

Cycle Touring Association of WA (Inc)

presents



2020 On Your Bike *Tiny Towns Tour*

Saturday 3 to Sunday 11 October 2020



Calingiri Wongan Hills Koorda Beacon

Mukinbudin Bencubbin Wyalkatchem Goomalling



Tiny Towns Tour 2020: Days 1 to 4



Bright skies and big horizons await this cycling adventure exploring open landscapes and the tiny country towns dotted throughout Western Australia's north eastern Wheatbelt region. Broad acre dry land farming is the backbone of this region, producing around 40% of the State's grain harvest. Cycling along quieter, sealed rural roads, this loop tour out of Calingiri predominately follows the designated tourist route of the Wheatbelt Way trail. Participants will have the opportunity to see open farmlands, rocky outcrops, salt lakes and wildflowers, as well as having time to visit museums, collections, historical sites and heritage trails within some of these smaller country towns located in this less travelled area of our State.



Day 1 - Saturday 3 October 2020

Midland to Calingiri by coach 123km - Calingiri to Wongan Hills 39km

Departing in the morning from the carpark adjacent to the Midland Railway Station, participants, their bikes and luggage will be transported directly to Calingiri. Alternatively, parking for the duration of the tour is available in Calingiri for those participants electing to drive their own vehicles to the start of the tour. Morning tea and refreshments, along with a packed lunch will be provided prior to setting off on an easy ride for the first day of the tour.

About 10km south-west of Wongan Hills we pass by Lake Ninan, a large body of salt water with its surrounding nature reserve, before arriving at our first overnight stop at the town's Sports Pavilion. Whilst European explorers first camped in the vicinity as early as 1836, it wasn't until 1906 a plan for the establishment of Wongan Hills was formulated and settlers began to move into the area. Describing itself as "The Whispering Hills" after the wind blowing through a range of flat topped hills found to the north-west of the town, the area is a prosperous agricultural region with activities focused on sheep, grain and pig-farming.



Day 2 - Sunday 4 October 2020 - Wongan Hills to Koorda 87km

Cycling predominately in an easterly direction today, at the halfway point, our route has us passing through the tiny town of Cadoux, whose claim to fame on 2 June 1979 was the second most significant earthquake in the history of Western Australia, measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale. Continuing after a break in Cadoux, the balance of the ride sees us reach Koorda, a small wheatbelt town promoting itself as "Corn Dolly country" after the unusual custom of plaiting straw was bought to the area by a northern English settler in 1911. The appeal of the town lies in the town's two museums - one in the old hospital and the other, a private museum housing motoring and military memorabilia. Enjoy tonight's sojourn in Koorda's Recreation Centre.



Day 3 - Monday 5 October 2020 - Koorda to Beacon 80km

Leaving Koorda, our route ventures further north until around the 45km mark we encounter the Mollerin Nature Reserve with its vast salt lake and beautiful panoramic views from its granite outcrop dominating the flat surrounding bushland. Turning east, the road follows the railway line, passing by grain storage silos in Mollerin and Cleary before reaching our overnight destination in Beacon. This tiny town located on the northeast border of the wheatbelt region provides a supporting role for the district's vast pastoral and cropping agricultural base. The surrounding area has numerous granite outcrops and nature reserves with magnificent seasonal wildflower displays.



Day 4 - Tuesday 6 October 2020 - Beacon to Mukinbudin 80km

Continuing eastwards following the railway line, we cycle another longer section today with little in between to break up the journey. However, having reached the extremities of the Wheatbelt Way, our route turns southerly at Wialki, passing by the Karloning Nature Reserve before arriving in Mukinbudin for a well-earned rest day. Mukinbudin is a small rural community with a pleasant and welcoming feel to it, located near the eastern border of the Central Wheatbelt Region. The Shire's main industry is cereal crop farming, plus some growing of sheep for the wool and meat trades. Our home for the next two nights is the Mukinbudin Sporting Complex/Recreation Centre. After dinner tonight, enjoy listening to a local band and dancing to live music, knowing you can sleep-in the following morning.



Tiny Towns Tour 2020: Days 5 to 9



Day 5 - Wednesday 7 October 2020 - Rest day in Mukinbudin

No cycling today, unless you care to take a leisurely spin around town to check out the sites.

