

# Coming round The Mountain

You owe it to yourself to ride the hallowed tarmac of the IoM TT course at least once. But once there, you may as well ride it until your fuel runs out, says Lisa Hendry

## ROUTE FACTS

**Start:** Douglas, Isle of Man  
**Finish:** Douglas, Isle of Man  
**Three must-sees:**

- Riding over the Mountain
- Douglas seafront
- Ballaugh Bridge

**Useful websites:**

- [www.iomonline.com](http://www.iomonline.com)
- [www.steampacket.com](http://www.steampacket.com)
- [www.iomtt.com](http://www.iomtt.com)

## Directions

- 1 After leaving Douglas docks, head inland on the A37. Join the A41 at Bray Hill then ride the A1 signposted Peel up to Union Mills.
- 2 Follow this fast section through Glen Vine, Crosby and up through Greeba Mountain.
- 3 Nearing St John take a right turn onto the A3 (signposted Kirk Michael). Be aware, the locals like to take this road at some speed so keep a good eye on your mirrors.
- 4 After a few miles the tree-lined A3 will take you through Barregarrow crossroads before testing your suspension as you descend the hill to the bottom of Barregarrow.
- 5 Throttle right off as you reach the fairing-squeezingly narrow village of Kirk Michael. Limits (30mph) are rigorously enforced



by speed cameras, as villagers' front doors open almost right onto the racetrack. Sorry, road.

6 After the trundle through Kirk Michael, pick up the pace as you prepare for Ballaugh Bridge. Take particular care here as the hallowed hump is severe and it's easy to misjudge the wheelie.

7 The next section of road could quite easily be some of world's

best for motorcycling. With fast turns and short straights the A3 around Sulby is simply breathtaking on a bike.

8 Enter Ramsey – the island's second largest town. Turn right past the waterworks and join the A18. Outside Ramsey the road begins to climb up May Hill towards the Mountain section of the course – fast and flowing but dangerous too.

9 Watch as the rolling hills become more pronounced and the road reaches its highest section. The summit's at 2036ft.  
 10 The A18 then starts to descend again. Pass the pub at Creg Ny Baa.  
 11 Pass through Hilberry and follow the road down towards Douglas. Turn left onto the A37 and head back to Douglas Harbour. And repeat.