

Goldfields Track

Supported Trail Riding Tour

Friday 05 April, 2019 to Monday 08 April, 2019

Day to Day

Imagine a tour where you are cycling through the Australian bush in the morning and soaking in the bath at a beautiful resort that same afternoon. Where you are dodging boulders, rocks and logs by day and eating great meals by night. Pushing yourself through the challenge of riding bumpy dirt tracks, supported by a great crew and the camaraderie of a bunch of other cyclists sharing your journey.

This is the AllTrails experience, off-road.

Our days are broken up into small sections, defined usually by the food breaks; morning tea, lunch and afternoon snack. These breaks are at set times and locations enabling riders to plan the amount of time required to enjoy the sights and attractions along the way to each stop where they regroup, chat about their ride, re-live some of the highlights and refuel for the next section. Cyclists move off knowing the distance and terrain ahead and aiming to arrive at the overnight stop around mid afternoon.

The accommodation is excellent – you check in and have a cuppa, snack, 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 at 6pm before the evening meal is always interesting, finding out what happened that day and a run-down on the sights, special attractions and any cautions 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 in salubrious surroundings, 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 |
|---------------------------|----------|----------------|----|---|----|----|
| Buninyong to Creswick | 45km | Fri 5 Apr 2019 | -- | Y | Y | Y |
| Creswick to Daylesford | 45km | Sat 6 Apr 2019 | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Daylesford to Castlemaine | 61km | Sun 7 Apr 2019 | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Castlemaine to Bendigo | 58km | Mon 8 Apr 2019 | Y | Y | -- | -- |
| Total distance cycled | 209km | | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Average daily distance | 52km | | | | | |

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

Buninyong to Creswick — 45km — Fri 5 Apr 2019 — L D A

Your four day Goldfields Tour starts at Southern Cross Station, Melbourne approx 8am (time TBC), or feel free to meet us in Ballarat if you want to arrive here early and check out the area for a couple of days. After arrival in Ballarat we will take a short transfer to the start of the trail at Mt Buninyong.

The first section of the ride is on the Wallaby Track and your opening 20km through to Ballarat is a great introduction as the easiest section of the 4 days cycling, mostly along bitumen roads. After Ballarat the dirt roads arrive as do a few steep hills as the terrain heads into the Great Dividing Range.

Please [click for a more detailed description on the Wallaby Track](#) (note that our Day 1 is from Mt Buninyong to Creswick so you only need to look at the first two sections on the link).

Tonight we have a great way to kick off our tour as we park up for the evening at the RACV Goldfields Resort where you can settle in for the afternoon and enjoy the many facilities on offer: swimming, spa, tennis, golf - or even a 4.5km mountain bike trail around the golf course if you haven't had enough yet today. The day concludes with a team briefing, a few laughs, stories and drinks and a meal in the restaurant together.

Creswick to Daylesford — 45km — Sat 6 Apr 2019 — B L D A

Start the day with a great resort breakfast and even an early swim if you wish. Today's ride begins as a dabble through the last of the Creswick State Forest and around St Georges Lake before 6km of nice flat cycling along mostly bitumen roads linking you to the Wombat State Forest and working your way over some hilly terrain on the way to Daylesford.

Please [click for a more detailed description on the Wallaby Track](#) (note that our Day 2 is from Creswick to Daylesford so you only need to look at the last two sections on the link).

Tonight we end up in Victoria's premier destination for all that is 'spa country' where people come from all over to bathe in the famous mineral waters, sample the award-winning restaurants, reinvigorate at a wellness retreat or day spa, or just unwind with a stroll through the township or local markets with boutique art and crafts.

We have a lovely motel central to it all where we stay tonight after enjoying 'The Champagne Train' - a delightful rail journey aboard a restored heritage 1970's DRC train with finger food, drinks and wonderful service - a real highlight of our time in Daylesford.

Daylesford to Castlemaine — 61km — Sun 7 Apr 2019 — B L D A

This morning our hosts will put on a lovely breakfast for us to fuel up before the days ride which will be on the Dry Diggings Track. We begin on an easy bitumen downhill to Hepburn Springs before a day mixed with outstanding off-road cycling, challenging climbs and great downhill sections, including the Poverty Gully Water Race.

Please [click for a more detailed description on the Dry Diggings Track](#) from Daylesford to Castlemaine.

Castlemaine is a former gold mining town situated in a valley at the junction of three creeks and a lovely spot to enjoy our final night on the tour. Over the previous few days you will have seen many of the signs of the mining history of this area and Castlemaine is a great example of this with it's impressive historic streets lined with grand public buildings like the town hall, courthouse, and Theatre Royal.

Our motel is just a short stroll from the town centre where all of this architecture is on display and you can soak it all in this afternoon with a wander around town before our final evening briefing and dinner together to celebrate this wonderful tour.

Castlemaine to Bendigo — 58km — Mon 8 Apr 2019 — B L - -

After another great breakfast we embark upon the final 58km of the Goldfields Track which is the Leanganook Track section. Today's ride is by no means easy, but it is the least challenging technically which will allow you to soak up a lot of the interesting historical relics and stories of the region as well as enjoy some spectacular views from the crests of many of the climbs.

Please [click for a more detailed description on the Leanganook Track](#) from Castlemaine to Bendigo.

Arriving in Bendigo it's congratulations all round for a great effort in covering 210km of rugged, challenging, but stunning off-road cycling. We finish in Bendigo where you can hang around for a day or two, or take our transfer back to Melbourne from where you can head straight to the airport, home to the family, or check in to a local Melbourne hotel.

