

# Hells 8

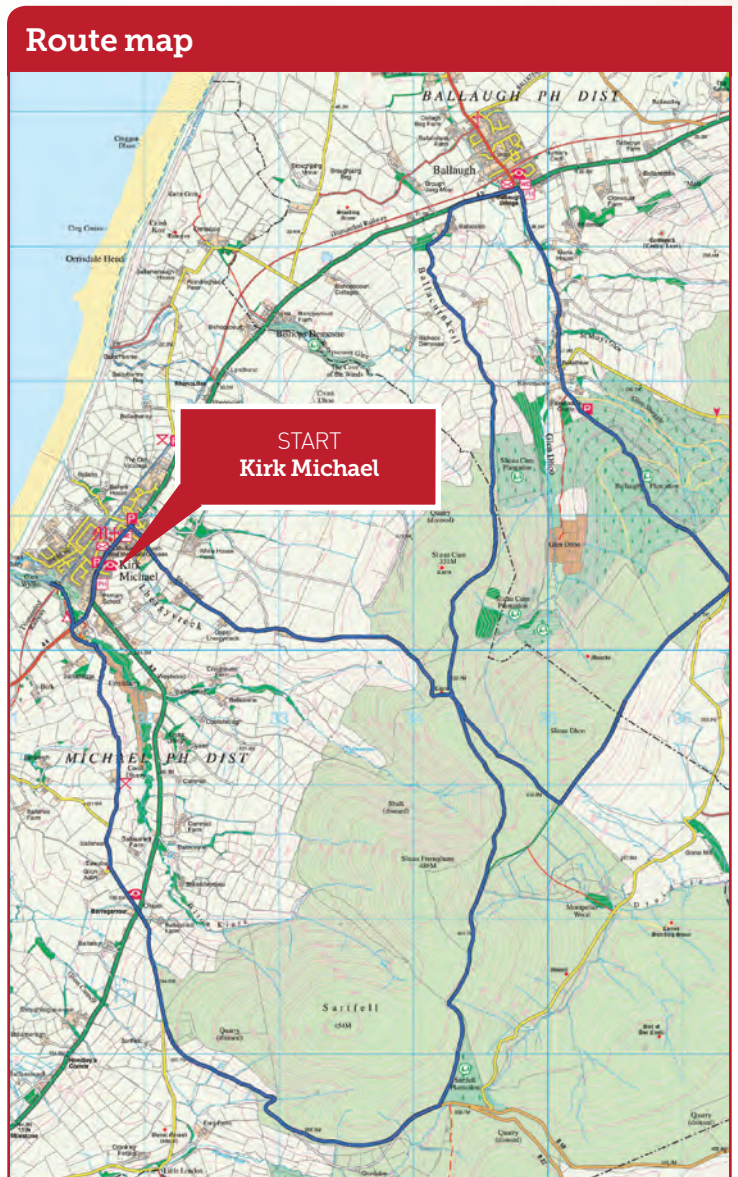
Classic cross country figure of 8 with 2 challenging climbs make this a great choice for adrenalin seekers and climbers alike. By the time you've reached the bottom of these descents you'll be looking forward to going back up again just so that you can do it all again!

<b>Grading:</b>	Difficult
<b>Distance:</b>	Approximately 15.5 miles
<b>Start:</b>	St Johns
<b>Estimated time</b>	4/5 hours

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DIFFICULT

## Route

1. Heading North out of Kirk Michael look for the right hand climb, initially up tarmac, that leads onto a track. This is the infamous Baltic Road that climbs steeply up to a crossroad junction at the top of the ridge noted for its cattle grid in the middle of nowhere.
2. Pause here to admire the views down the valley from which you will be climbing out of later and if you are lucky you can watch paragliders at one of the main launch sites on the IOM.
3. Head South East to meet the track heading off towards Ballaugh Plantation before following one of the several fire tracks on the decent taking you to Ravensdale Castle (a private home) and out on the tarmac towards Ballaugh and a chance to restock snacks at the convenience store, or have a more civilised stop at the Raven hotel.
4. Over the Ballaugh bridge, leave the air time to the TT riders, and then head up a tarmac road which again leads onto a rough track up Ballacob and eventually single track to bring you out to the previously visited crossroads.
5. This time keep heading South on a good track out to Sartfield forest on the End to End Route. Once you hit the tarmac then it's a fast descent on tarmac back down to Kirk Michael, the last bit on the TT course, for a well earned rest and maybe a drink at the Raven hotel.



## Best bits

- Enjoying the views from Slieau Curn having climbed the Baltic Road
- Topping up on adrenalin on the fire roads in Ballaugh Plantation
- Enjoying a well deserved drink at the Raven Hotel