

What's it all about?

Cream o' the Croft is a weekend festival of fun and frolics, based largely around the four great tenets, Mountain Biking, The Great Outdoors, Music and Consumption of Deliciousness. Add in to the mix an award-winning campsite, hostel and trail centre, beautiful surroundings, family friendliness, and great activities, and you get the rough idea of what to expect. There's capacity for 2000+ good people of all ages to join us for this ridiculously cool weekend at The Croft, and we hope you're one of them!

Where is it, and when?

The festival will be held at the award winning green tourism destination Comrie Croft from Friday 15th to Sunday 17th June 2018. Comrie Croft is located just off the A85 between Crieff and Comrie, in Perthshire, Scotland. It's around an hour's drive from Glasgow and Edinburgh. The postcode is PH7 4JZ, and you can view directions here: <http://www.comriecroftbikes.co.uk/the-start/comrie-croft-bikes-location/>

Who's organising it?

The Team behind Cream o' the Croft has 3 principle players, the hosts are Comrie Croft and Comrie Croft Bikes, responsible for the award-winning (did we mention that?) venue and trails; organising all the fun bits and the bike racing are none other than the awesome Muckmedden Team, purveyors of the most super-fun events and festivals in the UK, and Hansen's Kitchen are in charge of the Foody Drinky delights offering the tastiest, local, Scottish produce and a bit beyond. From locally-sourced beer, to their very own roasted coffee, artisan cheeses, home-baking and more. Let's eat, drink and enjoy!

Tell me about the biking.

So much racing, so little time, but let's just say we will showcase why The Croft was recently voted UK Trail Centre of the Year.

We're still finalising the full schedule (see COTC website for updates) but no doubt we'll squeeze some crazy Pumptrack Challenge and Extreme Balance Bike Racing in throughout the weekend. If you're a mountain biker, either mild or wild, Saturday features the multi-stage Enduro (age 12+) using every inch of trail on offer in a bid to find the "Cream o' the Croft". If you prefer tarmac we also have a brand-new road Audax called "The Breadalbane 100" which will showcase the very best roads and views of Highland Perthshire - most exciting!

On Sunday, while the grown-ups are "recovering" from Saturday, the kids can get their race face on at the Mini Enduro (age 6-13). Trail Tots will be running their (in)famous Toddler Bike Racing (under 6) across the weekend. Keep an edgy out on the COTC website for more details on times.

What tickets do I need to buy?

Everyone must have **either** a Festival Pass **or** a Race Entry. If you're looking to stay overnight, you also need a camping pass (unless you've paid for an accommodation upgrade). We strongly recommend you go the whole hog and stay for the weekend to soak up the atmosphere and make the most of what's on offer. You can purchase tickets here:

<https://www.muckmedden.co.uk/event/cotc2018/>

Are attractions and entertainment included in the entry fee?

Yes. All attractions and entertainment are free once you've bought your Festival Pass or Race Entry.

Is camping included in the price?

No. Camping and accommodation upgrades must be purchased in addition to Race Entries and Festival Passes.

Can I just come for the day?

Yes, you can buy a Single Day Festival Pass which is valid for ***either*** Friday, Saturday or Sunday.

What are the opening times?

Gates open at 3pm on Friday the 15th June and you can arrive anytime from then. We will not have any car parking and camping marshals after 10pm, so if you are coming on the Friday it must be before then. Gates and race registration open again at 7am on Saturday and racing kicks off around 9.30am. If you're racing in the Enduro please arrive a minimum of an hour before your wave start time (you will receive an email on June 12th telling you how to pre-book your start wave). Mini Enduro waves will be set-off in age order (eldest first) and you will be allocated a start time on the day. The festival finishes at 3pm on Sunday 17th June.

Can I bring my dog/cat/budgie?

Scooby Doo is welcome. Chopper and Fang can come too, so long as they behave themselves. There are sheep and chickens around so as long as they are kept under control, all pets are welcome, and especially so if you bring the little plastic baggies to clean up the poop. We're not helping you recapture your wayward llama though.

What is the camping set up like?

There are two main areas for camping. If you don't mind a little liveliness and want to be closer to the event village, there's the main camping area in the big field. You can pitch up beside your vehicle and near to any friends who may be in a campervan here. If you want some amazing views and a bit more peace and quiet, the Quiet(er)/Family Camping area is located in the High Meadow which is further up the hill. It's a great place to camp if you have kids as no vehicles are allowed up to the quiet camping area and it's close to the Giant Water Slide and Funky Mountain! As no vehicles are allowed up to this area we will run a luggage shuttle system (from the main check-in) to carry all your gear up the hill.

I don't want to camp, can I bring my Campervan/Caravan?

Yes you can. We have an area of hard standing which will allow a decent number of caravans and campervans. The camping field is also ok for campervans and caravans (provided it hasn't been raining for a month beforehand) if you want to pitch up near your camping friends.