The Pioneer Botanical Walk along the southern boundary recognizes the contribution of pioneer women in developing the district. A historical display has been compiled within the old Mukinbudin Railway Station building. A uniquely designed corrugated bulk grain silo built in 1949 has been relocated within the town precinct to recognize the importance of the grain growing industry to the region. A 1950's Farm Shed housing old tractors and other machinery restored by locals are on display for visitors to see.

Further afield, Wattoning Historical Site to the north of Mukinbudin townsite reflects the hardships of collecting water by the pioneers from a gnamma hole, a soak, and two rock lined wells. The Shire's tourist attractions also include many significant granite outcrops scattered throughout the region and their nature reserves with diverse wildflowers and wildlife.



Day 6 - Thursday 8 October 2020 - Mukinbudin to Bencubbin 64km

After a day 'off your bike' the tour recommences with an initial south westerly route out of town, passing through part of the Shire of Trayning before turning north to our overnight stop in Bencubbin within the Shire of Mount Marshall. Known as the "Land of the Golden Grains", Bencubbin is typical of small rural towns within this Wheatbelt region, providing services focussed on surrounding grain and cereal producers. Whilst first explored in 1836, itinerant shepherds and sandalwood cutters initially traversed the area until its agricultural potential was realised and permanent settlement ensued with land around Bencubbin opened for selection in 1910. Call into the Bencubbin Community Resource Centre for local tourist information on things to see or do during our visit.



Day 7 - Friday 9 October 2020 - Bencubbin to Wyalkatchem 86km

A quieter parallel route, north of the main Koorda-Bullfinch Road, follows the railway line taking us through the siding of Gabbin before reaching the halfway mark of today's ride at Koorda. After a break in town, we continue south passing between two massive lake systems, Cowcowing and Wallambin, before arriving at tonight's destination in Wyalkatchem. "Wylie" as it is called by locals lies on the Pioneers' Pathway, a well-worn trail prospectors once took on the way to the Goldfields. Laying claim to being the cradle of bulk handling following the construction in 1931 of grain storage facilities, the town has many murals and museums celebrating its heritage.



Day 8 - Saturday 10 October 2020 - Wyalkatchem to Goomalling 60km

A straight forward route today follows the main road in a westerly direction passing through Namelcatchem Reserve, about 17 km before Dowerin. An old well, situated some 100 metres within the reserve was constructed around 1865 to provide water to miners travelling to the Goldfields and later to water horse teams transporting wheat to Minnivale. The Tin Dog sculpture welcomes you to the town, with the local bakery being a good place to stop for lunch. Suitably replenished, it's back on your bike to finish the cycling leg to our final overnight destination of the tour at the Goomalling Sport and Community Centre. On the left, just 3 km before town, check out the historically significant and heritage listed collection of picturesque stone and mud brick dwellings known as 'Slater Homestead', a must see for visitors to the region.



Day 9 - Sunday 11 October 2020 - Goomalling to Calingiri 54km Calingiri to Midland by coach 123km

After breakfast and a final packing up of our gear, we depart the excellent facilities in Goomalling heading north westerly, crossing over the Mortlock River North for the last cycling leg back to our tour's starting destination in Calingiri. Morning tea and refreshments await your arrival in Calingiri before either picking up your vehicle or loading up bikes and boarding the coach for the trip back to Midland.

Thanks for coming along to enjoy this cycle tour exploring the north eastern Wheatbelt region of our extensive State and sharing in fun times and experiences along the way with your fellow participants.

The Fine Print

VOLUNTEERS

'On Your Bike' is organised by a sub-committee of the Cycle Touring Association of WA (Inc) on a totally not for profit basis and requires volunteers from among the 'participants' - you - to help out with some of the daily tasks involved for the smooth running of the tour.

Tasking areas include:

- Helping out at breakfast
- Baggage loading and unloading
- Assisting with/or after the evening meal
- General clean-up

If you would like to help in any of these areas or the dozens of other little tasks, please tick the box on the Volunteers section on the entry form.

WE PROVIDE

- A real cyclist's breakfast of cereal, toast, a variety of toppings, tea and coffee and most importantly the famous 'On Your Bike' porridge. If you think you need a good 'stick to your ribs' start to the day before a long ride then the porridge will fit the bill.
- Morning tea by the roadside including tea, coffee and Milo. In-season fruit will also be available.
- A 'Sag Wagon' if it's all too much.
- A two course evening meal provided by local organisations. If you require vegetarian meals then please indicate on the entry form.
- A vehicle to transport all your luggage between campsites.
- Signposting where appropriate.
- A qualified bicycle mechanic with a supporting vehicle.
- First aid and medical support.
- Identification tags for your luggage & bike and a name badge for you.
- Tour guide with maps and route descriptions will either be posted to you or available electronically closer to the tour. Please indicate on the entry form your preference.
- Commemorative Tour apparel.
- A shoulder to cry on and/or a pat on the back when you achieve your personal aims.
- The best 9 days of fun you will have this year.
- Complimentary membership for the balance of 2020 to the Cycle Touring Association of WA (Inc). This offer only applies to non-members of the CTA who have not taken part in a previous On Your Bike tour.

