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Founded 1878

Land's End to John O'Groats The 'Faster' Main Road Route

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This route does not seek out a quieter, more scenic route but is aimed primarily at those wanting to do the route relatively quickly. It uses a lot of main roads and should be less hilly. Confidence on busy roads essential.

Route originally created by Brian Wood in 1991

Travelling from Land's End to John O'Groats (or the other way) - an 'end to end' - is not a totally modern idea. Over the years, the trip has been done by many tens of thousands of people and in a number of amazing ways, however, it is a unique challenge and quite an incredible achievement.

Many will remember hearing of Dr Barbara Moore and the Billy Butlin walks of the 1960's, Ian Botham did it twice and in March 2005, BBC Radio 1 DJ Chris Moyles in support of Comic Relief and James May from BBC's Top Gear in support of the RNLI.

By doing this journey you will join the ranks of the famous and be able to claim your 15 minutes of fame

We have previously mentioned in the introduction and practical advice section of this guide the World Record for completing the End to End by Gethin Butler of 1 day, 20 hours, 4 minutes and 19 seconds other records to take a look at are:

Bicycle (Days, Hours, Minutes, Seconds)

Women Single 2002 L E A Taylor 2-04-45-11

Men Tandem 1966 PM Swindon & W J Withers 2-02-14-25

UPDATE: According to the latest edition of the Tandem Club magazine, Dominic Irvine and Charlie Mitchell broke the End to End tandem record in May this year (2015) in a time of 2 days, 1 hours and 11 minutes.

Women Tandem Standard to be beaten 3-12-00-00

Mixed Tandem 2000 A Wilkinson & Miss L E A Taylor 2-03-19-23

Tricycle (Days, Hours, Minutes, Seconds)

Men Single 1992 R Dadswell 2-05-29-01

Women Single Standard to be beaten 4-12-00-00

Men Tandem 1954 A Crimes & J F Arnold 2-04-26-00

Women Tandem Standard to be beaten 4-00-00-00

Mixed Tandem Standard to be beaten 3-07-00-00

And don't think the End to End is only taken on by adults:

The youngest known end to end cyclist is Bow Jango Cann, aged seven and nine months, who on 21 July 2002 took the record from his brother Capability Jack Cann, aged eight, who had earned the title only ten seconds before. They did the trip in 22 days unaided using their own bikes, they rode with their teenage sisters and their parents Jim and Sam.

One final thing to consider - *what about riding LEJOGLE (Lands' End to John O'Groats to Lands' End)?*

This mammoth undertaking (1880 miles) was completed in a record time of 141 hours and 8 minutes by Ben Rockett on 27th Aug 2010.

If you are wishing for more information on your start location or destination please see the site links below:



Land's End: <http://www.landsend-landmark.co.uk/>

John O'Groats: <http://www.visitjohnogroats.com/>



We wish you all the luck and happy, safe cycling in your journey ahead.

If planning your own main road route, be aware that some are very unpleasant to ride, dangerous even, including the A30 (Penzance – Exeter), the A38 (through Bristol), the A82 (Glasgow – Loch Lomond ~ on this route!) and the A9 generally ~ again on this route). Note: thanks to the National Cycle Network, the A9 and A82 can to some extent be paralleled on quiet roads and cycle paths.

Please remember this pack should only be used as a guide as this route was plotted some time ago (1991), a very helpful site where you can plot your own route including downloading GPX files to use on a sat nav system is www.cycle.travel. The map included is as an example of the route that can be plotted via this site, the route guides which can be downloaded are very concise and some may find they are too detailed but can serve as a good guide to plotting your own route. Once you have plotted your route another very handy site which will allow you to visualise your route and print screen sections for later use is <http://www.gpsvisualizer.com/>, here you can upload your GPX file(s) and view in a variety of map types. Please note the GPX and KMZ files on the CTC-Maps website on the CTC End to End Pack page no longer work due to their size and will only appear as straight lines. An example route produced by the www.cycle.travel site is available on this link: <http://cycle.travel/map/journey/13229>

In the 'Practical Advice' section of the E2E pack is a list of other available routes, including John Woodburn's and Lynne Taylor's record breaking routes. (Available only to CTC members.) These are also very much 'main road' routes.



Please note that this route does not include stops or accommodation information, this would be at your own discretion and information on refreshment stop and accommodation can be found on our Cyclists Welcome site:

www.cyclistswelcome.co.uk

ROUTE DIRECTIONS

LAND'S END A30 via PENZANCE to LONG ROCK.

