

The Top End Tour Stage 3

Kununurra to Broome (Stage 3)

Tuesday 04 June, 2019 to Saturday 15 June, 2019

Day to Day

Imagine waking up in the early daylight and looking around and wondering where you are. You may have just spent the night under an impossibly starry sky in the great Australian outback, a lodge on the banks of a legendary river, or a donga room in a remote roadhouse. Either way, you want to get up and get on your bike again ready for another day on this legendary AllTrails long-haul cycle tour from Darwin to Broome.

After a hearty breakfast you head on your way as the AllTrails team load your luggage and head up the road to set up your morning tea. The food breaks are at set times enabling all riders to plan their day and the amount of time required to enjoy the sights along the way before arriving at the next food break.

You depart morning tea with a clear focus and understanding of the next leg of the day to lunch which is arranged and/or prepared by our crew. Lunch is a great time to relax, refuel your body and chat to your friends, be it in a bakery, a country pub, the rest area of a remote highway, overlooking a river, or deep in a National Park.

Our safety and support vehicles are never far away, one trailing the group as a warning to motorists of the cycling group ahead, and at least one other vehicle travelling among and ahead of the group preparing the food stops, arranging directional signage where required and being on-call for cyclists with mechanical failures or other requirements.

We have 2-way radio communications with trucks and other large vehicles on the road to further increase safety for our cyclists as well as first-aid qualified, and bike mechanic qualified staff. Safety is our number one priority and we strive to make each day as safe as possible - another great advantage of cycling on a tour with AllTrails.

After reaching your overnight destination, usually mid-afternoon, you check in and enjoy a cuppa and snack, shower, or soak in the bath. Sometimes there is a pool for you to lounge around and cool off in, or you may decide to explore the surroundings, go for a walk, share a cold 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 and special attractions 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. The famous camaraderie developed on an AllTrails bike ride lasts a lifetime.

Bedtime is not far away, where you put your head down remembering the day and dreaming of tomorrow...

A typical day on the ride:

- Breakfast 7am, Depart 8am
- Ride 30-50km to morning tea around 9-10am, half hour stop, usually on the side of the road. Coffee/tea with home-made biscuits, slice, fresh fruits, served up, of course, with some entertaining banter and fun.
- Ride 30-50km to lunch around 12-1pm. Half hour to an hour, often in a bakery or cafe.
- Ride 30-50km to our overnight accommodation, usually arriving around 3pm. Check-in, make a cup of tea or have a drink by the pool, or a soak in the bath. Explore the town or visit the local attractions.
- Evening briefing at 6pm with lots of laughs and stories about today's ride and safety tips for tomorrow.
- Dinner at 6:30pm – usually at the motel restaurant.
- Free time and off to bed!

Location	Distance	Date	B	L	D	A
Kununurra (rest day)	NA	Tue 4 Jun 2019	Y	--	Y	Y
Kununurra to Doon Doon Roadhouse Camp	106km	Wed 5 Jun 2019	Y	Y	Y	Y
Doon Doon to Warmun Roadhouse	91km	Thu 6 Jun 2019	Y	Y	Y	Y
Warmun Roadhouse to Halls Creek	163km	Fri 7 Jun 2019	Y	Y	Y	Y
Halls Creek (rest day)	NA	Sat 8 Jun 2019	Y	--	--	Y
Halls Creek to Larawa Station Nature Stay Camp	156km	Sun 9 Jun 2019	Y	Y	Y	Y
Larawa Station to Fitzroy Crossing	146km	Mon 10 Jun 2019	Y	Y	Y	Y
Fitzroy Crossing (rest day)	NA	Tue 11 Jun 2019	Y	Y	--	Y
Fitzroy Crossing to Ellendale Bush Camp	89km	Wed 12 Jun 2019	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ellendale to Willare Bridge Roadhouse	143km	Thu 13 Jun 2019	Y	Y	Y	Y
Willare Bridge Roadhouse to Broome	166km	Fri 14 Jun 2019	Y	Y	Y	Y
Broome	NA	Sat 15 Jun 2019	Y	--	--	--
Total distance cycled	1060km		12	9	9	11
Average daily distance	133km					

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

Kununurra (rest day) — NA — Tue 4 Jun 2019 — B - D A

Day 14: Today is a rest day at the end of Stage Two and the start of Stage Three so we may have a few cyclists coming and going as they finish or begin their tour with us. Cyclists can either take it easy and enjoy the day – have a look around town, visit a mango farm, take a swim in the Lake, tune your bike, relax – or take the opportunity to explore the Bungle Bungles.

