

## Cycle Queensland 2017 Accommodation Package

### Goondiwindi to Gold Coast

Saturday 02 September, 2017 to Sunday 10 September, 2017

### Day to Day

Wake up every morning in a nice comfortable bed, enjoy breakfast in your motel before heading out on the day's ride. The AllTrails crew will transfer your luggage directly from your accommodation to your next motel or BnB. After you have completed your day's challenge on the Cycle Queensland Bike Ride, relax upon arrival at your motel, enjoy afternoon tea and perhaps have our bike mechanic look over your bike for a few tips or minor adjustments that you could make to improve your ride. Why not enjoy a massage a few times during the week just to keep the body in tune?

All of these services are part of our support package, not to mention the social interaction and camaraderie that is always a highlight for those on our packages. In the evening our bus will usually head back to the event campsite so you can join in the dinner and entertainment, or we may organise a group meal, or you may wish to have a meal at the motel or a local restaurant with new friends. Off to bed for a great night sleep before doing it all again tomorrow.

| Location                               | Distance | Date            | B  | L  | D  | A  |
|--|----------|-----------------|----|----|----|----|
| Goondiwindi (pre tour)                 | NA       | Thu 31 Aug 2017 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Goondiwindi (pre tour)                 | NA       | Fri 1 Sep 2017  | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Goondiwindi Loop Ride                  | 45km     | Sat 2 Sep 2017  | -- | -- | -- | Y  |
| Goondiwindi to Yelarbon                | 56km     | Sun 3 Sep 2017  | Y  | -- | -- | Y  |
| Yelarbon to Texas                      | 63km     | Mon 4 Sep 2017  | Y  | -- | -- | Y  |
| Texas to Stanthorpe                    | 100km    | Tue 5 Sep 2017  | Y  | -- | -- | Y  |
| Rest Day – Stanthorpe                  | NA       | Wed 6 Sep 2017  | Y  | -- | -- | Y  |
| Stanthorpe to Woodenbong               | 104km    | Thu 7 Sep 2017  | Y  | -- | -- | Y  |
| Woodenbong to Kyogle                   | 60km     | Fri 8 Sep 2017  | Y  | -- | -- | Y  |
| Kyogle to Murwillumbah                 | 76km     | Sat 9 Sep 2017  | Y  | -- | -- | Y  |
| Murwillumbah to Currumbin (Gold Coast) | 31km     | Sun 10 Sep 2017 | Y  | -- | -- | -- |
| Total distance cycled                  | 535km    |                 | 8  | 0  | 0  | 8  |
| Average daily distance                 | 67km     |                 |    |    |    |    |

Meal and accom inclusions noted as B, L, D, A (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Accom)

### **Goondiwindi (pre tour) — NA — Thu 31 Aug 2017 — - - - -**

Today AllTrails will likely be taking a bus transfer from Gold Coast Airport to Goondiwindi (details to be confirmed). AllTrails package participants are welcome to join us. If you come on the bus with us you will need to purchase two extra night's pre-tour accommodation (Thu & Fri) in Goondiwindi before the ride starts on Sat (see 'pricing' tab for bus and optional accom costs).

### **Goondiwindi (pre tour) — NA — Fri 1 Sep 2017 — - - - -**

Most cyclists will arrive today and stay at our pre-tour accommodation in Goondiwindi. If you are arriving today please book the optional extra pre-tour accom on Fri night (see 'pricing' tab). Our motel is centrally located and we will be taking bus transfers where required back to the event campsite for registration and also to pick up cyclists arriving on Cycle QLD buses.

### **Goondiwindi Loop Ride — 45km — Sat 2 Sep 2017 — - - - A**

Today is a loop ride out of Goondiwindi and back again. Your 'welcome to the west' will kick off with a ride around the town then out to one of the area's huge farms, producing plenty of cattle and cotton. We head past the famous Gunsynd statue and the meandering McIntyre River, then are welcomed to the enormous 11,395 hectare Undabri Station for lunch by the current manager who's the brother of a former CQ rider! Relax on the shady banks of the McIntyre River for lunch and enjoy a flat, easy first day in western Queensland. Back at the motel put your feet up and enjoy afternoon tea or perhaps a lovely 10 minute massage by our therapist. Something not quite right with your bike today? Our mechanic is on hand to fix up any minor issues that may arise with your wheels. What a great start to the week.

### **Goondiwindi to Yelarbon — 56km — Sun 3 Sep 2017 — B - - A**

Our route from Gundy runs alongside the Dumaresq River offering a day of flat riding through glorious big sky country with glimpses of the mighty river and even an old wooden bridge crossing if you pop a few hundred metres down Keetah Road just before heading into Yelarbon. With our lunch spot being the Yelarbon Lagoon, it's the perfect place to rest your legs and indulge in a spot of birdwatching or even a slightly muddy dip. This unique ecosystem, cut off by hundreds of kilometres from the massive deserts of central Australia, is a birding hotspot and can be explored through the Desert Jewels Biodiversity Walk right on the edge of town. In this arid landscape, cattle are king though there are pecan, cotton and olive plantations to be found along the Dumaresq River flats.

