# The Grand Départ 2027







| ACTIVITY | ACCOMMODATION | DURATION: | GRADE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cycle | Hotel | 3 days | |

A UK Grand Départ, for the first time in over a decade.

Same roads. Same climbs. One day early. Fully supported. Just turn up and pedal!

In July 2027, the Grand Depart of the 114th Tour de France comes to the UK for the first time since 2014 – and you can cycle the opening stage the day before the professionals race it!

Cycling the route of a Tour de France stage – one of the biggest and most gruelling sporting events in the world – is a fantastic achievement, and it's very rare to be able to do it on British roads. Tackle this long day in the saddle with our experienced cycle-challenge support team, and enjoy the atmosphere building up in the towns and villages as you ride. This is the closest most of us will get to feeling like we're part of the world's most famous bike race.

With two nights' accommodation, and a transfer back to the start-point for a big celebration, we make the rest of the experience as convenient as possible for you – and leave you perfectly positioned to watch the pros the next day!

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Day 1: Arrival (nr Edinburgh)

We meet for registration at our accommodation, a few miles east of Edinburgh city centre. Allow time to prep your bike and kit, so you're all set up for tomorrow's big day. Mechanics will be on hand to help if you need it. After a thorough trip briefing and dinner, you're free to rest. Night accommodation.

*(Lunch not included)*

## Day 2: Ride Stage One, Edinburgh – Carlisle

Our big day, cycling the route of the 2027 Tour de France, Stage One, Scotland to England! We ride directly from our accommodation onto the route, heading south through Midlothian and the Scottish Borders. We follow the Tweed Valley, known for its salmon-fishing, before riding through beautiful rolling landscapes en route to Galashiels. The only categorised climb (Cat 4) comes soon after – over 2 miles long and an average gradient of 6.7%; this has been used frequently in the Tour of Britain. Now dubbed the Côte de Melrose, this climb will decide the first polka-dot jersey wearer of the 2027 Tour de France - feel free to be proud of your own 'King of the Mountains' moment as you watch the race's TV footage later!

It's not the only climb of the day – don't be deceived by the 'Flat' terminology of the Tour – but other hills are not steep or long enough to be categorised. After climbing out of Hawick, however, the terrain does become predominantly flat; we head to the border with England, and soon come to Carlisle – you may not have the legs for a sprint, but you'll feel like a champion as you ride through our finish line! We then head back to our accommodation, where we'll enjoy a big celebratory evening! Night accommodation.

**Cycle approx. 120 miles; Total Ascent approx. 7100ft**

*NB: We endeavour to follow the route as closely as possible, but there may be deviations due to early road closures, one-way restrictions, and safety assessments on the day. We will do out utmost to ensure any deviations are as enjoyable as the official route.*

## Day 3: Depart

After breakfast, you're free to head out onto the route and cheer on the pros!

*(Lunch not included)*

# WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Two night's accommodation, Edinburgh area
- Parking
- Bike storage
- Carb-loading pre-night dinner & briefing
- Breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks throughout the trip (unless where specified on the itinerary)
- Experienced DA crew (number dependent on group size)
- Full vehicle and mechanic back-up support and equipment
- Medical support
- Bike and rider transfer, finish to Edinburgh
- GPX File & Digital Map
- Finishers' cycle jersey
- Celebration evening with dinner
- **We offset 100% of the carbon emissions from your trip**

## WHAT'S EXCLUDED

- Bike and cycle helmet
- Transport to / from event accommodation
- Travel insurance; covering injury, cancellation/curtailment, lost items etc (optional)
- Any meals specified 'not included' on the itinerary
- Personal items such as drinks, extra snacks etc
- Any applicable surcharges as per Terms and Conditions

## GRADE | ORANGE

All our trips are designed to provide a challenge. Trips are graded Yellow, Orange or Red, in increasing level of challenge. This trip lies within the **ORANGE** range.



The grade is determined by factors such as terrain, distance, climate, altitude, etc. Each colour grade has a **spectrum** which reflects the difficulty of these factors. Trip duration, accommodation and living conditions are also taken into account. Some sections will feel more challenging than others, but the grade reflects the overall trip. Unusual weather conditions can also have a significant impact.

The Accommodation icon indicates the living conditions while trekking/cycling. While there are usually several factors that present a challenge, the Challenge icon indicates the trip's most challenging element, for most people.

Trip grading explained

# CHALLENGE INFORMATION

## DETAILED INFORMATION

### Leaders & Trip Support

Your trip will be led by experienced Discover Adventure leaders and support crew, including mechanics and at least one medic (depending on numbers).