Kununurra is about 300km north of Purnululu (Bungle Bungles) and is a base for scenic flights out to this spectacular hidden area of world-renowned rock formations. A number of tour companies offer trips and we will gather together our group and offer a couple of trips as an optional extra activity. There are a few highlights closer to town such as the Hidden Valley in Mirima National Park, which provides great views of the area and are similar, although much smaller, to the Bungle Bungle formations. If the landscape looks a little familiar, perhaps it is because the movie 'Australia' was filmed in the surrounding area.

This afternoon for new arrivals we will have a ride registration, check over your bike, meet and greet the group and have your pre-departure briefing. In the evening we invite you to join the staff and fellow riders for a welcome dinner. Both dinner and accommodation tonight are included in your tour cost.

Kununurra to Doon Doon Roadhouse Camp — 106km — Wed 5 Jun 2019 — B L D A

Day 15: The Kimberley covers an area larger than the state of Victoria and has a population of only 38,000; it is pristine and virtually untouched. With only one sealed road passing through one of the world's largest true wildernesses, our route is clear.

It is a scenic route out of Kununurra, crossing the dam bridge, a vital part of the Ord River scheme, which provides the water that gave rise to the town's existence. After crossing the Durham River Bridge an initial short climb continues into a long moderate climb bringing you eventually into gently undulating to flat country, including a 7 km gentle downhill! After 45km you reach the turnoff for the Great Northern Highway which we will follow to Broome. Tonight we camp at the Doon Doon Roadhouse with green lawns and good facilities.

Doon Doon to Warmun Roadhouse — 91km — Thu 6 Jun 2019 — B L D A

Day 16: Today we ride a short distance west of the world famous Argyle Diamond mine – one of the world's largest suppliers of diamonds, producing approximately 20 million carats each year from its operations in the East Kimberley Region. Argyle commenced mining its main ore body in 1985, and has since produced more than 750 million carats of diamonds. The majority of which are truly rare and beautiful pink diamonds – the mine's signature stone – destined for the jewellery industry. People had searched the hills for gold for over 100 years, but it was not until someone made the possible connection between the Kimberley and the rich diamond area of the Kimberley region in South Africa, which the area was supposedly named after because of the geological similarities that looking for diamonds begun. Since 1985 the mine has been operating and employs over 750 people, half of which are local indigenous people.

After the day's ride we end up at Warmun Roadhouse which began as a stopping point for travellers moving to and from the Halls Creek goldfields. Drinks were laid out on racks and covered with wet hessian sacks to provide travellers who could pay, often in gold, a somewhat cool beverage. Those days are now long gone with good facilities and accommodation. There are two recommended activities to fill your afternoon if you wish. A flight over the Bungle Bungles with a helicopter, which can be booked on arrival (at own expense) and the aboriginal art centre based in Warmun community only 2km south of the roadhouse. The art here is unique, using only traditional ochres and pigments. The centre is wholly owned and managed by the artists with 100% of the income from sales going back into the community.

Warmun Roadhouse to Halls Creek — 163km — Fri 7 Jun 2019 — B L D A

Day 17: Today you will be riding parallel to the King Leopold Ranges and even small hills provide you with stunning views of the region. Over billions of years the Kimberley landscape has been sculpted by violent tropical storms, ice ages and inland seas creating a unique environment like nothing else on the planet.

Halls Creek is famous for Western Australia's first gold discovery in 1885. In the following two years over 10,000 men landed in the Kimberley in the hope of finding gold. Others walked across from Queensland and up through the Tanami desert from Alice Springs! Nobody knows how many died along the waterless stretches or at crocodile infested rivers. For those who did make it to the goldfields the conditions were extremely tough and while many walked away with nothing, a few become heroes. One was Russian Jack, whose mate got seriously ill and with the nearest doctor in Wyndham, he loaded his mate in a wheelbarrow and pushed him 300 km to the port.