I hate camping and don't have a campervan, what are my options?

Comrie Croft Hostel is right in the heart of the festival and has several family rooms available for the weekend. Like-wise there are a few Nordic Kata tents available for the weekend. You can book these along with your Festival Passes and Race Entries.

Can we have a campfire?

Not this weekend I'm afraid. We will have a few communal fires, but no individual fires are allowed at Cream o' the Croft for safety reasons. A bigger fire means more fun though, bring along a guitar and get your ging gang goolies out. Careful you don't get them burnt by the fire though!

What like are the toilets and showers?

There will be ample toilets and showers for use over the weekend, with permanent facilities in the main Croft building and the Barn, plus portable toilets in the camping field and composting toilets in the High Meadow.

What food and drink will be available?

The quality and variety of food and drink options at Cream o' the Croft is second to none and we'll make sure it's good value too. Hansen's Kitchen and Comrie Croft Tea Garden will be teaming up with Scotland's finest food and drinks producers to serve up all manner of delicious locally-sourced edibles over the three days. Let me in I'm huuungry!

What can I bring to eat & drink myself?

You are welcome to bring along food and drink for consumption at your campsite but unfortunately due to licencing laws this cannot be brought into the event village. If you wish to cook anything it must be on a proper camping stove – no barbeques or fires for safety reasons. Be a responsible camper – any rubbish you create, please take it with you and put it in your bin at home (or if you can't take it with you, at least use the bins on site).

Where is the cash point?

There are several bank machines in Crieff (5 miles from the site) and one in Comrie (2 miles).

Where is there a shop?

There is a fantastic "100 mile" shop onsite at Comrie Croft which sells a variety of local produce all obtained from (you guessed it) within 100 miles of the Croft. The Croft also boasts a well-stocked camping shop selling essential supplies, camping spares, juice, sweets, toys etc. The nearest largish supermarket is in Crieff and there are many lovely grocery stores, delis and bakeries in Comrie.

What about a bike shop?

Comrie Croft Bikes is the fandabidozie onsite bike shop. They are packed to the rafters with parts and accessories, gloves, pads, helmets and if you're not happy with your current ride, they'll even sell you a new bike! They can do all the stuff you'd expect from a local bike shop (and more) and will carry out any emergency repairs possible to get you back on the trails if you are stuck.

Is it all insured?

Absolutely! We have full public liability insurance, but you take part in all activities (including bike racing) at your own risk. We cannot be responsible for any loss or theft that takes place at the festival and recommend you take precautions to ensure your possessions are either safely locked away, or on your person.

What about First Aid?

We have full first aid cover for the whole weekend from some of the best medics in Scotland who will be situated in the event village at all times and stationed at the trickier parts of the bike trails during bike races.

Will there be like prizes and stuff?

We have some tremendous prizes to give away over the course of the weekend, courtesy of our sponsors. There will be prizes for the podium places, as well as spot prizes for racers so you don't need to be fast to get your hands on some goodies! We're always looking for more prizes, so if you'd like to sponsor this event please get in touch: info@muckmedden.co.uk

What else will there be to do?

Loads! There is so much going on over the course of the weekend. The Velo Village will include stalls and bike related activities for you to participate in. There will be lots of non-bikey stuff too, both little and big kids alike, with an emphasis on hands-on fun for everyone. Giant Water Slide, Petting Zoo, Bushcraft, Funky Mountain, Circus Workshops, Live Music etc etc. Too much to list, just book some tickets and come along!

I'm worried about the weather. Will I be too hot?

It is likely. It's well known that Comrie has its own unusual micro climate, where it only rains as little as 50% of the year. Bring a hat. And sunscreen. And a brolly. And a tick-remover. And wellies, and flip flops.....and maybe a snorkel.

What's the story with the music?

We are lining up some great bands for your enjoyment who will be playing in the evening. We have lots of the music sorted already, but if you are a local band looking for a chance to shine please get in touch and we'll try to squeeze you into one of the slots.

I'd like to be an attraction or an exhibitor, who should I contact?

Want to showcase your Bungee Bamboo Bike, or promote your fast-wicking Bobbly Biking Berets? You'd be most welcome! Book your trade pitch here: <https://www.muckmedden.co.uk/event/traders/> or email info@muckmedden.co.uk for more info.

Can I volunteer to help?

Absolutely, we'd love your help! We're looking for help with all sorts of stuff so if you can spare some time to help make this weekend a roaring success, please get in touch. We'll lavish you and your immediate family with festival passes, food vouchers and maybe even some race entries in return! Email: info@muckmedden.co.uk

How old do I need to be to get in?

You don't even have to have been born yet, all ages welcome and encouraged at Cream o' the Croft! All under 16's must be accompanied by an adult.