

## Great Vic Bike Ride 2017 Accommodation Package

### Gippsland and Wilsons Prom

Sunday 26 November, 2017 to Sunday 03 December, 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 RACV Great Vic 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 take up the services of our massage therapists a few times during the week to give your body that extra support to take on the event's challenges.

All of these services are part of this support package, not to mention the social interaction and camaraderie that is always a highlight. In the evening our bus can take you to and from the nightly dinner and entertainment at the event campsite, or we sometimes organise a group dinner. One group dinner is included on the evening of the rest day, and we also have two more optional 'camaraderie dinners' where cyclists can choose to join the group for a pre-arranged meal at their own expense. Many cyclists also go out each night in smaller groups for a meal at our motel or a local restaurant with new friends. It's then off to bed for a great night sleep before doing it all again tomorrow.

Location	Distance	Date	B	L	D	A
Wilsons Prom		Sat 25 Nov 2017	--	--	--	--
Wilsons Prom to Foster	58km	Sun 26 Nov 2017	Y	--	--	Y
Foster to Yarram	64km	Mon 27 Nov 2017	Y	--	--	Y
Yarram to Seaspray	92km	Tue 28 Nov 2017	Y	--	--	Y
Seaspray to Bairnsdale	105km	Wed 29 Nov 2017	Y	--	--	Y
Bairnsdale REST DAY	NA	Thu 30 Nov 2017	Y	--	Y	Y
Bairnsdale to Maffra	81km	Fri 1 Dec 2017	Y	--	--	Y
Maffra to Glengarry	70km	Sat 2 Dec 2017	Y	--	--	Y
Glengarry to Trafalgar	47km	Sun 3 Dec 2017	Y	--	--	--
Total distance cycled	517km		8	0	1	7
Average daily distance	74km					

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

### **Wilsons Prom — Sat 25 Nov 2017**

PRE-TOUR: Today is the main arrival day. The AllTrails coach will depart Melbourne approx 9am heading to Wilsons Prom. On arrival our bike mechanic is on hand to assist in unpacking your bikes and tuning them up so they are ready to run smoothly for the week. Take your bike for a spin before our official registration and briefing, then head out to enjoy the area. Wilsons Prom is one of Victoria's premier natural attractions and one of Victorians' most-loved places. At the southernmost tip of mainland Australia, it offers spectacular scenery of huge granite mountains, open forest, rainforest, sweeping beaches and coastlines and great bushwalks. In the heart of this wilderness is Tidal River - the location of a general store, takeaway shop, our cabin accommodation and not much more other than an abundance of surrounding natural beauty. Soak up the atmosphere and revel in the excitement and anticipation of your week in another world - what a place to start it all. Today's pre tour accommodation is an optional extra which you can select on the booking form. Due to its remote nature there are no restaurants at Tidal River so we will be taking all of our cyclists to the event campsite for dinner (included in your event entry).

### **Wilsons Prom to Foster — 58km — Sun 26 Nov 2017 — B - - A**

This morning will begin with breakfast at the event campsite as there are no restaurants or cafes for our group. Today is the first riding day of the 34th edition of the Great Vic Bike Ride, and it's a stunner – don't forget your camera. From the campsite you roll through the Prom on quiet roads, surrounded by gobsmacking views of majestic granite mountains and the rugged coastline. Keep an eye open for emus and wombats snuffling about the roadside – they certainly haven't encountered thousands of bike riders en masse before! The road rolls up and down over rocky spurs and past look-out points, before flattening slightly as you head out of the Prom. As you leave the park boundaries and head north, you'll enter the beautiful pastoral land of south Gippsland. After a relatively brief but rewarding 60km, you'll arrive to a warm welcome at friendly Foster.

While you are on the bike we will transfer your luggage to your accommodation in Foster so when you ride in you can relax and enjoy afternoon tea and perhaps a massage (most cyclists will get 3-4 massages for the week). Foster is a relatively small town but both of our motels are in the township itself so you will be within easy walking and cycling distance to town and the event campsite. Around 6pm our bus will be taking transfers back to the event campsite from both motels for those who wish to have dinner there, or you may wish to source your own dinner at a local restaurant with some of the other AllTrails group.

