

NORTHEAST VICTORIA - KING & ALPINE VALLEYS ON THE RAIL TRAIL 5-days / 4-nights QUALITY, **SELF-GUIDED** cycling with gourmet food & wine from Beechworth to Bright



Ride the ***Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail*** through the picturesque landscapes of North East Victoria and explore the incredible Alpine scenery for which this part of Australia is renowned. Once the home of mountain cattlemen, legendary bushrangers and the gold rush of the late 1800's, these days this region is renowned for world class local food and fine wines that are widely exported.

Join the paved, off-road Rail Trail in Beechworth, riding mainly flat stretches through the Ovens & King Valleys past extensive vineyards and fertile farmland where hops, nuts, apples, berries and black Australian Angus beef are grown. At your own pace cycle along the Alpine Valley floor with spectacular alpine scenery. There are few inclines which give views right down the valleys to the foothills and Mount Buffalo and the Australian Alps.

Stay in comfortable, quality accommodation and enjoy the cellar-door platter-style lunches showcasing local cheeses and produce, which are a just reward after a good ride, as are the delicious restaurant dinners. There is a wide range of wines to sample – an important part of the tour. King Valley offers whites including Riesling, Prosecco and Sauvignon Blanc and the Alpine Valleys offer excellent cool climate grapes such as Pinot Grigio and the lesser known Fiano and Saperavi as well as lighter style reds including Tempranillo, Sangiovese and Pinot Noir. Once in Bright, the mountain-crafted beers at the Bright Brewery are a fitting end a great cycling day.

We provide multi-gear hybrid bikes, or bring your own bike if you prefer. E-bikes are available (at extra cost).

Cost from: **\$1600** per person, twin-share Single supplement from \$700
\$150 per person public holiday supplement applicable
High season supplement of \$250 per person applies for departures in March, April & May

Departs: Monday to Friday, year round, except over Christmas day.

Includes: 4 nights in comfortable quality accommodation with ensuite; 4 full breakfasts, 3 winery lunches, 4 restaurant dinners (2 x courses); wine tastings and farm gate tasting stops and collection/delivery of purchases; luggage transfers; bike hire with pannier, water bottle; detailed route notes and maps; emergency telephone support; transfer from Bright to Beechworth.

Not included: Meals not mentioned, other drinks, transfers to/from Beechworth (pick-up from Albury airport or Wangaratta train station available at extra cost), personal expenses. Bike helmets are available but we recommend you bring your own for fit and hygiene purposes.

Grade: Easy to moderate, mainly on off road, paved trails or quiet country roads. The itinerary is at the discretion of the guides and subject to local conditions and weather.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Suggested itinerary:

Day 1 – Arrive Beechworth

Make your own way by mid-afternoon to the historic town of Beechworth for an overnight stay. There is time to explore this small, charming town with its tales of Ned Kelly, rich gold mining past, heritage precinct, well-preserved Victorian period buildings, cafés and quaint souvenir shops. Dinner tonight is at a local restaurant.

Day 2 – Beechworth to Milawa

Cycling @ 32km

After breakfast collect your bikes, then begin your ride with a 15km downhill stretch on the rail trail down onto the fertile plains of farmland and vineyards to the town of Milawa. On the way, enjoy a wine tasting stop at Pennyweight Winery (organic winery) and then onward to taste the award-winning cheeses at the well-known Milawa Cheese Factory, before lunch at a local café. Work off lunch with an easy ride around the town and the opportunity to visit a variety of the local cellar doors and produce outlets. No day in Milawa would be complete without a visit to the iconic Brown Brothers Winery cellar door for a wine tasting, especially as your accommodation is just across the road. Dinner at a local restaurant is included tonight.

Day 3 – Milawa to Myrtleford

Cycling @ 35km

Depart the King Valley and re-join the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail at Everton. Shortly afterwards you tackle the only hill of the route on the way to the verdant Alpine Valley and the township of Myrtleford. The views from the rail trail today are spectacular so have a camera handy. Lunch at Gapsted Winery is a highlight of the day, as the cellar door deck offers a spectacular vista of the vines with the ranges beyond, while enjoying a delicious platter lunch with wine tastings included. It's a short ride into the rural town of Myrtleford. Dine at a local restaurant tonight.

Day 4 – Myrtleford to Bright

Cycling @ 30km

The rail trail follows the Alpine Valley floor with mountain and rural views and the impressive granite massif of Mount Buffalo. Along the way visit the first and only pumpkin seed factory in Australia and pass by the expansive hop fields of Rostrevor Hop Garden, which supplies hops to brewers around Australia and the world, as well as to the craft breweries of the High Country. Lunch is at Ringer Reef Winery, where a delicious lunch and a spectacular view of Mount Buffalo are all part of the experience.

Take your time on the ride into Bright, as the optional stops for coffee and cake at the Rail Trail café or a mountain-crafted ale at the Bright Brewery come highly recommended. The ride from Porepunkah to Bright takes in views along the Ovens River and skirts the local golf course, before a ride under an avenue of Sapphire Dragon polonia trees, a spectacular canopy when flowering, as you enter Bright. Overnight in this pretty, riverside town with its deciduous trees and beautiful gardens, at their most showy in Autumn and Spring. Tonight's dinner is at a local favourite of the town's many restaurants.

Day 5 – Departure day

Optional cycling @ 15km+

You may like to have a relaxing morning before the transfer back to Beechworth at midday, or perhaps take an easy ride to and from scenic Wandiligong, with its National Trust classified landscape and 1800s gold mining history. If you're wanting a challenge, add a return ride on the Great Valley Trail to Harrietville (55km) or tackle the hill climb of Tawonga Gap (22km). Be back in Bright by noon or depart at your own arrangements.

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Outdoor Travel offer guided cycling and walking in Australia and New Zealand. The **Barossa** and **Clare Valleys** offer great cycling in South Australia. Explore the Australian Outback of the **Flinders Ranges** and the **Larapinta Trail**, or Victoria's **Great Ocean Walk**, Western Australia's **Cape to Cape Track** or Tasmania's **Freycinet Peninsula**. In New Zealand you can cycle to the **Marlborough** wineries, along the **Nelson Great Taste Trail** or **Otago Rail Trail**. Walk the **Milford**, **Hollyford Track**, **Queen Charlotte** or combine walking, kayaking and cycling the **Abel Tasman** peninsula to the north of the South Island.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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