hotel rooms, but we would like all members to have the chance of coming, so have provisionally booked for 30. If necessary we may be have some flexibility to adjust this number during October.

Weather and Clothing

May weather in Scotland is renowned for being both variable and unpredictable. In recent years we have had some very nice weather in May. Please do bring waterproofs and also sunscreen, and hope for the best.

Cycles / Equipment

People are very welcome to bring their own tandems if they wish. Please do let me know if that is the case. The rest of the group will ride on GTC tandems, and of course solo cyclists will bring their own bicycles. In all cases, if bringing your own tandem or bicycle, please do make sure to service it (or have it serviced) before the club weekend.

Maps

GPX files of the route maps will be provided (shortly before the tour) and in addition you might choose to bring the relevant pages from an old road atlas.

Health

Please ensure that you are capable of cycling the distances involved for the tour. All regular participants on GTC club rides are likely be of a suitable standard. If you have a health condition that you want to make me aware of then please do so on the booking form. I need to rely on your own judgement, and the professional advice that you receive, as to the suitability of the tour for you.