In 1955 what was left of the town was moved 15 kms north, next to the airport and the proposed highway. In 1956 the last camel train left the town bringing an end to the old times and with the sealing of the Great Northern Highway the town has become quite modern and grown again to over 1500 people to support the surrounding pastoral and mining industries.

Halls Creek (rest day) — NA — Sat 8 Jun 2019 — B - - A

Day 18: In 1885 a prospector named Charles Hall struck gold at the edges of the Great Sandy and Tanami Deserts in remote North West Australia – a huge 28 ounce gold nugget. It was the first discovery of payable gold in WA and the beginning of a short lived but important gold rush, leading to the development of a small centre for commerce and trade just 15 km from the current site of Halls Creek. By 1954, old Halls Creek was all but abandoned as people moved to the new town site, and now stands in ruins. Today you can see the foundations of the old mine shaft, sections of the old post-office and the cemetery, where many Kimberley pioneers were buried. Halls Creek was also the last stop for farmers driving cattle along the legendary Canning Stock Route.

Halls Creek is now home to successful farming and mining industries and is a great base for exploring the area's natural and historical attractions such as Purnululu National Park and Bungle Bungle Range (scenic flights if you have not taken the opportunity to explore yet). You can also visit the second largest meteorite crater in the world at Wolfe Creek Crater National Park. Marvel at the China Wall, a six-metre high wall of quartz rock believed to be part of the longest single fault of its type in the world. Check out the old Halls Creek town site, a reminder of the town's mining history. Enjoy the peace and beauty of the fresh water springs at Palm Springs or Caroline's Pool, or head out to Sawpit Gorge for a swim and a picnic. Plenty to do (or nothing to do) for your rest day.

Halls Creek to Larawa Station Nature Stay Camp — 156km — Sun 9 Jun 2019 — B L D A

Day 19: Travelling east along the most southern section of the ride we hope to have the prevailing winds push us along as we cycle through this ancient landscape. The ranges you will see throughout your ride are some of the oldest in the world. Once giant mountain system like those of the Himalayas, the ranges have been eroded down over many 100's of millions of years to what geologists describe today as the skeletons of the earth.

Tonight we all camp at Larawa Station nature Stay - a relaxing location with gorgeous birdlife and waterholes, including well-maintained toilet facilities and showers. With the cool clear nights of the dry season and so close to the Tanami desert we should have a beautiful night to experience our million star outback accommodation.

Larawa Station to Fitzroy Crossing — 146km — Mon 10 Jun 2019 — B L D A

Day 20: Today is another long day in the saddle and takes you along the southern Kimberley over 400 kms inland and bordering one of Australia's largest deserts, the Great Sandy Desert. On the other side of Cummins Range, thousands of sand dunes stretch out for what appears like a never-ending horizon of sand. It is also where the Canning Stock Route winds 2,000 kms south through some of the world's most inhospitable country.

Fitzroy Crossing is set on the banks of the mighty Fitzroy River and has seen its share of wet season floods, the last in early 2017. Look at the photos in the reception area and you will see why the building sits up on a small hill.

The original town site is definitely worth a visit, either today or before you set off tomorrow. The town's claim to fame comes from the legendary Crossing Inn, built in 1897 as a shanty inn and trade store for the locals and those long distance travellers waiting to ford the Fitzroy River, which sometimes took months! With a new higher bridge built in 1974, the focus of the town grew away from its original site.

Fitzroy Crossing (rest day) — NA — Tue 11 Jun 2019 — B L - A

Day 21: Today we have a day off the bike and will all enjoy the Windjana Gorge & Tunnel Creek day tour (included in trip price) where you will hear the amazing true story of Bunuba man, Jandamarra, and be shown the places he went to during his three-year warfare with settlers and authorities. He was only in his mid twenties when he was gunned down in 1897, but in his short life he created a legacy that will never be forgotten. He led one of the longest and most successful campaigns to defend Aboriginal country in Australian history.