Our crew are selected for their knowledge and experience, friendliness and approachability, sense of humour and ability to safely and effectively deal with any situation that arises; they are also trained in first aid. The crew will have mobile phones and/or radios where appropriate, medical kit and other safety apparatus where necessary.

The number of crew and support vehicles looking after you will depend on the final size of your group, but the team will be looking after every aspect of your trip whether that's assessing route safety, keeping you fed and hydrated, and sorting out any mechanical problems. Support vehicles are with the group all of the time, and carry all kit and spares. The route will be supplied as a GPX file compatible with navigation devices, and link accessed via the free, user-friendly

RidewithGPS app.

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### Trip Safety

Your safety, and that of the rest of the group, is our highest priority. Our trips are designed and planned with safety in mind. Your crew will be equipped with appropriate communication devices (eg phones, radios), medical kit and other safety apparatus appropriate to the destination. Our leaders always have access to our 24-hour emergency UK back-up. They are responsible for safety on the trip, and will make any changes to the itinerary they deem necessary, should local conditions dictate. Pre-trip administration - such as medical questionnaires and travel insurance as appropriate - is all done with your safety in mind.

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### Food & Dietary Requirements

Meals are provided from Dinner on Day 1 to Breakfast on Day 3. Breakfasts and dinners will be provided at our accommodation. Expect uncomplicated meals, but plenty of tasty, energising food! Food on the ride will focus on re-fuelling your energy levels; there will be multiple stops but no pre-set lunch. We like to support local businesses and will source food locally where possible. Being vegetarian, vegan, or having other dietary requirements or religious dietary restrictions is rarely a problem provided you inform us well in advance. We know that most people with specific dietary requirements are used to managing things in their daily lives, but we always recommend bringing extra snacks from home so you can top up your energy supply - plus it makes a nice treat to have your favourites to hand.

Any meals not included are listed in the itinerary and are on travel / free days, giving you the flexibility to plan your day as you like.

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## PREPARING FOR THE CHALLENGE

### Challenge Grading

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Trip grading explained

## Fitness Levels

This is designed to be a challenge, and it is vital that you train sufficiently for it. We will supply you with a thorough training guide once you have registered. Training is all part of the preparation: inadequate training will impact on your enjoyment of the trip, and your chances of completing it. We expect all participants to train hard in advance, but we respect everyone's limits and do not expect everyone to maintain the same pace. If you have concerns about your fitness or if you have reduced mobility please do contact us for a confidential chat about whether this challenge is appropriate for you.

## Electric Bikes

In the last few years e-bikes have become increasingly popular. At Discover Adventure we see them as a great tool for inclusivity, and a great enabler for people to get out cycling – at home and on our trips – especially when continuing riding (or starting again) in older age or through health problems.
With charity challenges being at the heart of our business, we know that e-bikes are being used by beneficiaries of various charities to aid recovery, and that they enable participation in events raising funds for those charities.
E-bikes must, however, be used with caution on a multi-day, high-mileage trip and are in no way a substitute for training. Please talk to us well in advance if you have one you wish to ride on this challenge, so that we can ensure that it is suitable for the challenge, and that you are aware of the pros and cons.

## Clothing & Kit

We plan our trips around the optimal weather conditions, but could still be exposed to bad weather at any time. It is vital you are prepared for all conditions. We provide you with a detailed packing kit-list on registration, with plenty of information, and we are always available if you need advice.

## Travel Insurance

Travel insurance for UK weekends and one-day events is not compulsory but you might like to consider taking out cover in case of cancellation or loss of belongings.

Once your travel insurance is arranged, just remember to let us know the policy number and 24-hr medical emergency phone number provided by your insurers.

## Cancelling your booking

In the unfortunate circumstance that you need to cancel your booking, we would ask that you notify us in writing either by email or post.  Your cancellation will be considered effective from the date the notice is received. Registration, administration and amendment fees are non refundable and, depending on your payment option and how close it is to your challenge departure date, you may be liable for a cancellation charge.

Full details of all cancellation charges may be found in the Terms and Conditions of booking.

## Passenger Portal

We have a Passenger Portal which will give you more details of the challenge itself. It also enables you to see any outstanding information we need, the countdown to your challenge departure, see your outstanding balance, make payments and update your contact details. You can access this via the following link - Passenger Portal Log in.

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Discover Adventure reserves the right to change the route or itinerary for safety reasons should local conditions dictate.

Please note: This document was downloaded on 11 Nov 2026, and the challenge is subject to change.