Yelarbon is a very small town with extremely limited accommodation so we will be transferring our group to the next town of Texas where you will be able to enjoy two nights in the same motel. At the end of the day's ride we will be setting up a bike compound at the Yelarbon event campsite where you can park your bike for the night. We will be running scheduled transfers to your accommodation in the friendly country town of Texas from the campsite in Yelarbon. This afternoon you can have a massage and a look around town before dinner tonight in the restaurant

of one of our accommodation locations (note: no transfers back to event campsite tonight).

#### **Yelarbon to Texas — 63km — Mon 4 Sep 2017 — B - - A**

This morning we will transfer you back to Yelarbon to start the ride. No need to pack your bags as you will be staying in the same room again tonight. Again, we follow along the river passing yet more secluded riverside spots as we ride through large scale crop farming land. It's just a moderate day in the saddle (63km) or another 13km on the long option across the river with a loop through prime grazing country. You'll see some of the old tobacco barns and can linger for a while beside the Dumaresq River at the Les Meyers Rest Area. Or, maybe just take it easy in li'l ol' Texas because tomorrow is a helluva day in the saddle for even the toughest Texan in town. You might have gone hopping mad if you'd called Texas home in the early 20th century. Back then, it was the centre of the rabbit industry in Queensland. Though both the rabbits and also a flourishing tobacco industry are long gone, visitors can still spy their influences through the historical signs in the main street, or check out the Rabbit Factory and Freezing Works Museum and the old tobacco drying barns that dot the horizon around town.

As the Cycle QLD event moves into town you will notice a huge contrast here compared to yesterday as the streets are filled with hundreds of cyclists and the sleepy main street is alive with activity and action. Again our massage therapist will be available in the afternoon for a rub-down on those tired legs before tonight where you can head down to the Cycle QLD campsite for dinner or try one of the local eateries again.

#### **Texas to Stanthorpe — 100km — Tue 5 Sep 2017 — B - - A**

Now, are you ready for some ups and downs? Just think of the views (and not the sag wagon!). This day is 100km and has the same climbing as the Great Brisbane Bike Ride. So sleep well, eat well, drink well (water!) and let's encourage each other in this mighty day up to Stanthorpe. Riding out of Texas, the landscape enters the first of many changes you'll experience along the route. The river flats give way to rolling hills offering superb sweeping vistas of the surrounding tree-studded mountains which dominate the landscape of the renowned Granite Belt Region. Day four should be quite enough for everyone at 100km. But for the iron-people and the adventurous, the long option of another 50km promises to be the toughest long-route option in CQ history with a diversion out to Glenlyon Dam.

Stanthorpe is a great place to indulge in good food and some glasses of fabulous Queensland wine. Founded by tin miners in the 1870s, the town has swapped its mining heritage for stone fruit and apple orchards, vineyards and boutique food artisans. Stroll through its historic main street and sample the bounty of the Granite Belt Region over our two days. Take a vineyard tour or head for a hike in the wonderful Girraween National Park.

Tonight we have a great motel in a central location - perfect for your two night stay here in Stanthorpe including the rest day tomorrow. When you check in, grab your afternoon tea from reception and kick back with a cup of tea and relax in your room or in the outdoor common area. Have you had a massage this week yet? If not, go see our massage therapist for a rub-down on any aching legs, back, neck, shoulders. Tonight we will run you back to the event campsite if you wish or feel free to explore the local area. Our motel is only 100m from the Famous Anna's Italian Restaurant which is well worth a look.

#### **Rest Day – Stanthorpe — NA — Wed 6 Sep 2017 — B - - A**

Today is the rest day and your opportunity to explore, relax or a combination of both. This morning we will have our massage therapists working at the motel so if you have not had a massage yet, make sure you put up your hand and put your name on the list. We expect that most cyclists will get 3-4 massages during the week (10 minutes each). Stanthorpe is wine country, so there will be plenty of opportunity for wine tours and wine tasting if that's your thing. See the CQ website for more details on rest day tours.

### **Stanthorpe to Woodenbong — 104km — Thu 7 Sep 2017 — B - - A**

After the rest day you'll be rested up and ready to roll on this ride out to Woodenbong, taking its name from an Aboriginal word meaning 'ducks on water'. From the lofty heights of Stanthorpe, we cruise across the NSW border downhill through plenty of twists and turns and hug the valleys and ridgelines through the mountains towards Woodenbong and the Border Ranges. We'll stop for tucker among the flowers at a lavender farm, lunch at Legume and a final pit stop at a delightful historic church at Koreelah. Long option number three will take riders north over the border to the quaint township of Killarney and back. A long but leafy day in the saddle.

