

Bath Two Tunnels circuit Somerset

Distance 13 miles
Classification Easy
Start and finish Riverside path near Bath Spa station
Duration 2 hours
Route NCN routes 244, 24 and 4
Map OS Landranger 172, sustrans.me/19MOa2G

Route notes

Two generations of National Cycle Network collide here. Moments from the new Two Tunnels route is the original family-friendly NCN ride, the Bristol to Bath Railway Path. Two Tunnels is similarly undemanding, although there are several quiet on-road sections and the short hill approaching Monkton Combe could challenge little legs. If energy allows, take a detour at Dundas aqueduct to follow the Kennet and Avon canal to Bradford-on-Avon.

Terrain and gradients

Largely flat, on well-surfaced traffic-free paths and quiet country lanes.

How to get there/away

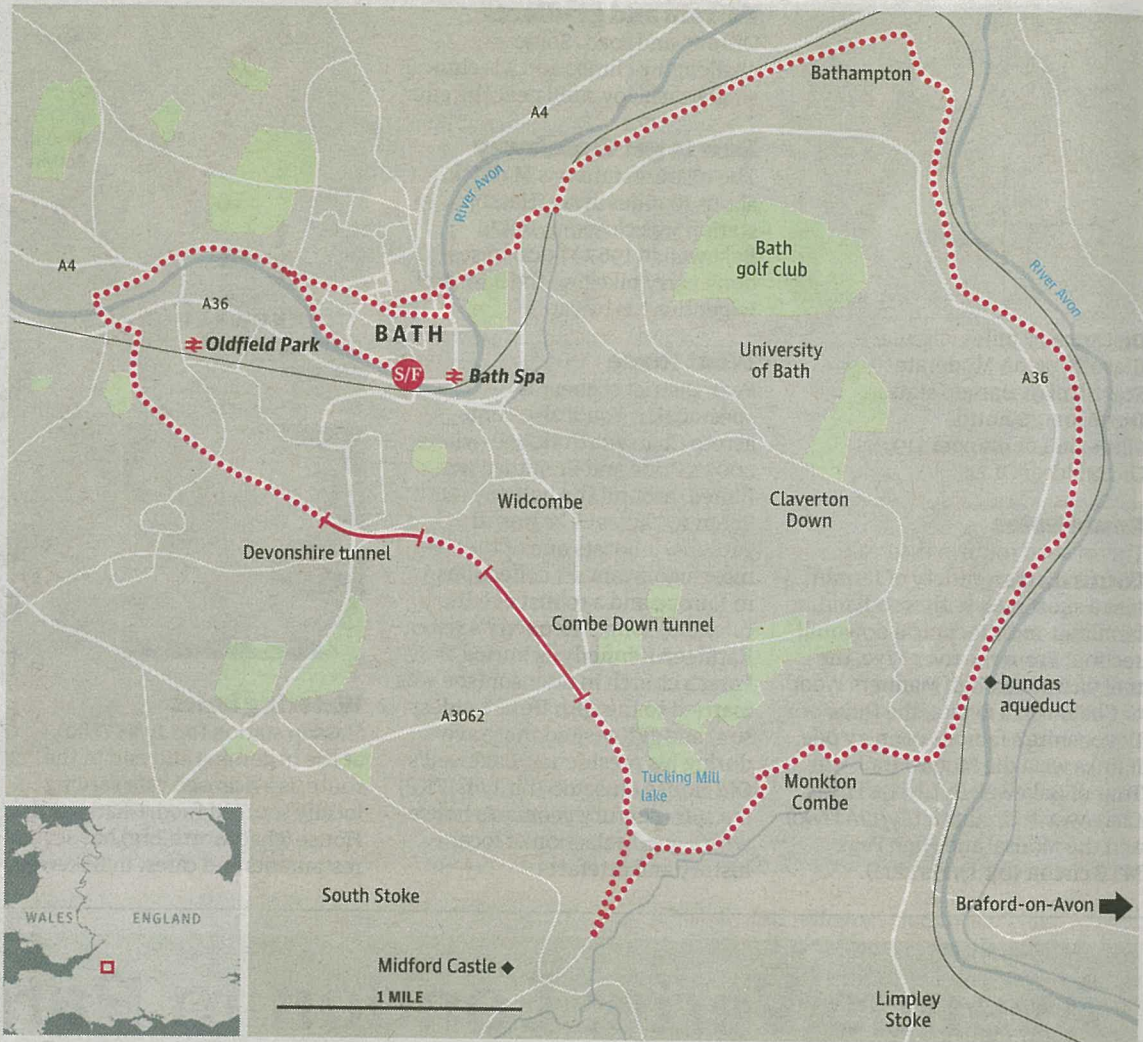
The starting and finishing point is a short hop from Bath Spa station.

What to see

At just over a mile long, Combe Down tunnel is the longest cycling tunnel in Britain. Fridge-cold and dimly lit, its new surface means you glide effortlessly through. Don't be alarmed if you hear strings - it's not tunnel fever, just part of a chic art installation. When you come out blinking into the daylight, there are some magical views: the lush greenery of Tucking Mill is a treat, as is the perkily turreted Midford Castle, once owned by Nicolas Cage.

Watering holes

Try the Wheelwrights Arms, Monkton Combe, or stop a few minutes later at the Angelfish cafe (bit.ly/12eIY4l). Tucking Mill lake is a peaceful picnic spot and Dundas aqueduct is great for barge-watching. In Bath, Boston Tea Party never disappoints and the Mad Hatter's Tea Party serves locally made organic ice-cream.



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Midford Castle