# THE SIGNAL CALLER STATES HOSTEL

## **ROAD BIKING**

# What we can offer...

The Smugglers Hostel in the village of Tomintoul is superbly located in the northern Cairngorms with immediate access to some of the UK's best road cycling, including numerous full day circular routes to the coast and back, classic hill climbs, challenging tours of the Cairngorm massif and time trialsall this within some of the most stunning scenery the British Isles can offer.

Our roads are rarely flat or straight, they are well maintained, never busy and superbly serviced with cycling friendly cafes...cycling heaven! The Smugglers is also well placed for a stop off on Lands End to John O'Groats, Coast to Coast and multi-day tour biking into and from the heart of the Cairngorms.

Whether you are coming on your own, as a family or a group, the Smugglers offers a fantastic base for your cycling needs including 24 beds; local expertise and advice for routes at all levels straight out of the hostel. There are circular cycle tours through the Glenlivet Estate and amongst the famed whisky distilleries of the Spey, off road parking (why not leave your car while you cycle off for a few days on a round Cairngorm route from the hostel?), secure cycle storage, dedicated drying shed, bike washing and maintenance areas and of course our renowned Smugglers welcome based on making your cycling holiday an enjoyable and memorable experience in the Highlands' **Highest Hostel.** 

#### **Room Prices**

2 x 6 Dorm £15 pp/pn 1 x 4 Dorm £15 pp/pn 1 x 4 Dorm (ensuite) £18 pp/pn 1 x 5 Dorm (1 double bed plus 3 single bunks - ensuite) £18

Want to book as a small group or have an exclusive hostel booking? Please contact us directly for discounted prices. Special deals for groups from Cycling Clubs including a free nights stay for group leaders or organisers are also available.

We have excellent self catering options which you are very welcome to use but for your convenience we can also offer you:

Buffet breakfast...eat all you can for £4.00 per person/ £2.00 for children under 12

Wholesome and nutritious packed lunches designed for the outdoor adventurer @ £5.00 per person/ £3.00 for children

Evening 'one pot' meals available for groups of 4 or more @ £6.00 per person/ £4.00 for children under 12

## A flavour of Cycling from The Smugglers Hostel

A few examples of the great rides the area has to offer: if you have a destination in mind but are unsure of which route to take, please contact a member of staff and we can plan it for you and also provide information to help you on your way.





The Lecht is one of Britains' Top Ten Climbs. A true monster of a climb through the heart of the Cairngorms, the road up to the Lecht Ski Centre is a simply stunning ride whether tackled from Tomintoul or starting your ascent from the beautiful Corgarff castle. Straight away you hit 20% slopes – challenging and relentlessly steepbefore arriving at the Alpine-style Ski Centre summit. An awesome cycling experience especially if done both ways. Guaranteed to get those legs burning!

Tomintoul to Findhorn and back. A classic, circular challenge of over 101 miles with a midday destination at the amazing seaside village of Findhorn on the Moray Firth. This route meanders out of Tomintoul up the short but steep climb at the Bridge of Brown before descending to Grantown on Spey. The route climbs steadily to Ferness and Logie Steading before cruising towards Findhorn via Forres. Return via the quiet roads leading to Knockando then into Glen Rinnes and back into Tomintoul along the Strathavon.



Whisky Tour: an amazing rolling circular cycle of 20 to 30 miles (depending on variants) on well maintained roads and lanes, taking in the Braes of Glenlivet whilst passing numerous distilleries with the smell of whisky in the air, twisting along the Strathavon where the river reflects the mood of the ever changing weather patterns and passing through the farm steadings of Fodderletter underneath the Hills of Cromdale. A fantastic early morning or evening run out amongst some fantastic scenery. The Snow Roads Challenge. Are you ready for a serious test? Tomintoul is on the world famous Snow Roads Challenge which takes you through 180 miles (300 km) of some of Scotland's best scenery and includes over 15,700 feet (4,800 meters) of ascent. The Snow Roads Challenge usually runs each May as a limited participation Audax event and has been featured on the BBC's Adventure Show, however the route can be attempted informally at any time of the year. Why not use The Smugglers Hostel as a base for this challenge as a one day mega blast or a more leisurely multi day tour?



