



TOUR NOTES
“Cities, History & Battlefields”
Level 2/3 – Self-guided
3 nights – 4 days

Tour overview

York was once the seat of the Northern Parliament where justice was dispensed and people came from miles around to defend themselves and learn of their fate. With the Vikings coming over the North Sea, the Lancastrians just over the Pennines and wars between king and parliament, York is surrounded by battlefields marking a turbulent and blood-filled past.

At SCOOT, we have fuelled a love for cycling with a love for history to create this tour. We provide you with detailed maps, so that you feel confident every pedal of the way, as well as the factual backdrop, heroic stories and pictorial chronologies of these important battles, your accommodation, carefully selected and inspected by SCOOT, will be the perfect respite after a day of cycling, and a great location to enjoy both the city and the battles.

This tour is a self-guided and is flexible in which order you do the battlefields. You can choose which battlefields to venture out to each day from three routes taking in four battlefields in total. All these battles mark important turning points in England's history.

You will also have plenty of time to explore the Roman and medieval history of this "cycling city". Enjoy sampling its world famous tea rooms, quaint streets and ancient buildings, or walk on the walls and through the ruins of St Mary's Abbey.



Day 1- The Battles of Stamford Bridge & Fulford



The first day will see you arrive in York to be met by a member of the Scoot team. You will be measured for your bicycles and cycling equipment, helmets, locks, lights etc.

After you have made sure your bike is comfortable we will point you in the direction of the first of the battles you will be visiting: Stamford Bridge, before you head to Fulford on the return journey. Both battles are linked, one a great English victory, the other a terrible English defeat in the year 1066.

The cycle to Stamford Bridge is a particularly enjoyable one, for the casual cyclist as well as the enthusiast. You will see the lovely North Yorkshire countryside of rolling hills and meadows whilst en route.

When you arrive you will see the famous battlefield, and the monument left there to honour the site. It was here that Harold Godwinson, King of the English, battling a jubilant and powerful Viking army under the command of the warrior-king Harald Hardrada (already victorious over the English at the battle of Fulford) at last defeated the Vikings.

Once you have seen the site of this battle, you can head on to Fulford. Again this is a lovely ride, where you will pass through Yorkshire countryside before reaching the battlefield of Fulford.

The Battle of Fulford preceded the battle of Stamford Bridge by less than three weeks. It was a particularly bloody affair, which witnessed the destruction of the English Northern Army. You can still see the marshland where the English retreated and were cut down by the Viking invaders.

A short ride back to York along the river, and you will find yourself at your accommodation for your first night.



Distance 30 miles

Day 2 - The Battle of Marston Moor



A particularly lovely ride for you today, as you head out to see one of the most famous battles in English history! The battle that won the north for the parliamentary army during the ferociously fought Civil War.

Leaving your accommodation, you will pass by your first historical site of the day - Tyburn. This was where the criminals of York were brought to be executed. Leaving the city, you will pass through a number of pretty Yorkshire villages, each with their own quaintness and individuality, before you finally come upon the Moor itself.

This battle is said to be one of the largest ever fought on English soil. It was an important encounter of the civil war, which saw great losses to both sides, and a victory for Parliamentarian forces. With this victory came an effective control of the North. It saw the destruction of what up till this point had been the invincible Royalist cavalry, as well as the emerging military brilliance of Oliver Cromwell. You can still see the landmarks where the various regiments were stationed, and the area where Cromwell himself fought.

On your return, you will actually head over the Moor before cycling back along country paths to York, and your accommodation to relax and enjoy a well-deserved supper!

Distance 23 miles

Day 3 - The Battle of Towton, 19th March 1461

This day takes you out south-west of York to the scene of the Battle of Towton in the War of the Roses. It brings you back in via the Roman garrison town of Tadcaster which was the first stop for soldiers on the way to London (Londinium) from York (Eboracum).

Cycling south of the city, you will first pass the solar system which is worth a look in itself, before some more wonderful countryside cycling!



If you choose to you can cycle via Riccall where the Vikings harboured their ships during the battles of Fulford and Stamford Bridge. This adds around a mile to the trip. On arriving at Towton you will see a great information board detailing the features of the great battle that was fought here.

The Battle of Towton is regarded as one of the bloodiest battles ever fought on English soil. Reports soon after the battle suggested as many 28,000 men had lost their lives. The battle brought about a change in king, from the unsound and easily guided Henry VI to Edward IV, the first Yorkist King of England. The battle itself was fought in a blistering snow storm on Palm Sunday, and the reason so many men died was the agreement made beforehand, that no quarter would be given or asked. That means no clemency in return for surrender!

Once you have studied the battlefield, it is time to head back, along the Old London Road to York, following the very route which the Roman Ninth Legion marched to York before disappearing in the depths of Scotland.

Arriving back in York, it's time to rest those cycling muscles!

