1: Scarborough to Ravenscar

The former railway line (now known as the ‘Cinder Track’) which links Scarborough to Ravenscar (and Whitby) is one of the foremost cycle routes in the UK. There are some great sea views and you won’t miss any of them scrutinising maps as the navigation is very simple and the Cinder Track is well signposted. Among the highlights is Ravenscar itself – a proposed Victorian resort, dubbed ‘The Town That Never Was’ – and the beach at Hayburn Wyke. There is also a selection of places to eat and drink right on the track which makes it particularly well suited to family cycling.

Directions: Scarborough to Ravenscar

Turn L out of the railway station and, after 200m at the traffic lights, turn R down West Parade Rd. Pass to the L of the Sainsbury’s petrol station and skirt the car park. At the back of the children’s playground turn down a marked cycle path, underneath a bridge and down an alley beside an all-weather sports pitch. You are now on the ‘Cinder Track’ cycle path.

Continue forwards passing underneath three more bridges, alongside a cemetery, and some playing fields. Pass over a bridge at Scalby Beck and at a road crossing in Scalby turn R then immediately L down Field Close and R down Lancaster Way. Before the last bungalow on the R look for a gap signed Railway Path. After another 1.8km you emerge in Burniston to cross another road. Pick up the trail again on other side.

At the Station Tea Rooms in Cloughton cross over the road to continue along the Cinder Track, keeping on past the Hayburn Wyke Inn all the way to Ravenscar.

Just before the old station platform leave the railway path to the R and head down a slope and into Station Square. Turn L past the Ravenscar Tea Rooms and continue down Station Road to the Raven Hall Hotel. Bear L to find Ravenscar Visitor Centre and the route on towards Robin Hood’s Bay and Whitby.

Cycle route info:

Distance: 10½ miles (16.9km)
Time: 1½ to 2½ hours
Start: Scarborough railway station
Grid ref: TA 039 884
OS map: Ordnance Survey OL27
Terrain: easy cycling, with a gradual incline and a gravel surface
Directions: Ravenscar to Scarborough

Facing the entrance to the Raven Hall Hotel, turn R up Station Road. At Ravenscar Tea Rooms turn R around the far side of Station Square, then L up a stone road and R to join the Cinder Track by a gate on your left.

Pass the Hayburn Wyke Inn and, at the Station Tea Rooms in Cloughton, cross over the road and continue along the trail.

In Burniston cross over the road and, after 60m, turn R to re-join the trail. After another 1.8km the trail emerges on Lancaster Way. At the end turn L down Field Close. Turn R on main road then immediately L and R behind the housing to cross Scalby Beck.

Follow the trail past playing fields and a cemetery, and eventually along a narrow alley beside an all-weather sports pitch. Emerging at the children’s play area take the marked cycle path to the R and skirt round the Sainsbury’s car park and past its petrol station to reach the main road via West Parade Rd. At traffic lights turn L. The train station is 200m along on the R.

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Route highlights!

Visit the secluded cove of Hayburn Wyke, where woodland meets the sea.
Enjoy a ride through rolling farmland.
Soak up the amazing view of Robin Hood's Bay from Ravenscar.

Facilities

Scarborough has a tourist information centre, plus a full range of accommodation, cafés, restaurants and other facilities.

Refreshments are available on the route at Cloughton, Hayburn Wyke and Ravenscar, and just off the route in Scalby.

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www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/cycling