

## 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:** **\$1650** per person, twin-share      Single supplement from \$400  
\$100 per person public holiday supplement applicable.

**Departs:** daily on demand, year round, except over Christmas day.

**Includes:** 4 nights in comfortable quality accommodation with ensuite; 4 full breakfasts, 3 platter-style lunches, 4 restaurant dinners (2 x courses); all wine tastings and farm gate tastings; 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 or Melbourne 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 @ 30km+**

Start with a 15km downhill stretch as the rail trail heads from Beechworth down onto the fertile plains of farmland and vineyards to the town of Milawa. For keen cyclists there is the option to cycle via Wangaratta for a total distance of 62kms. On the way, enjoy wine tasting stops at Pennyweight Winery (organic winery), Woodpark Cellar door, Christmont Cellar and others. There is an optional stop at a working olive farm for an olive oil tasting and then onward to taste the award winning cheeses and a platter lunch at the well-known Milawa Cheese Factory. Work off lunch with an easy ride around the town and the opportunity to visit a variety of produce venues including the mustard factory and specialty meats smokehouse. 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 tonight is just across the road. Dinner at a local restaurant is included tonight.

#### **Day 3 - Milawa to Myrtleford**

**Cycling @ 43km**

Re-join the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail as you depart the King Valley and 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 Myrtleford where you stay tonight, with optional stops at other cellar doors on the way. Dinner at a local restaurant is included tonight.

#### **Day 4 – Myrtleford to Bright**

**Cycling @ 30km**

Take a short ride to breakfast at the Alpine Gate café. The rail trail follows the Alpine Valley floor with mountain and rural views and the impressive monolith of Mount Buffalo. Along the way visit the first and only pumpkin seed factory in Australia and make a tasting stop at Feathertop Winery with pretty grounds, scenic views from the cellar door, impressive rock walls and unusual, boutique wine varietals. Lunch is nearby at Ringer Reef Winery, where a delicious platter, a glass of wine 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 arbour 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 one of the town's award winning restaurants.

#### **Day 5 – Depart Bright, Onward Transfers**

**Optional cycling @ 15km+**

Take a last ride around Bright or perhaps an easy ride to and from the scenic, rural hamlet of Wandiligong, which has a National Trust classified landscape and 1800's gold mining history. Follow the bike trail alongside Morses Creek, past Mystic Park, a world class paragliding site and a mountain biking Mecca. Those cyclists wanting challenge can add a return ride on the Great Alpine Highway to Harrietville (44km) or tackle the hill climb of Tawonga Gap (22km). Return to Bright for the transfer back to Beechworth 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**, **Routeburn**, **Grand Traverse**, **Hollyford Track**, **Queen Charlotte** or **Akaroa** 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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