

2020 Slow Ocean Road Cycle Tour

Ride the Best Parts of the GOR

Tuesday 17 March, 2020 to Sunday 22 March, 2020

Day to Day

Imagine waking up in the early daylight and looking around a comfortable motel room, trying to remember where you are. You hear the waves crashing on the beach not too far away and look up to see your bike at the end of the bed ready and waiting for you to rise. Then it hits you - you are on the AllTrails Great Ocean Road Cycle Tour and you can't wait to get up and start another day cycling through some of the most beautiful parts of Victoria.

The safety and support vehicles on this tour are vitally important for a smooth ride and they are never too far away. The food breaks, morning tea, lunch and afternoon snacks 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 famous bakery, a country pub or down by the sea. Cyclists move off knowing the distance and terrain ahead and aiming to arrive at the overnight stop around early-mid afternoon.

Your accommodation is excellent - you check in then have a cuppa and snack and 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, special attractions and areas of caution 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
Melbourne (transfer to Murnane Bay) to Port Campbell	40km	Tue 17 Mar 2020	--	Y	Y	Y
Port Campbell to Cape Otway	37km	Wed 18 Mar 2020	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cape Otway to Apollo Bay	38km	Thu 19 Mar 2020	Y	Y	--	Y
Apollo Bay to Lorne	45km	Fri 20 Mar 2020	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lorne to Queenscliff	44km	Sat 21 Mar 2020	Y	Y	Y	Y
Queenscliff (ferry to Sorrento) to Mornington	39km	Sun 22 Mar 2020	Y	Y	--	--
Total distance cycled	243km		5	6	4	5
Average daily distance	41km					

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

Melbourne (transfer to Murnane Bay) to Port Campbell — 40km — Tue 17 Mar 2020 — L D A

Your Great Ocean Road Bicycle Tour starts at Southern Cross Station - we load bikes and luggage in to our vehicles and set off to Murnane Bay, at the far end of the Great Ocean Road. Arriving early afternoon, we get the bikes out and before you know it you will be cycling the world famous Great Ocean Road. The grandeur of the Bay of Islands is stunning with sheer cliffs of limestone and rolling surf that will awaken your senses and fill you with exhilaration as you ride the scenic 40km to Port Campbell in the heart of this shipwreck coast. Along the way there are some stops well worth pulling over for - The Grotto, London Bridge and The Arch are all spectacular. Tonight we get to know each other as the group shares an evening meal in a lovely restaurant with magnificent views over the sheltered Port Campbell Bay as the sun sets on day one of your Great Ocean Road experience.

Port Campbell to Cape Otway — 37km — Wed 18 Mar 2020 — B L D A

Today we pick out the best bits of this section of the GOR which begins as you cycle out of Port Campbell rising above the cliffs to the unforgettable view and golden colours of Loch Ard Gorge and then the legendary Twelve Apostles Marine National Park. This is truly one of the most iconic locations in Australia and we will have plenty of time for photos in front of the famous rocks before you pedal on past Princetown where the road leaves the coast for a while, cutting across Cape Otway. Here we transfer to the Otway Fly Treetop Walk for lunch before recommencing cycling at the turn-off towards Cape Otway Lightstation. Keep your eyes on the road but also on the beautiful surrounding gum tree forest as koalas look down upon you cruising through their habitat - it's almost guaranteed that you will spot a few from the road as you wind your way down Lighthouse Road. Our accommodation for the night is a unique Holiday Park immersed in the Australian bush with nice modern cabins, koalas in the trees, lots of activities and great walking trails. We are in for a fun evening together here in this oasis sheltered among tall manna gums far away from busy towns and traffic.

Cape Otway to Apollo Bay — 38km — Thu 19 Mar 2020 — B L - A

This morning you will have the opportunity to enjoy a 1.5hr Otway e-bike tour through the surrounding forest on fat-tire e-bikes. You'll get right in amongst the forest, learning lots of great things about the land and its history. This is followed up by a visit to the Cape Otway Lightstation Precinct, considered to be the most significant Lighthouse on Mainland Australia. It's much more than just a lighthouse though, with history talks, Aboriginal Culture and bush tucker talks, historical buildings, WWII radar bunker, whale interpretation site and plenty of beautiful grounds. After exploring it all we have lunch in the cafe then jump on the bikes back up to the Great Ocean Road for a short ride to the gorgeous Maits Rest Rainforest Walk. It's just a little further before you reach the highest point in today's ride which brings in a lovely long downhill allowing you magnificent views of the ocean as you descend into Apollo Bay - a hub of activity on the coast known for its great seafood, excellent bakery and wonderful location.

Apollo Bay to Lorne — 45km — Fri 20 Mar 2020 — B L D A

The fresh morning air awakens your senses as the wild seas smash against the rocks below. This stretch of the Great Ocean Road is squeezed between massive vertical cliffs and thunderous waves and is considered the most

scenic of the journey. Get into your rhythm and keep pushing as you take it all in; the hang gliders overhead, breathtaking views all around and koalas making their home in the gum trees. The epic scenery is punctuated by small inlets and villages like Wye River and Kennett River before our overnight stop in Lorne finds us in a lovely resort with options for plenty of activity or plenty of relaxing. Stroll down to the beach, play some tennis, have a swim or indulge in a massage - it's all right here.

Lorne to Queenscliff — 44km — Sat 21 Mar 2020 — B L D A

This is it - the last section of the Great Ocean Road! The best part is from Lorne to the Memorial Arch where you can read about the road's fascinating history and construction stories and get your photo taken by the famous GOR sign. Next is a transfer to the entrance point to the famous Bells Beach where you can check out the swell and watch some surfers carving up the waves. After morning tea at the beachfront in Torquay it's 30km to lunch at the pretty village of Barwon Heads where we finish cycling for the day. Queenscliff is our overnight stop - a charming and cosy historic seaside village on the Bellarine Peninsula, with its elegant Victorian-era hotels, stately churches and quaint fishermen's cottages. Tonight we get together to celebrate your journey along the Great Ocean Road, enjoying some laughs, stories and a nice dinner and drinks before heading to bed ready for your final day tomorrow.

Queenscliff (ferry to Sorrento) to Mornington — 39km — Sun 22 Mar 2020 — B L

Starting with an early morning ferry from Queenscliff to Sorrento, we ride the best of the Mornington Peninsula on our last push to Mornington Village. This final stretch is part of the locally famous Beach Road Ride, and the closer to Melbourne you get, the more you will be absorbed into Melbourne's thriving cycling culture as scores of eager riders take part in this weekend tradition of cycling up and down the bay stopping for famous Melbourne coffees, meeting new people and chatting to each other about all things cycling – and you'll have a great story to tell having ridden all the way from the other end of the Great Ocean Road!. Take it all in riding at your own pace but be sure to stop at Mornington where we will have our final lunch together and transfer all cyclists back to Melbourne.

Congratulations – what a ride!