Why not test yourself on our Four Mega Hills? Are you are Strava fiend? Do you want to be King of the Mountains? Then why not use The Smugglers Hostel as a focal point to tackle these four famous climbs.



Cairngorm: Enjoy a scenic feast amongst the famed Cairngorm Mountains as you grind your way 8 miles (12 km) from Coylumbridge, past Loch Morlich and up to the ski station on Cairngorm Mountain. Never too steep but unrelenting in its final sections as you gain height and see some of Britains' best vistas.



Devils Elbow: Charge up through Glen Shee from Braemar and take in this classic climb of the Devil's Elbow. This gives 9 miles (15 km) of steady climbing over Cairnwell Pass on the UK's highest main road. The ultimate challenge is to take the Devil's Elbow by the old military road with its double hairpin and maximum gradient of 33%!



Cairn O'Mount: Yet another classic that will thrill on both sides! Starting from Clatterin Brig the Cairn O'Mount ascent is a short 3 miles (5 km) but climbs steeply with an average gradient of 8% with a ramp of 16% to start with! The top is only reached after some tight steep bends. A real beast, but as with all these climbs, a very fast descent is the reward on the other side!



Lecht: Our very own hill challenge tackled from Corgarff Castle with its wicked 20-25% gradient near the start of the main climb, which seems more suited to skiing down than cycling up! Respite then comes in a small down hill section before the remainder of the climb. Then the climb's sheer magnitude comes into view, snaking up into the heavens!



## E-Bike Hire

The Electric Bicycle Network offers you a brand new way of discovering the beauty of the Cairngorms. Hire electric bikes from the many hire-points in our networks and the bikes will do the hard work, leaving you free to enjoy the simple pleasure of cycling in the great outdoors.

The Smugglers Hostel is proud to be a hire / charging point for the E-Bike network. We have numerous routes straight from the hostel including a great ride from Tomintoul to Glenlivet Distillery, which gives you an opportunity to re-charge the E-Bike whilst taking a whisky tour.

#### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF AN ELECTRIC BICYCLE NETWORK?

The Electric Bicycle Network (EBN) is a totally new concept for the UK that has been designed to enable normal people, who might not otherwise get on a bicycle, to enjoy cycling for leisure supported by the subtle but powerful assistance of an electric bicycle. The electric bicycle helps to break down some of those proven, major barriers to cycling, including the fear of not being fit enough to tackle the hills and also not wishing to get hot and sweaty. Electric Travel will measure the success of the **Electric Bicycle Networks on their** ability to be sustainable, to promote local tourism, to involve local businesses, particularly in rural communities and to reduce short car trips and tourist reliance on cars in favour of days out on two wheels.

#### **Prices:**

8 hours hire £25.00 pp 4 hours hire £15.00 pp 2 hours hire £10.00 pp

Hire includes E-Bike, Battery Charger, Route Map with Charging Points, Repair Kit, and Helmet.



### **Contact and Information**

The Smugglers Hostel has everything you need after a hard days ride; a warm welcome, comfortable dorms, fantastic communal area and hot showers. Bikes cleaned and safely stored, wet and muddy clothing can be washed and dried, ready for the next days adventure!



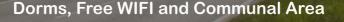
Cycle Storage and Maintenance, Cleaning area and Drying room





**Kitchen and Dining Area** 







The Smugglers Hostel, Main Street, Tomintoul, Banffshire,

AB37 9HA.

Tel: 01807 580364 Mob: 07557 642 727 Email: info@thesmugglershostel.co.uk www.thesmugglershostel.co.uk

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