### **Foster to Yarram — 64km — Mon 27 Nov 2017 — B - - A**

Enjoy breakfast at your accommodation before heading out for a fantastic day's riding from Foster to Yarram. There's a lot to take in on the route today – views of the Prom off to the side, a rumpled green blanket of farmland ahead of you and the Strzelecki Ranges rolling ahead. Passing through Toora, the sights of South Gippsland are all around you – as well as the imposing, majestic wind turbines spinning on the hills nearby. We pass right by the Royal Standard Hotel, a huge old-fashioned country pub, and the thirsty will enjoy the opportunity to put up their legs for a while. Although we're trending slightly uphill, there are a few cracking descents from Woorara down to Welshpool to enjoy, and then you'll have a pretty flat run into Yarram. Yarram is the regional centre of the area, and features a main street lined with heritage architecture, as well as a bakery that's won the Great Australian Meat Pie competition several years running. Seems like a pretty good spot to stop for the night!

While you are on the bike we will transfer your luggage to your accommodation in Yarram so when you ride in at the end of the day you can relax and enjoy afternoon tea and perhaps a massage. Our bus will be taking transfers

back to the event campsite from all motels for those who wish to have dinner there, or you may wish to source your own dinner at a local restaurant with some of the other AllTrails group.

#### **Yarram to Seaspray — 92km — Tue 28 Nov 2017 — B - - A**

Enjoy breakfast before heading out on the day's ride. Leaving Yarram, you'll be heading gradually downhill through some of Victoria's richest dairy-farming country. Lush pastures will give way to more a more heavily wooded landscape as we enter the roads around Wonwron plantation and are enveloped by its lofty trees. There's a spectacular yet difficult climb through Wonwron up to Carrajung Lower, but all things must come to an end and soon enough we're heading toward the coast again. With salt air reeling us in to the coast, the day concludes at the tiny little hamlet of Seaspray sitting right on Ninety Mile Beach.

The small size of the town means that there is no accommodation for our group in Seaspray itself so we will be transferring our cyclists to the next large town where your luggage will be waiting, along with afternoon tea, massage therapists and our bike mechanic. Given that we will be 35km away from the event campsite tonight, we think that this is a great chance for the first optional AllTrails group 'camaraderie dinner' near to our accommodation. We will arrange the place, time and meal, you just turn up, eat, drink, laugh and spend some more time getting to know your fellow AllTrails companions.

#### **Seaspray to Bairnsdale — 105km — Wed 29 Nov 2017 — B - - A**

After breakfast at your accommodation, we will take you back to Seaspray to hop back on the bike ready for your last ride before the rest day tomorrow. This is the big one – a 109km ride to Bairnsdale. The route veers away from the ocean to Sale before pitching east towards Bairnsdale. Today's riding is punctuated by endless creeks and rivers winding their way through the area, including the Thomson River near Sale, and then continuing towards east Gippsland's biggest city, Bairnsdale. Sale and Bairnsdale are the big towns along the way today, but there are numerous colourful small communities we pass through on the way just waiting to show the Great Vic a warm welcome. If your legs are getting tired, not to worry – soon enough you'll pass the 100km mark (awesome job!) and arrive in the big smoke of Bairnsdale, our home for the next two nights and the chance for a well-earned spot of R and R.

Your luggage will again be taken ahead to your accommodation, ready for your arrival. Don't forget to ask for your afternoon tea at reception as you check in. Have you had a massage yet this week? If not, put your hand up and jump on the table for your realxing 10-minute rub-down. Our bus will be taking transfers back to the event campsite from all hotels for those who wish to have dinner there, or you may wish to source your own dinner at a local restaurant with some of the other AllTrails group.

#### **Bairnsdale REST DAY — NA — Thu 30 Nov 2017 — B - D A**

For those on the 5 day package, your time has come to an end. For our 9 dayers, the rest day is your chance to see everything that Bairnsdale has to offer or just relax and revitalise your body ready for the rest of the week. We will have massages available for a few hours in the morning at our accommodation and there are lots of activities and things to do at the event campsite to fill in your day. Take a look at some of the optional [tours and activities](#) or jump back on the bike and explore the local area. We also welcome the 3-day event cyclists to our package today and we will celebrate with a group dinner near our accommodation this evening (included in tour price).

