

My perfect weekend

in Northumberland

A big weekend in Kielder's wilderness

We'd start off in **Kielder Waterside Lodge** where after a hearty breakfast we'd set off on the **Lakeside Way** by bike - a 26 mile trail around the shoreline of Kielder Water where you can often see osprey swooping across the reservoir looking to catch a fish for their breakfast.

Next stop is **Kielder Castle** for lunch in their welcoming café. Here we'd also pop into the **Kielder Cycle Centre** to check out their range of electric assist cycles and book one for Sunday. From here we'd also check out the fantastic **Zog Trail** which is great for youngsters and in a really historical part of the forest.

Next it's time to tackle the north shore of the Lakeside Way which has some fantastic art works along the way, our favourite being the forest head. I'd choose **The Pheasant at Stannersburn** for dinner followed by a visit to the amazing and informative **Kielder Observatory**.

After a lie in on Sunday morning, we'd try out the e-bike on the **Deadwater Trail** which is a challenge but completely thrilling! At the top of the fell (1900 feet) the views are simply stunning over Kielder, Northumberland, the Scottish Borders and north Cumbria. The descent to Kielder Castle leaves us buzzing!

Returning to the lodge we'd make our departure, but not before leaving via the **Kielder Forest Drive**, an amazing road route where we'd manage one final visit to the very peaceful and pretty **Hindhope Linn Forest Walk**.

Alex MacLennan

Recreation manager at the
Forestry Commission

