

2019 Great Ocean Road Spring Cycle Tour

Ride the full length of the GOR

Thursday 03 October, 2019 to Sunday 06 October, 2019

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 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	Thu 3 Oct 2019	--	Y	Y	Y
Port Campbell to Apollo Bay	96km	Fri 4 Oct 2019	Y	Y	--	Y
Apollo Bay to Queenscliff	90/129km	Sat 5 Oct 2019	Y	Y	Y	Y
Queenscliff (ferry to Sorrento) to Melbourne	100km	Sun 6 Oct 2019	Y	Y	--	--
Total distance cycled	326km		3	4	2	3
Average daily distance	82km					

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

Melbourne (transfer to Murnane Bay) to Port Campbell — 40km — Thu 3 Oct 2019 — L D A

Your four day Great Ocean Road Bicycle Tour starts at Southern Cross Station - we load bikes and luggage in to our vehicles and set off by vehicle transfer to Murnane Bay, at the far end of the Great Ocean Road. Arriving early afternoon, after a lunch stop on the way, we all saddle up 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. Tonight we will all enjoy an evening meal together so that you can get to know the group as you absorb the magnificent seaviews and sunset.

Port Campbell to Apollo Bay — 96km — Fri 4 Oct 2019 — B L - A

Leaving Port Campbell early, you rise 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 a photo in front of the famous rocks before you pedal on past Princetown where the road leaves the coast for a while, cutting across the southern tip of land, Cape Otway. As you leave the ocean you begin climbing through the forest to the renowned Lavers Hill, deep in the Otway Ranges. This hill is a challenge for most riders and it is your choice to ride it, try it, or hop in the bus. Lunch at the top of Lavers Hill is a good refuelling stop with a few more ups and downs to come after lunch. The roller coaster ride on today's route will allow you magnificent views of the ocean before descending into Apollo Bay - a hub of activity on the coast known for its great seafood, surrounded by tranquil beaches, rolling green hills and the Great Otway National Park.

Apollo Bay to Queenscliff — 90/129km — Sat 5 Oct 2019 — B L D A

This is it! The last stretch of the Great Ocean Road is squeezed between massive vertical cliffs and thunderous waves. An early morning start awakens your senses as the wild seas smash against the rocks below. Today is the longest day on our tour so 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 around here (sometimes crossing the road for a new tree and a better view). This is a very exciting ride as you climb up and down around the cliff faces, marvelling at the scenery, punctuated by inlets and villages like Lorne, Anglesea, then our lunch stop Torquay (90km), famous for their world surfing championships. Torquay is the official end of the Great Ocean Road - congratulations! After lunch in Torquay you can hop in our support bus and skip the last 40km to Queenscliff, or if you still have the legs, the route takes you through Ocean Grove before passing Point Lonsdale where you can view the dramatic scenery from high points along the ocean foreshore overlooking The Rip. This notorious ship entrance to Port Phillip Bay, where ocean and bay waters collide through a kilometre-wide channel, creates one of the world's most dangerous stretches of water. We finish the day in Queenscliff, a charming and cosy historic seaside village on the Bellarine Peninsula, with its elegant Victorian-era hotels, stately churches and quaint fishermen's cottages situated on the mouth of Port Phillip Bay. 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 to Melbourne tomorrow.

Queenscliff (ferry to Sorrento) to Melbourne — 100km — Sun 6 Oct 2019 — B L

Today is the day where our small riding group becomes thousands! Starting with an early morning ferry from Queenscliff to Sorrento, we ride the hugely popular eastern side of Port Phillip Bay on our last 100km push to Melbourne as a part of the world-renowned Around the Bay event (optional). On the final stretch along Beach Road, you will be absorbed into Melbourne's thriving cycling culture as scores of eager riders take part in this truly impressive event, stopping for famous Melbourne coffees, meeting new people and chatting to each other about all things cycling. Take it all in riding on your own or jump on the end of a peloton and hang on. Either way it's a great ride into Melbourne where you will finish at Albert Park Lake right on the F1 Grand Prix race circuit. **Congratulations – what a ride!**

