

Queensland Rail Trails Tour

Kilkivan to Kingaroy and Brisbane Valley Rail Trails

Thursday 02 May, 2019 to Monday 06 May, 2019

A typical day on the ride: You wake up to the morning bird calls and are feeling good after yesterday's invigorating ride. Step out onto the balcony to greet the day before heading to meet the rest of the group for a wholesome bike rider's breakfast.

You push off along the rail trail and come across a small town or a clearing in the trees for some morning tea. After a chat and refilling your water bottles you head out again for a good ride, stopping in eventually at one of the small villages dotted along the trail for a cafe lunch with some great choices of local produce, and enough sustenance and energy to take you through into the afternoon. The last leg of the day takes you through more lovely scenery and spectacular cycling while the AllTrails support vehicle is not far away with water refills, bananas, snacks, goodies and advice on the best places to go and the best places to stop.

You will arrive at your overnight accommodation with plenty of time to explore another interesting town, enjoy the afternoon with a cuppa & biscuit, a wine in the garden or a beer at the local pub. In the evenings on the first half of the ride we share a few stories at the evening briefing followed by a delicious dinner, while on the second half of the ride we head to Bicycle QLDs campsite for a meal (optional) and all the campsite entertainment, then it's off to bed for a well-deserved slumber so that we can do it all again tomorrow.

Location	Distance	Date	B	L	D	A
Kilkivan to Murgon	45km	Thu 2 May 2019	--	--	Y	Y
Murgon to Kingaroy	44km	Fri 3 May 2019	Y	--	Y	Y
Yarraman to Moore	48km	Sat 4 May 2019	Y	--	Y	Y
Moore to Coominya	70km	Sun 5 May 2019	Y	--	Y	Y
Coominya to Wulkuraka (Ipswich)	40km	Mon 6 May 2019	Y	--	--	--
Total distance cycled	247km		4	0	4	4
Average daily distance	49km					

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

Kilkivan to Murgon — 45km — Thu 2 May 2019 — - - D A

Our ride begins in the small country town of Kilkivan, where we will arrive around lunchtime after transferring from Brisbane (depart approx 8am from Brisbane Transit Centre). Nestled in the eastern slopes of the Great Dividing Range and on the bank of Wide Bay Creek, Kilkivan boomed in 1868 during a brief goldrush. The area being rich in minerals, is today a quiet rural centre, with attractive parks and interesting heritage buildings, which service the beef and cattle farmers in the surrounding district.

After we have lunch, set up bikes and run through a safety briefing, you are on your way to Murgon along what will be the most adventurous section of trail we will traverse in the next 5 days. The track surface here will alternate between dirt, grass and gravel interspersed with patches of original blue-chip rail stone to keep the riding interesting. The trail is largely underdeveloped (maintaining the rail lines original signage and character) yet provides definite reward for effort. Not far out of Kilkivan, take care crossing Wide Bay Creek which some have described as a “refreshing interlude” and the “highlight of the ride”. AllTrails crew will be on hand to help you stay dry. Goomeri is another small town which at today’s midpoint, is the perfect spot to stop for refreshments. The Goomeri Bakery and Cafés come highly recommended.

Our destination of Murgon is the home of an unusual Dairy Industry museum. Be sure to check out the median strip in the main street which is named in honour of Flo Bjelke-Petersen (a Queensland Senator of 12 years, well-known pumpkin scone cook and wife of a former state premier) and there is a sign announcing that it is the home of Australia’s champion cheese. In the 1980s, when Joh Bjelke-Petersen was the Premier of Queensland, the town proudly announced, ‘Come to Murgon - Gateway to Joh’s Country’. It is entirely appropriate that nearby Goomeri (where you may have stopped for afternoon tea with pumpkin scones on your way to Murgon) holds a Pumpkin Festival each year.

With its quirky country charm, Murgon will be our home tonight. Centrally located, you may wish to explore town this afternoon or just relax by the motel pool, before adjourning to the bar for our nightly brief recapping the fun of the day, what to look out for tomorrow, followed of course by dinner together in the hotel restaurant.

Murgon to Kingaroy — 44km — Fri 3 May 2019 — B - D A

After a great night’s rest and a bountiful breakfast this morning, yesterday’s trail will be a distant memory as you embark upon the pristine, smooth, glorious asphalt bike path that will accompany, guide and caress you, over restored bridges, all the way to today’s destination of Kingaroy. Ahh, life really is beautiful.