Though Woodenbong is the epitome of a sleepy country town these days with just over 300 residents, 23 million years ago an enormous shield volcano exploded in the area creating the nearby peaks of Glassy Mountain, Edinburgh Castle and Dome Mountain. Today these peaks are cloaked in remnants of the World Heritage Listed Gondwana Rainforest and protected in Toonumbar National Park.

It's another small town but we have got a central hotel and a farmstay just out of town to accommodate our clients so we are within easy reach of the event campsite for dinner tonight and we will run transfers back to there for anybody who wishes to eat there. Once again there will be afternoon tea waiting for you upon arrival at your accommodation and don't forget our massage therapist who will be located at one of our accommodations every afternoon.

### **Woodenbong to Kyogle — 60km — Fri 8 Sep 2017 — B - - A**

Ah, a shorter, easier day – yah! Today is all about the trees. The route runs right through the glorious forests of the Border Ranges as it winds its way through the Richmond Valley, crossing the Richmond River several times. But there's even more scenic treats for those who take up the last long option which meanders up the valley following Grady's Creek along the lower reaches of what becomes the Lions Road.

Nestled in a lush dairy and mixed farming area in the Richmond Valley, Kyogle is an art deco gem hidden away amongst the green. After a series of fires in the late 1920, much of the town's old timber buildings were rebuilt in brick celebrating the art deco architecture which was in its heyday. Today, buildings like the National Parks and Wildlife Building and Summerland Credit Building still proudly display their art deco heritage in a main street surround by green hills.

Kyogle is a very small town with not enough appropriate accommodation for our group so we will be taking bus transfers to a great motel in the next major town of Lismore. After the end of your ride in Kyogle, you can lock your bike up in the AllTrails compound at the Cycle QLD event campsite and we will transfer you in our bus to Lismore where we will have afternoon tea, massage therapist, and also bike mechanical assistance available for you as you relax for the afternoon around the grounds, by the pool, or around town. There are plenty of good places to eat in Lismore so enjoy your night here in this town situated in an area renowned for its extraordinary natural beauty, cultural diversity, relaxed lifestyles and quirky charms; a place where old school blends with new age and nature sets the pace (note: no transfer back to event campsite tonight).

### **Kyogle to Murwillumbah — 76km — Sat 9 Sep 2017 — B - - A**

Today it's up and over a range as we point northwards towards the border and Queensland beyond. As a reward for the hills, the route passes through the coolest little town in the region – the hip little Uki. Those so inclined will reach Uki for a bevy at the historic hotel, then wolf down a pie from the best ever bakery and explore the Saturday morning markets with a smoothie or latte in hand. From there it's a just a short spin through the cane fields to Murwillumbah, sitting in the shadow of the incredible Mt Warning, surrounded by swathes of sugarcane fields on the banks of the Tweed River.

Aside from farming, the area is one of the most popular 'tree-change' destinations, unsurprising considering its location within a stone's throw of five World Heritage Listed national parks. Murwillumbah is the cultural and commercial heart of the Tweed Valley which has the highest number of artists per capita in Australia. Be sure to drop in at the magnificent Tweed Regional Art Gallery and Margaret Olly Arts Centre en-route, then explore this vibrant country town and experience its eclectic mix of art and farming traditions.

Tonight we have a great motel right in the heart of this lovely town. After your ride you can kick back by the pool with afternoon tea or have a massage as you reflect on a wonderful week of cycling in QLD (and NSW!). Tonight we will take bus transfers back to the Cycle QLD event site for those who wish to partake in the final evening festivities at the campsite.

#### **Murwillumbah to Currumbin (Gold Coast) — 31km — Sun 10 Sep 2017 — B - - -**

Your final breakfast is included before embarking on the last leg of the ride to the blue waters and surf at Currumbin on the southern end of the Gold Coast. A legendary climb and serious bragging rights await you on the final day of CQ17. Riders have a short and mostly flat day, except for the border crossing at Mt Tomewin! It's a continuous 3.5km climb with stunning views to ease your efforts, but not too steep to ruin your pleasure. Then, yippee! We scoot downhill into Queensland through lush rainforest, landing with ease right in Currumbin by the ocean. A fitting finale to CQ17! It's just 31 km in total but you'll feel 10-foot-tall when you cross that very special Gold Coast finish line.

Currumbin's sublime beach is something of undiscovered paradise tucked away from the dominating high rise apartments that the Gold Coast is famous for. Here they keep things simple and laid back, so take an extra cruise along the beachside esplanade to Elephant Rock and enjoy a thoroughly deserved chill-out session at one of the ocean front cafes or the Currumbin Beach Vikings Surf Club. It's got the best position for a coffee or beer in Australia – smack on the beach itself!

Congratulations on your efforts to get here! We expect most cyclists to finish the ride by lunchtime so you can fly directly out of the Gold Coast this afternoon or stay around a while to enjoy the wonderful location.

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE...we also have a follow-up ride departing tomorrow from [Gold Coast to Noosa](#). This is an AllTrails operated tour, independent of the Cycle QLD Bike Ride. Join us on one or both tours (multi-tour discounts available).