

ROAD BIKE: MEDIUM

A superb route just under 50k long, this circuit has almost 1200 metres of climbing so certainly packs a punch. The climb out of Ormidale is nothing if not memorable! From the marina, head to Millhouse, then on to Tighnabruaich. The climb out of Tighnabruaich is challenging but use the well-placed stopping places to take in the views – the Kyles of Bute are always worth admiring, particularly from here. Pay attention on the descent as the road narrows to single track with limited passing places. Once through Ormidale, turn left to briefly join the A886 and then left again to take the unclassified road, sometimes known as the Otter Hill road. There now follows a very significant climb – roughly 300 metres in just 4 kilometres. Find a gear and rhythm, and just pedal at whatever pace you like. Once up, it's a fast descent to the B8000. It's now superb road biking on the recently improved road all the way back to the marina, with a few more short climbs just to keep things interesting.

SEAN'S TOP TIP

Don't miss Otter Ferry. It only involves a short albeit steep extra bit of road. Even if the Oystercatcher isn't open, make sure you still stop here and take it all in as you munch your energy bars. It's a special spot.

BEST DIRECTION

Anti-clockwise as described. That way, the Oystercatcher comes once you've definitely broken the back of the ride and you don't want to climb back to Ormidale on a full belly. The short sharp climb out of Otter Ferry itself is enough!

FOOD OPTIONS

Oystercatcher Bar and Restaurant at Otter Ferry



Medium route, 50km, for intermediate cyclists



Look out for ticks, traffic & single track roads

