

Shortest distance 206km, suggested routed 209km.

Generally quiet roads skirting the Grampians avoiding A96 where possible.

Inverness Youth Hostel <http://www.syha.org.uk/hostels-in-scotland/highlands/inverness.aspx>.

You'll need a booked place for your bike if you use the train, the service is popular not just with end to enders, but also for the mountain biking down towards Pitlochry, so the staff are sticklers for reservations.

Wetherspoons here <http://www.jdwetherspoon.co.uk/home/pubs/the-kings-highway>.

Log from 2006, now use Inverness as control instead of Westhill.

E11 (205k). Westhill, Dufftown, Mintlaw, Inverurie.

05/10/06, 131m on clock, 12hr10, 0606-1816. Rain from mid afternoon, no wind.

Train up to Inverness for night at YH and start in dark.

Got a start at garage in Inverness so didn't detour into Westhill.

Good views north over Moray Firth towards the Northern Highlands.

B roads past Nairn before a busy few miles on A96 to Forres.

Pleasant climb thru Dallas before getting lane thru Archiestown to A941 and Dufftown.

Steady climbing over pass to Huntly where I picked up lanes thru Kirkton of Auchterless and New Deer to Mintlaw where I got a traditional stamp from the Library.

Retraced to Mintlaw station, Methlick and Oldmeldrum by which time it was peeing down.

Already booked in at Breaslann B&B, good job as met a few contract workers down town who said not an easy town to get accomodation in.