But don’t get there too fast. Slow down and enjoy the birdsong as you traverse gentle undulations through farm and bushland. Be sure to call in at the AllTrails café that will be set up, path side, with hot and cold refreshments, fruit and snacks, and all the smiles and gossip of the day. Alternatively, the small hamlets of Wondai (14km) or Tingoorra (22km) both have pubs on hand if something more serious is in order!

At the 44km mark you will arrive in Kingaroy where the AllTrails crew will direct you to the best lunch spots, coffee outlets, picnic supplies shops, or a pub if you are feeling ready for that.

Kingaroy, actual former home to the Bjelke-Petersen’s, is dominated by peanuts. There are big peanut signs in the street; a peanut selling point known as ‘The Peanut Van’ sells the local product around South East Queensland and as far south as Casino; the huge peanut silos dominate the town; and even the Visitors Centre has peanuts for sale. The district is now one of Australia’s major peanut producers with part of the crop being exported to New Zealand, Britain and Japan.

Here we park up in a well-appointed hotel complete with pool, bar and restaurant – the perfect way to relax after a day on the bike. Tonight we gather for a round-up of the day’s events, a briefing on tomorrow and a group meal.

Yarraman to Moore — 48km — Sat 4 May 2019 — B - D A

We enjoy a very leisurely start today, again with a full breakfast, and perhaps even a final stroll around town before we pack the bikes and bags on the bus for the 45min drive to Yarraman and the start of Bicycle Queensland's 'Yarraman to Wulkuraka' 3-day ride along the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail. This is Queensland's and AUSTRALIA'S longest rail trail. The ride commences at 11.30am so plenty of time to enjoy the event sausage sizzle (included in your entry) and/or grab a coffee and just chill.

From here on while riding the trail, you will be under the care and guidance of Bicycle Queensland and their wonderful ensemble of course volunteers. The trail will visit small towns along the way, the largest being Blackbutt (18km), a regional centre and perfect lunch stop with a choice of bakeries, cafes and pubs, then onto our destination town of Moore at 48km.

Grab an ice-cream, explore camp and Moore, then park the bikes up at the AllTrails Overnight Bike Compound in camp before boarding the bus to our 2-night accommodation town of Esk, a short drive away. After freshening up and exploring the beautiful town of Esk, the AllTrails dinner bus will head back to camp for a couple of hours to enjoy a meal (included in your entry) and all the action and fun of the event which includes the BQ nightly rider briefing. For those preferring to relax and enjoy the quiet sophistication of Esk, you are more than welcome to stay in town where you can purchase your dinner from the many options the town has on offer.

Moore to Coominya — 70km — Sun 5 May 2019 — B - D A

This morning after a lovely breakfast at an Esk café, we leave our luggage in our rooms and board the bus back to Moore. After witnessing the difficulties of camp life on the morning after, we jump back on the bikes with an appreciated sense of wellbeing. Ahh, life is still beautiful.

Today, the trail takes us through Toogoolawah (27km), Esk (46km) then onto our destination town of Coominya at 70km. For those looking for a shorter ride option, you are welcome to ride directly to our accommodation in Esk (we will transfer your bike to the bike compound in Coominya).

The AllTrails bus will again provide transfers between Coominya and Esk following the ride and for the evening's dinner, briefing and entertainment at camp. What a wonderful day!

Coominya to Wulkuraka (Ipswich) — 40km — Mon 6 May 2019 — B - - -

We again enjoy a full breakfast at our Esk café before bussing forward to the BQ camp in Coominya to commence our last day on the bike. Towns on route include Lowood and Fernvale. Fernvale has quite a few facilities, including the Fernvale Futures Visitor Information Centre at the station site, bakery, café, and ATM – a great place for morning tea. Lowood is not as big but has the basic facilities and still has its station, off Railway St and visible from Main St.

Arriving in Wulkuraka, it's congratulations all round as you tick off Queensland's two longest rail trails. It's quite an accomplishment, and to be able to do them both in five days makes it all that more special! All aboard the bus for a transfer back to Brisbane Transit Centre (arriving approx 1pm) where you can catch the Air Train to the airport, or feel free to spend a few more days down here exploring the region.