A394 MARAZION BYPASS. B3280 through

LEEDSTOWN to REDRUTH. Go through town centre then follow A3047

SCORRIER, CHACEWATER, THREE MILE STONE. A390 to

TRURO, ST. AUSTELL, LISKEARD, TAVISTOCK. B3357 to
TWO BRIDGES. B3212 through
MORETONHAMPSTEAD to
EXETER B3181 through
BROADCLYST to a right turn on to the A38
WELLINGTON (by-passed), **TAUNTON, BRIDGWATER.** Leave on the A39 (signpost Bath). Left after
about 3 miles on to B3141
BASON BRIDGE Right on to B3139 to
WEDMORE Left onto B3151 to
CHEDDAR Left at A371, but right in half mile minor road
SHIPHAM Right onto A38. Cross A368 then soon left onto B3133 through **CONGRESBURY** to
CLEVEDON. Leave on B3124 but soon right on minor lane
GORDANO VALLEY through **CLAPTON-IN-GORDANO** to
PORTBURY. At the Easton-in-Gordano M5 motorway junction, head eastwards along the A369 taking
the first turning to the left, following signs to the Avon Gorge M5 motorway bridge cycle path, or signs
to the villages of Easton-in-Gordano and Pill. Follow A403
AVONMOUTH, AUST. Cross Severn Bridge on cycle path. A466 through **CHEPSTOW, MONMOUTH** to
HEREFORD. Leave on A4110 (signposted Knighton) to
LEINTWARDINE. Go through village then fork left B4385 (signposted Craven Arms). Left after approx
1 mile (signpost Hopton Heath). Right at 'T' junction on to B4367, then soon left over railway B4385.
At crossroads at Hundred House Inn go straight ahead, minor road,
KEMPTON. Left at B4385 to
BISHOPS CASTLE. A488 to
SHREWSBURY. Leave on A528 (signposted Ellesmere) but keep straight on at **HARMER HILL.** B5476
through
WEM to **WHITCHURCH** A49
WARRINGTON, WIGAN, CHORLEY. A6
PRESTON, LANCASTER, CARNFORTH A6070 and A65
KENDAL A6
PENRITH, CARLISLE. A7
LONGTOWN. A6071
***GRETNA** B7076, A702 (briefly)
ABINGTON B7078

LESMAHAGOW, *KIRKMUIRHILL where left on B7086

STRATHAVEN A726

EAST KILBRIDE, PAISLEY, ERSKINE. Cross Erskine Bridge (A898).

A82 DUMBARTON, CRIANLARICH, GLENCOE, FORT WILLIAM,

FORT AUGUSTUS to

DRUMNADROCHIT A831, later A833,

BEAULY A862

MUIR-OF-ORD, DINGWALL * A862 then A9, A99 via **WICK** to **JOHN O'GROATS**

* (*Much nicer from Dingwall*) **EVANTON** B9176 & A836

BONAR BRIDGE, LAIRG, ALTNAHARRA. B873, later B871,

BETTYHILL. A836 through

DOUNREAY and **THURSO** to **JOHN O'GROATS.**

Alternative A: Perhaps the least pleasant roads you will encounter will be north and south of Glasgow. By going further west after Carlisle, you can make your journey much more pleasant. This is the route:

From **GRETNA.** B721. **ANNAN,** After half mile left on B724, A75

DUMFRIES. A76

SANQUHAR, KILMARNOCK then B7081 (From Dumfries, the A76, B729, A702, B729, A713, B730, B7081 is a better option)

CROSSHOUSE, IRVINE. A78 to **ARDROSSAN**

Ferry to **BRODICK.** A841 to **LOCHRANZA**

Ferry to **CLAONAIG.** B8001, A83 **TARBERT, LOCHGILPHEAD.** A816 to

OBAN. A85, A828 **BALLACHULISH** (*Rejoin normal route*)

Alternative B: A more direct & probably slightly shorter option (but hillier in parts) might be to keep east of Glasgow and head directly north to the A9 as follows:

From **KIRKMUIRHILL** continue up B7078. **LARKHALL.** A72 to

HAMILTON. A723 to **MOTHERWELL.** A721 to

BELLSHILL where left to join gyratory. Left at Main Street to join A721 & go left (west). At R/bout under A725 take B7001 & join A752 north.

GARTCOSH, MUIRHEAD. B819, B757 / A8006 to
KIRKINTILLOCH. Left on A803 and soon R on Campsie Road (minor road), crossing Hayston Golf Course. Right on to the B822. Left at T into **LENNOXTOWN** where Right back on to the B822.
FINTRY, KIPPEN, THORNHILL. Soon join A81
CALLANDER. Left on A84
LOCHEARNHEAD. A85. Right on A827. Left to
FEARNAN, FORTINGALL & KELTNEYBURN. Left at B846
TUMMEL BRIDGE. Left here and soon Right on minor road.
TRINAFOUR. Left on minor road to the A9 where Left and continue to
INVERNESS & eventually JOHN O’GROATS.

Other Ferry Option (Continue north from ARDROSSAN on *Alternative A*)

Gourock-Dunoon will take you via the A815 & A83 to Arrochar & Tarbet, then A82 to **CRIANLARICH.**

Gourock-Kilcreggan or Helensburgh will take you via the B833 & A814 to Arrochar, then A82 to **CRIANLARICH.**

Caledonian MacBrayne Ltd

The Ferry Terminal

Gourock

PA19 IQP

Tel: 0870 565 0000

Fax: 01475 637607

<http://www.calmac.co.uk/>

Western Ferries (Clyde) Ltd

Hunter’s Quay

Dunoon

PA23 8HJ

Tel: 01369 704452

enquiries@western-ferries.co.uk

Don’t forget to order a personalised certificate celebrating your journey at www.cyclinguk.org.uk/shop You can also order a cloth badge and T-shirt.

Please remember to email competitions@cyclinguk.org a photo/scan of your End to End Record sheet, and/or other evidence of your ride to speed up processing.

For helpful advice and to hear stories from others who have completed the End to End please visit the Cycling UK Forum: <https://forum.cyclinguk.org/>

Example route as plotted using <http://cycle.travel> visualised using <http://www.gpsvisualizer.com/>



On the next few pages you will find a newly plotted route for completing the End to End via the fastest route available which will consist of main road usage though this was plotted using cycle.travel so therefore should be reasonably cycle friendly. Please note that this route has not been tested. This is a turn by turn route which runs over approximately 30 pages and is highly detailed.