Distance - 33 miles

Day 4 - York



Waking up in York you have time to take in some more of the sights – either by cycle or on foot. Look at the battlements on the City walls. See the arrow slits and where the portcullises were. Work out how the walls still protruding from Walmgate Bar were integral to the defence of the city. See where the heads of the unfortunate were displayed as a cruel example to others. Or join us for one of our popular city tours! We cover the history of the city from its Roman foundation right up until the modern day!

In the afternoon, your SCOOT representative will arrange to collect your cycles and equipment from you, and we will then say farewell.

£300 per person

Starting days - Sunday, Monday or Tuesday

SCOOT TRIP GUIDE – GRADING LEVELS

We want you to get the most out of your SCOOT CYCLING HOLIDAY and whilst cycling involves a certain amount of energy we want you to be comfortable in your selection of tour. Grading is subjective but we hope the guide below will help you choose the perfect holiday.

Level 1 - Gentle

For infrequent or beginner cyclists on quiet and generally flat routes.
Distances of 15 - 20 miles per day.

Level 2 - Easy

For the leisure cyclist who takes regular exercise on routes with a few climbs.
Distances of 20 - 30 miles per day.

Level 3 - Moderate

For the person who cycles regularly on roads with a few steep climbs.
Distances of 20 - 35 miles per day.

Level 4 - Challenge

For a more experienced cyclist who does not mind steep climbs (or is happy to get off and push!).
Distances of 35 - 40 miles per day.

Remember these levels are just guides and at SCOOT we believe that the journey is more interesting than merely the distance travelled.

GENERAL INFORMATION

What the price includes:

1. Bed & Breakfast accommodation (twin or double share basis)
2. Route maps and instructions specific for your tour
3. Luggage transfer between accommodation
4. Meet and greet by SCOOT team member at the start and finish of your trip
5. Emergency back up from 10am – 5pm. This does not include our coming out to mend punctures but the tyres on our bicycles are puncture resistant and punctures are few and far between.
6. Cycling equipment – bike, helmet, child seats as appropriate, lights, locks, puncture repair kit.

What the price excludes:

1. Personal clothing and equipment
2. Travel and medical insurance
3. Lunch and evening meals, and water en route
4. Single occupancy

Bags

We ask you to stick to one bag per person with a maximum weight of 17kg, which will be transferred between accommodation stops for you.

All SCOOT adult bikes have a small pannier fitted, if you think you will need to carry more than would fit into a pannier please provide your own rucksack for your days cycling or alternatively you can hire a bigger Ortlieb pannier from us at a cost of £5 per day.

Accommodation

All the accommodation provided by SCOOT has been inspected by us, we strive to use independent family run Bed & Breakfasts, inns or small hotels. Linen, towels and breakfast will be included in your stay.

All rooms will be en-suite unless otherwise stated and agreed at the time of booking. Single occupancy is subject to availability and a surcharge may be applicable. Please check at the time of booking.

Cycling Equipment

SCOOT provides all bikes. For adults we use hybrid Giant lightweight bikes that are maintained by our own trained cycle technician.

All children's equipment – tag alongs, child seats and pull alongs are compliant with EU and British Safety Standards and comprehensively maintained.

Helmets are provided and we recommend that you use them. Gloves, wet weather gear, cycling shorts etc are not provided.

Weather

SCOOT cannot be held responsible for "adverse" weather conditions. Remember.... this is England! Carrying wet weather kit, and an extra layer is always sensible.

Insurance

SCOOT does not provide holiday insurance. We strongly recommend that you take out adequate holiday insurance including medical cover, personal accident, loss of belongings & cancellation cover. We cannot be held responsible for your own illness, change of travel plans, injury or loss of or damage to your belongings whilst on holiday.

Booking and payment

Before you book we recommend that you check the itinerary and grading level of each trip together with the booking conditions.

To book a tour please send a completed booking form to SCOOT CYCLING HOLIDAYS LTD we will then confirm you're booking by email within 48hours, and send you an invoice for (a) deposit of £50 per person on all holidays or (b) the full holiday cost.

If only the deposit is paid at time of booking then full payment of the holiday is required no less than 8 weeks before the start of your holiday. No further reminder is sent. If you book your holiday within 8 weeks of the holiday start date, the full holiday cost is required at time of booking.

Payments can be made by cheque, bank transfer or using your credit card via PayPal through the website – this gives you security and peace of mind.

Customer Satisfaction

We want you to thoroughly enjoy your SCOOT holiday. We welcome feedback on all aspects of our holidays so that we can continue to improve them.

If you have any problems or are unhappy in anyway with any aspect of the holiday, please call us at the earliest opportunity so that action can be taken to remedy the problem. If we know about it, we can probably sort it.

Any complaint made to SCOOT CYCLING HOLIDAYS LTD after your holiday should be made in writing within 28 days of your return home.