#### **Bairnsdale to Maffra — 81km — Fri 1 Dec 2017 — B - - A**

We are back on the bike today - or if you have just joined us on the 3-day ride, today is Day One! Have a good breakfast at your accommodation before heading out on your way to Maffra. Leaving Bairnsdale with a new spring in your step (or should that be pedal stroke?), the Great Vic continues into its final three days of riding. We're now heading slowly back west and edging closer to the foothills of the Great Dividing Range. That means rolling hills

and lush foliage, as well as another steady run of friendly small towns along the way. Soon after leaving Bairnsdale, the route brings us through the valley at Hillside and to Lindenow – a tiny town full of surprises, with its small traditional Irish pub and furniture store. There's also an extended stretch of riding through plantations, with trees stretching away from the road in neat lines. We pass through a Great Vic favourite, Briagolong, and Boisdale before finally arriving in the pretty town of Maffra having completed a hilly but beautiful 84km. As well as being our home for the night, Maffra's also home to the impressive Gippsland Vehicle Collection - well worth a look.

Maffra is a very small town with not enough hotels to accommodate our whole group so we have also booked accommodation in the towns surrounding Maffra. Our vehicles will be available to transport you to your accom where you can relax and enjoy afternoon tea and perhaps a massage. Our bus will be taking transfers back to the event campsite from all hotels for those who wish to have dinner there, or you may wish to source your own dinner at a local restaurant with some of the other AllTrails group.

#### **Maffra to Glengarry — 70km — Sat 2 Dec 2017 — B - - A**

Fill up at breakfast to fuel the body for the day, then prepare for the penultimate day in the saddle. If you stayed out of town last night, we will transfer you back to the start of the ride at the event campsite, or if you have your bike with you, you can join the ride at the closest meeting point. From Maffra the route heads north and meets the eastern shore of Lake Glenmaggie. We skirt its southern perimeter, enjoying the views of the water and access to several spots to stop for a dip (remember to pack your bathers!). The scenic sights continue, with spectacular views as you ride through Glenmaggie Nature Conservation Reserve. The next town on the way is Cowwarr, which is, fittingly enough, a dairy farming area – see how many cows made from painted barrels you can count on the way through. From there it's farmland views stretching to the horizon between Toongabbie and Glengarry.

Glengarry is a very small town with no accommodation large enough to take our group. We have booked accommodation in the closest larger town of Traralgon and our vehicle will be available to transport you to your accom after the ride. When you get there your luggage will be waiting for you along with your afternoon tea. Have a swim in the motel pool, relax and enjoy the afternoon. Make sure you have a massage before the week is out. Tonight you can head out in Traralgon for dinner or jump in our bus as it makes its last evening run back to the event campsite for cyclists who want to go down for the final night's entertainment. Hopefully you're ready to send the Great Vic out in style – the last night's quite a party.

#### **Glengarry to Trafalgar — 47km — Sun 3 Dec 2017 — B - - -**

It's your last day! After breakfast we will transfer you back to Glengarry to start the ride, or you can meet the ride at the closest point. The final riding day has arrived and the journey is coming to the end. It's the shortest day of the 2017 RACV Great Vic Bike Ride, and a fantastic opportunity to reminisce on the journey you've gone through over the past week. Gippsland sends us out in style, serving up more enticingly rolling hills to ride and great views around Yallourn North. Keep an eye open for the Yallourn power plant as well – even if it's not especially beautiful, it's certainly interesting! And then, finally, we arrive in Trafalgar. It's a bittersweet thing, reaching the end of the Great Vic, but with the Strzelecki Ranges and a few thousand new friends by your side, it's a pretty great way to finish - with new friends, unforgettable memories and more confidence in yourself. Congratulations! We will meet you at the end and help you pack away your bikes ready for transport whether you are coming on our bus back to Melbourne or heading elsewhere. Thanks for joining us.

## ROUTE MAP - 9 DAYS



## ELEVATION PROFILE