His story is a sad one, but one worth hearing in full. Jandamarra travelled like a bird through his country to the anger and frustration of the troopers who seemed to forever be chasing this elusive man. Even worse was when Jandamarra would sneak into the police officer's camp, steal their flour and sprinkle it on the ground leaving only his footprints behind. The police officers would wake knowing that he could have taken their lives, but instead he choose to make fun of them. You'll experience where Jandamarra hid in the caves and where the first gun battle was located and follow the storyline through Windjana Gorge to its finale in Tunnel Creek. Prepare for a day of great story-telling, spectacular scenery and engaging insight into the local area.

Fitzroy Crossing to Ellendale Bush Camp — 89km — Wed 12 Jun 2019 — B L D A

Day 22: Before we head out from Fitzroy Crossing today we will take a quick trip up to Geike Gorge which has been carved by the Fitzroy River through part of an ancient limestone barrier reef which snakes across the west Kimberley. It was laid down in an ancient sea that covered a large part of the Kimberley in Devonian times, some 350 million years ago. The result today is a spectacular gorge famed for its sheer white and grey walls, abundant wildlife and awesome boat tours.

After an early morning tour we will ride out with a new appreciation and understanding of the local area thanks to our tour yesterday and you will recognise some of the names and places as we head to Ellendale bush camp next to Mount Wynne Creek where we have the last of our 'bush camp' evenings.

Ellendale to Willare Bridge Roadhouse — 143km — Thu 13 Jun 2019 — B L D A

Day 23: Long straight sections of road lead you to your overnight accommodation. Often the prevailing easterlies can get quite strong along here in the mornings and the kilometres seem to disappear over the flat road. With the Great Sandy Desert only 50 km away on the other side of the Fitzroy River the vegetation is predominately grasslands, however there are boab trees, which dot the landscape like resting giants. Aboriginals used the giants as shelter, food and medicine. For the white settlers they served as easily recognisable landmarks and meeting points, and impromptu prison cells. There is a particularly large boab a few metres from the road where we will have a break that has a girth close to 20 metres and is at least 1,500 years old, making it one of the oldest creatures in Australia.

Willare Bridge Roadhouse is in the heartland of Yeeda cattle country. A place where local cattlemen and travelers stop for a drink and a meal as they enjoy the incredible Kimberley. With a store, restaurant, swimming pool and beer garden, it's a great place to be after a long day on the bike. Early bookers will secure the roadhouse rooms, later bookers will camp. Our final dinner out on the road this evening before the last ride into Broome.

Willare Bridge Roadhouse to Broome — 166km — Fri 14 Jun 2019 — B L D A

Day 24: Our last stretch into Broome crosses some interesting lagoons with birdlife. Keep a lookout for the long legged Brolga crane, Australia's most stately bird. It is pale grey with red markings on the face and can sometimes be seen performing an elegant dance. Hard to miss are the Jabiru, Australia's only stork and one of our largest birds standing 1.5m tall and with a massive 2.3m wingspan. The head and neck colour is an amazing glossy,

shimmery, black with blue, green and purple.

After Roebuck Plains Roadhouse the roads becomes more moderately undulating. With only 30 km to go all that is left is pumping those legs till Broome! We made it! What an amazing 3 weeks across the Kimberley. Tonight we celebrate with a group farewell dinner and awards night.

Broome — NA — Sat 15 Jun 2019 — B - - -

Day 25: Have a sleep in - you deserve it! There are plenty of places around town or at the hotel to grab some breakfast or brunch. Do it in your own time - there is no schedule for today...Broome is well worth spending a few days if you have the time, as there is plenty to see. Why not bring the family up to meet you after your big ride?

Broome highlights: Relax down on beautiful Cable Beach - famous for its pristine white sand and sunset camel rides, Art galleries specialising in local and indigenous art, The Historical Society Museum - one of the best regional museums in Australia, Dinosaur footprints laid down over 120 million years old can be seen on very low tides, The Japanese Cemetery - final resting place for over 900 Japanese pearl divers, Sun Pictures Outdoor Theatre - opening in 1916 and believed to be the oldest operating picture garden in the world, Willie Creek Pearl Farm - demonstrations of the intricate process of cultured pearling and live oyster seeding. And if you're really lucky, you might even get a glimpse of the stairway to heaven!

Thanks for joining us on this wonderful outback adventure. To read more about Stage One and Two [click here](#).

