

## Daylesford Melbourne Cup F.O.R. Day Wknd 2017

### Saddle up for 4 days of cycling

Saturday 04 November, 2017 to Tuesday 07 November, 2017

### Day to Day

Imagine waking up in the early daylight and looking around a comfortable motel room and wondering where you are. It's Daylesford - one of Victoria's premier tourist destinations, and for good reason. You are excited to get up and start another day in the AllTrails 4-day Daylesford Melbourne Cup Long Weekend cycle tour where you get to explore and experience the best of the Daylesford region in the best way possible - by bike.

The long weekend is made up of four distinctly different loop rides with support vehicles and the famously supportive AllTrails staff travelling with you each day to look after and guide you through the day. Food breaks, morning tea, lunch and afternoon snack are set times enabling all riders to plan their day and the amount of time required to enjoy the sights and attractions along the way. Lunch is a great time to relax, refuel your body and chat to your friends, be it in a local bakery, a country pub or a picnic down by a lake. Cyclists move off knowing the distance and terrain ahead to the next meeting point, with cycling completed by mid afternoon each day.

Your accommodation is excellent - you arrive back at the hotel and enjoy a cuppa and snack, and a shower or soak in the bath. Explore the surroundings, go for a walk, share a cool drink with friends or simply relax. It is your life, it's your ride, enjoy it.

A briefing for all cyclists at 6pm before the evening meal is always interesting, finding out what happened that day, and a run down on the sights and special attractions to look out for the next day. Lots of laughs and stories are shared before we settle down to a good healthy meal and a few drinks. Bedtime is not far away, where you put your head down remembering the day and dreaming of tomorrow.

The camaraderie developed on a bike ride like this lasts a lifetime.

Location	Distance	Date	B	L	D	A
Optional pre tour accom Daylesford	NA	Fri 3 Nov 2017	--	--	--	--
Daylesford, Creswick, Daylesford	70km	Sat 4 Nov 2017	--	Y	Y	Y
Daylesford, Trentham, Tylden, Glenlyon, Daylesford	68km	Sun 5 Nov 2017	Y	Y	--	Y
Daylesford, Hepburn Regional Park, Daylesford	76km	Mon 6 Nov 2017	Y	Y	Y	Y
Daylesford, Wombat State Forest, Daylesford	59km	Tue 7 Nov 2017	Y	Y	--	--
Total distance cycled	273km		3	4	2	3
Average daily distance	68km					

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

### **Optional pre tour accom Daylesford — NA — Fri 3 Nov 2017 —**

Pre tour Day.

Today we will be taking a bus up to Daylesford, departing Melbourne CBD at noon, picking up at Tullamarine Airport at 12:20pm. You are welcome to join us on our bus (optional extra), or drive up to Daylesford yourself later today or tomorrow morning. Accom tonight is an optional extra.

### **Daylesford, Creswick, Daylesford — 70km — Sat 4 Nov 2017 — L D A**

Day 1.

If you stayed in our pre-tour accom last night your breakfast is included this morning at the motel. Enjoy a relaxed start to the day as we wait for any morning arrivals and get everyone set up on their bikes ready to begin your weekend.

After a final briefing at 9:30am, we will head off on our first ride at 10:00am which takes you through spectacular scenery with exhilarating descents and open pastures to Creswick, one of Victoria's most authentic towns where we stop for a beautiful lunch at the local cafe. This day's loop returns through dairy country back to Daylesford, where we will be for the next three nights.

Today is a great day for non-riders to go out and explore this magical location; the shops here are well-known for their interesting mix of vintage collectibles, stylish homewares and great art, there are galleries and gardens to discover, plenty of cafes to critique, a beautiful hiking track between Daylesford and Hepburn, as well as a separate cycle path between the towns if you want to hop on a bike (we can arrange a bike for you).

Daylesford town itself still holds the charm of the great gold mining town that it became in the 1800's, with grand buildings like the Post Office and Town Hall. The old mine is today a beautiful lake and the surrounding mineral springs are comfortable baths to soothe tired legs.

Tonight we start the weekend off with a bang as we board the Silver Streak Champagne Train, a 1970s Diesel Rail Car operated by the Daylesford Spa Country Railway, including delicious finger food, drinks of your choice and live music (included).

### **Daylesford, Trentham, Tylden, Glenlyon, Daylesford — 68km — Sun 5 Nov 2017 — B L - A**

Day 2:

Today the cyclists will head East, with a few small climbs through forest and grazing land, visiting Trentham and the lovely railway station. We have lunch in the beautiful hamlet of Glenlyon, known for its General Store (the hub of the community) and its main street of old European trees that lend an 'Englishness' to the village and provide a cooling canopy in the heat of summer. After lunch we return through small villages to Daylesford where you will enjoy a massage (included) to reinvigorate before another great day of cycling ahead of us tomorrow.

We have a very special lunch arranged today for the non-riders in the group as you will visit the enchanting Lavandula La Trattoria, a farm cafe specialising in European-style cuisine using the best of the local seasonal produce.

Everyone will meet back at the hotel in the afternoon where we will give everyone plenty of ideas and suggestions for dinner tonight which is at your own choice and expense. Your evening is free to explore the town.

### **Daylesford, Hepburn Regional Park, Daylesford — 76km — Mon 6 Nov 2017 — B L D A**

Day 3:

Today we cycle past old hotels and alpaca farms along quiet bitumen roads to Newstead, a quaint little town beside the Loddon River. If you like, visit the Cricket Museum where willow cricket bats are manufactured.

After lunch you will push on to the Hepburn Bathhouse and Spa where you will meet the non-riders (entry for all is included in the package price). Here you can spoil yourself in the warm therapeutic waters of the bathing pool or splash out on a massage or pamper package, available at additional cost.

Once rested and wonderfully relaxed we will transport you and your bike the last 5 kms of uphill back to the open fire at our accommodation before our final briefing and group dinner.

### **Daylesford, Wombat State Forest, Daylesford — 59km — Tue 7 Nov 2017 — B L - -**

Day 4:

Today we head south into the Wombat State Forest in the Great Dividing Range. Dairy farms, potato farms and rolling countryside add interest to this quiet cycle tour through the verdant wonderlands of this part of central Victoria.

Non-riders can try to tick off the last few activities on their 'to-do' list before the cyclists return with plenty of time to enjoy one last group lunch together. On the way back to Melbourne our bus will pull into a pub and cheer on the participants in 'The Race That Stops The Nation' as they run around Flemington Racecourse, not too far from us. Join us in the Australian tradition of a Melbourne Cup sweepstake after a brilliant weekend full of fun, new memories and, of course, new friends. We will do a drop-off at Melbourne airport just after 4pm and in the CBD if required after that.

**Congratulations - what a ride!**