YOU PROVIDE

- A human-powered reliable bicycle with a wide range of gears. Power assisted bicycles (battery or combustion engine) are not permitted on OYB tours. The bike must be in good mechanical condition and we strongly recommend having it serviced at a local bike shop at least a month before the tour. Please read the 'Conditions' section on the entry form.
- Cycling accessories - water bottles, pump, spare tubes, tools and a bicycle lock.
- Your own travel insurance.
- AS/NZS Standards approved cycling helmet.
- Unbreakable plate, bowl, mug, cutlery and a tea towel for drying your utensils after breakfast.
- All your camping gear - small waterproof tent, inflatable mattress and a sleeping bag.
- Sufficient cycling and casual clothing, bathers and toiletries.
- Lunches: Except for the first day and the last day, we do not provide lunch during the tour. Participants will be advised during the tour where lunches may be purchased.
- Your own sense of adventure and be prepared to have fun!

LUGGAGE

- Your total allowance is 20 kg of which no one bag can be more than 12 kg. Luggage will be weighed at check-in.
- Please pack your gear into 'soft duffel' type bags. Suitcases are not acceptable.

LUGGAGE DROP OFF

- Luggage drop off points prior to the start of the tour are available to make getting to Midland easier on the train. Luggage can be dropped off no later than the Thursday evening before the tour either (south of the river to East Victoria Park) by contacting Terry on 0439 922 765 or (north of the river to Karrinyup) by contacting Brian on 0409 468 797. The property owners and the Cycle Touring Association of WA (Inc) accept no responsibility for any theft or damage whatsoever to luggage whilst it is at either property.

TRANSPORT

Transport will be available for you, your luggage and your bike to get you to the start in Calingiri. The transport will leave from and return to the car park in Railway Parade, just east of the Midland Railway Station.

On the tour official support vehicles will meet the day-to-day needs.

VEHICLE PARKING

For those participants electing to drive their own vehicles to the start in Calingiri, parking for the duration of the tour will be available at a nearby location.

The property owners and the Cycle Touring Association of WA (Inc) accept no responsibility or liability for any theft or damage whatsoever to the vehicle whilst it is parked at the property.

SAFETY

- AS/NZS Standards approved cycle helmet must be worn while cycling.
- Headphones or thongs must not be worn while cycling.
- Alcohol may only be consumed in accordance with relevant legislation.
- Inappropriate behaviour during the tour will not be tolerated.
- Private support vehicles are not permitted to follow the ride as they can be a hazard to cyclists. There will be sufficient official vehicles to meet our needs.

TRAINING

Cycle regularly on quiet roads before the tour. Use the bike and clothing you anticipate using on the tour to ensure you address any problems before the tour. During the six weeks prior to the tour you should ride for at least 50 km each weekend and try to complete one or two rides of about 80 km. There will be an opportunity to ride with some of your fellow tourers on Sunday 20 September 2020. You are warmly invited to join the group which will start at Bayswater Train Station at 8.30am for a scenic ride to Whiteman Park for a coffee / morning tea.

Leader: Trevor 040 202 9608

AGE CONDITIONS

Persons under the age of 18 on 3 October 2020 may only take part in the tour at the discretion of the organisers and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

TOUR COSTS AND PAYMENTS

FULL payment is required with the entry form. Early application is recommended as the tour is limited to 130 participants. All tour costs include GST.

- Adult Entry for CTA member *
or first time OYB tour participant \$520
(* current CTA membership valid to 31/12/2020)
- Adult Entry for non-member \$560
- Optional Transport (Midland Station to Calingiri and return) \$40
- Optional Rest Day activity (Limited numbers) \$30
(Bus tour to explore Mukinbudin's natural rock formations)

REFUND POLICY

Cancellations received by Friday 4 September 2020 will receive a refund of 80% of the payment. Cancellations received after that date will only receive a 20% refund.



**For General Enquiries:
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