



NC500 PLUS TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1

After our Meet and Greet dinner and overnight stay we begin the day with a hearty breakfast before starting our journey from Inverness heading North across the Kessock bridge which prior to 1982 travellers heading North had a 20 mile detour or a trip on the ferry, crossing the Moray firth the famous NC 500 begins .

We continue on the A9 crossing the Cromarty Firth heading up the coast past HMS Fieldfare with Alness Bay to the right and onwards towards Tain which is the home of the famous Glen Morangie Distillery where a pre-arranged stop can be made if required. We continue over the Dornoch Firth on to Dunrobin Castle for a coffee break or hot meal and or if desired you can visit the Castle and Grounds.

Following the East coast for a bit towards Brora where you are never too far away from the coastal views and the sweeping bays of golden sand. We will do a drive through or stop briefly if possible at the Wolf Stoneware, it is said that the last wolf in Sutherland was killed here!

Continuing up the coast taking in the views of the North Sea, we stop at the Helmsdale Bay viewing point for a photo opportunity, before heading slightly inland passing Ousdale Broch which are unique to Scotland and are iron age towers which is unfortunately a bit far to hike in bike gear. Still hugging the coastline we take in the glorious views (on a clear day) of the ocean past individual dwellings and farms along the way, stopping at the Whaligo Steps if weather and parking allows you can get some great photos if you are brave enough to traverse the 365 steps which lead down to a natural rocky harbour with a very interesting history. Back on the road to the famous John O Groats signpost for the must have photo and finally on to Thurso for the first nights rest.

Day 2

After a good breakfast we head off for another day in the saddle and on to Melvich beach where on a good day we can stop and take in the golden sands and the turquoise waters of this spectacular bay. On route now towards Tongue where we will stop for a coffee break before we take an opportunity for some photographs on the causeway. On a clear day you get spectacular views of both Ben Loyal and Ben Hope.

Heading west over the Hope Bridge to the Heilam view point where you catch views over and down Loch Eriboll, travelling down and around the Loch you can appreciate the rugged vast landscape.

Onwards now to the Smoo Cave where we will stop and give you the opportunity to visit the ancient wonders of the cave, once finished we will have lunch and time permitting can visit

the Cocoa Mountain Chocolate factory. Once we are all ready we will move onwards through Durness which was the Scottish home of John Lennon and across the moors, through the mountains down the west coast again. We will head through Scourie traversing the west coast for a short while to the famous Kylesku Bridge where there will be another photographic opportunity. Crossing the bridge with Loch a Chairn Bhain on the right and Loch Gleann Dub to the left, taking in the ever changing scenery we head down towards our 2nd nights stay.

Day 3

After a good breakfast we are on the road again South now past Stac Pollaidh one of the best known mountains in the Assynt area towards Ullapool where the scenery will not disappoint, passing through the town heading down the shores of Loch Broom. Now heading west through Achnaseen along the banks of Loch a' Chroisg stopping briefly at Glen Docherty for photos before lunch.

After lunch we are truly in for some of Scotland's scenery yet where we head further west along a series of Lochs out towards the open ocean. South now towards Applecross which is not part of the normal NC500 route! where you can catch spectacular views of the Isle of Raasay before traversing the famous Bealach na Ba (The pass of the Cattle) where you will be treated to some truly fantastic roads which are single track with passing places and stunning views from the top.

This road rises from almost sea level to 626m in just 5.6 miles and is 11.1 miles long and is the steepest ascent single road in the UK. After catching your breath we will down the shores of Lochcarron taking in yet more scenery and fantastic roads before making our way to our next nights stay.

Day 4

Today will be a different day where we will leave our luggage and you can either have a rest day and do your own thing or do the arranged route we have set out as we will be returning to start point after riding the Isle of Skye. Now crossing the Sky Bridge through the many B&Bs that have sprung up to make provision for the many tourists that visit Skye each year. Passing The isle of Scalpy on your right which is home to an ancient Viking village. We head towards Portree where you will never be far from the views of the Cuillin Mountains where we will stop for coffee and a chance to stretch our legs before heading to Dunvegan Castle and gardens where we can stop for lunch and a chance to explore the area.

Down the West coast now catching glimpses of Loch Harport along the winding roads with the mountains in the distance towards Sligachan where we can stop if required for you to visit the Fairy Pools but beware there is a substantial walk which is not recommended in motorcycle gear and has limited parking and is very busy in the summer months. For the less adventurous we will stop at the old bridge where you can get a chance to take photos of the main mountain ridge also called the Black Cuillin. We will now head back for our evening meal and overnight stay.

Day 5

After breakfast we take a short hop on the bikes to Eilean Donan castle which is sadly not part of the traditional NC 500 route but in our opinion it is a must see as it is situated on an island at the point where three great sea Lochs meet. There is a viewing and photograph point higher up from the main road which we will go to and You can take photographs and if you desire we can stop to enter and visit the castle, it has become one of the most visited and important attractions in the Scottish Highlands.

Down now along the banks of Loch Duich riding some truly epic roads and spectacular scenery. We ride South East towards Loch Garry where we will briefly stop at the viewpoint on the west side of the loch before heading on the road again up towards Fort Augustus. We will stop for lunch and then take some time exploring the magnificent lock ladders of the Caledonian Canal at the southern banks of Loch Ness, where we will take in views of this iconic Loch. Up now towards Urquhart Castle where there will be opportunities for more photos and explore if you would like before our last leg towards Inverness and our final destination and farewell meal and stay.