CYCLING IN THE BOROUGH OF COLERAINE

The 22 mile cycle route along the North Atlantic Coast from The Giant’s Causeway via Coleraine to Castlerock forms part of the National Cycle Network Route 93. Passing through the resort towns of Portrush, Portstewart and the main town of Coleraine, the route is well signed with many dedicated, cycle friendly measures. From Castlerock the route turns inland through Downhill Forest and climbs to Gortmore with spectacular views of Lough Foyle before descending to Limavady. For a return route cyclists can use the busy A2 coast road past Benone Strand and Downhill.

There are also two signed cycle routes in the south of the Borough centred on the thriving market town of Garvagh. Although similar in length (approximately 15 miles long) both routes offer contrasting landscapes, ranging from the forested slopes of the north Sperrins foothills to the lower fertile plains of the Lower Bann Valley and the town of Kilrea. (Both routes are part of a wider network of cycle routes across the Sperrins region - separate detailed route cards available for both routes).

ATTRACTIONS ALONG THE ROUTE

Giant’s Causeway
The spectacular World Heritage site with its basalt columns, Atlantic Coast views and a certain amount of folklore thrown in is well worth a visit. Café, shops, tourist information and audio visual available.

Bushmills Railway
This recently refurbished heritage railway, the only steam heritage railway in N. Ireland, operating daily services from early May to the end of September, runs on the line of the original Portrush to Giant’s Causeway tramway. Operating from 1883 to 1948, this was the world’s first hydro-electric tramway. The cycle path runs alongside the railway.

Bushmills Distillery
Situated in the picturesque village of Bushmills, the world’s oldest licensed whiskey distillery offers visitors opportunities to avail of the following services; Guided tour of working distillery, whiskey tasting, gift shop and restaurant.

Portrush and Portstewart
These neighbouring coastal resorts, enjoying spectacular natural settings, offer a wide range of services and facilities for visitors and tourists. The area is famed for its high quality beaches which regularly attain Blue Flag status.

Mountsandel Fort, Coleraine
Situated on the wooded eastern bank of the River Bann, the Fort is the setting of the earliest known habitation of man in Ireland, dating from before 7,800 B.C. Visitors can enjoy pleasant riverside walks and excellent views over the town and river.

Hczlet House
A 17th Century thatched cottage, owned by the National Trust and thought to be one of the oldest buildings in Ireland. It is now furnished in late Victorian style with a small display of traditional farm implements.

Mussenden Temple, Downhill
The Temple and surrounding coastal views are among the most photographed scenes in Ireland. Opportunities exist to explore the ruins of Downhill Castle, the Bishop’s Gate and Mausoleum, all situated within a rural parkland setting.

Garvagh and Kilrea
These thriving rural market towns, located on the Agivey and Lower Bann Rivers respectively, provide ideal bases for touring the North Sperrins countryside and Lower Bann Valley.

Useful Contacts:

Tourist Information
Coleraine Tourist Information Centre
Railway Road
Tel No: 028 7034 4723

Portrush Tourist Information Centre
Dunluce Centre, Sandhill Drive
Tel No: 028 7082 3333

Cycling Information
National Cycle Network
Information Line
Tel No: 0845 11 10065

Sustrans
Tel No: 028 9043 4569
www.nationalcyclenetwork.org.uk

Cycle Sales & Repairs in the Coleraine Area
Smyth’s Cycle & Camping Centre
46 Long Commons
Coleraine
Tel No: 028 7035 4358

Halfords
Riverside Regional Centre
Ballycastle Road, Coleraine
Tel No: 028 7032 2500

JBI Sports
Riverside Regional Centre
Ballycastle Road, Coleraine
Tel No: 028 7032 8567

Carron Supplies
110 Agivey Road, Kilrea
Tel No: 028 738 6432

Cycling in the Borough of Coleraine

Cycle routes along the Atlantic Coast and through the quiet countryside of the Sperrins foothills.

www.nationalcyclenetwork.org.uk