

2. Douglas Cycle Route

Distance	27 Miles
Terrain	Mainly A roads
Major Climbs	Bibaloe Beg, Ellerslie Hill at Crosby; the Braaid; Crogga
Traffic	The traffic in and around Douglas can be busy all day: cyclists should take care along the promenade and be aware of the tram lines. Exercise caution on country lanes.
Facilities	There are various shops, cafes, restaurants and public toilets within the Douglas and Onchan area.
Points of Interest	Camera Obscura, Manx Museum, Douglas Horse Trams, Manx Electric Railway, Groudle Glen and Railway, Molly Quirk's Glen, Port Soderick, Marine Drive.



This demanding but rewarding route takes you out of the Island's capital and into the tranquil surrounding countryside. An ideal way to explore the small glens, notably Groudle Glen and Molly Quirk's Glen. The coastal road of Marine Drive provides a stunning end to the day.

Start at Derby Castle at the northern end of Douglas promenade. Continue past the Manx Electric Railway Terminus and begin the climb to Onchan. After passing King Edward Bay Golf Course at Howstrake, you will reach Groudle Glen with its (seasonal) miniature steam railway. Continue alongside the Manx Electric Railway track towards Laxey, turning left at the next available road (Bibaloe Beg Road). The road consists of a short, but very steep climb up to Bibaloe Beg.

On reaching the main A2 road, turn left towards Onchan. The A2 is a busy, fast road and the left turn has poor visibility for approaching traffic. After crossing the Whitebridge and entering Onchan, take the third turn on the right onto School Road. Continuing along this road, you'll come to a hairpin turn which takes you down into the Glen past Little Mill and then steeply up the opposite side. Follow this road until reaching Hillberry and the intersection with the Mountain Road – also the TT Course.

Turn left onto the Mountain Road (caution: fast traffic), then right after approximately 300 yards. Immediately turn right again onto Scollag Road. Follow this road to Abbeylands Crossroads, then continue down the steep slope into the River Glass valley at Sir George's Bridge. Follow the A22 into Strang, passing Strang Stores. At the mini-roundabout, turn right and follow the A23 to Crosby. On reaching Crosby crossroads, cross the main A1 Douglas to Peel road.

Continue up the steep hill, at the top of which you will find St Rúníus Chapel. After a quarter of a mile, pass a footpath sign to St Patrick's Chair, an ancient stone monument about 400 yards from the road. Further along this road, and after a long climb, you will come to Garth Crossroads; turn left here towards Douglas. A mile further on, cross the mini-roundabout at the Braaid and climb past Chibbanagh Plantation. Take the next right turn and after one and a half miles, pass Mount Murray Hotel & Country Club.

Half a mile further on, turn right at the T-junction onto the A5. This is another busy main road linking Douglas to Isle of Man Airport and the South. After one mile, turn left onto Oatlands Road; another mile on, turn left onto Castletown Old Road towards Douglas. Climbing out of the steep dip at Crogga and climb out on the other side. Take the next right turn to Port Soderick, shortly passing under the steam railway bridge at Port Soderick Station. Turn left shortly afterwards. Half a mile further on, take the next right onto Marine Drive. Continue along the entire length of the Marine Drive and once past Douglas Head, follow the road down the hill towards South Quay.

