

Cycle Touring Association of WA (Inc) presents

On Your Bike

Rivers of the Darling

Tour 2023



Saturday 7 October
— Sunday 15 October

Ashfield Station
Lower Chittering
Toodyay — York — Brookton
Wandering — Boddington
Dwellingup
Mandurah Station

Rivers of the Darling Tour 2023

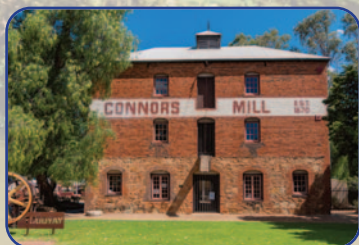
Follow some of the major rivers of the Perth region as they cut their way through the Darling Ranges and make their way to the sea. Along the way we will step back in time to explore the influence of these rivers on the original inhabitants – five peoples of the Noongar Nation who have lived here for at least 45,000 years – as well as the pattern of early European settlement.



Day 1: Saturday, 7 October 2023

Ashfield Station to Lower Chittering – 58 km

We start at a venue near Ashfield train station with some pre-arranged parking. This is close to Guildford on the banks of the Swan River in Wadjak Country. Guildford was settled at the very beginning of the Swan River Colony in 1829 because of its good soil and fresh water for agriculture. We ride north and east, following the early agricultural expansion in the Swan Valley and cross into Yued Country, before coming to the Brockman River at Lower Chittering. 'Chittering' is Aboriginal in origin and thought to mean place of the willie wagtails.



Day 2: Sunday, 8 October 2023

Lower Chittering to Toodyay - 54 km

We follow the Brockman River northwards before heading east to converge on the Avon River just before Toodyay. Along the way we will ride through Moondyne Joe country. Moondyne Joe was an ex convict who settled in the Avon valley, then one of the most rugged and inaccessible places in the Darling Range. In 1861 he was imprisoned in Toodyay for horse stealing but escaped – this being the first of his four escapes from prison.

Toodyay was first established in 1836. Check out the Newcastle Gaol Museum Precinct as well as Conner's Mill Museum with its historic machinery for turning wheat into flour and stories of many early families.



Day 3: Monday, 9 October 2023

Toodyay to York - 63 km

As we head out of Toodyay we move into Ballardong Country and

follow the Avon valley all the way to York. The early colony was desperate for good land for crops and grazing so settlement started in 1831. At Clackline we follow the route of the original Eastern Railway constructed from Guildford to York by 1885.

York was established in 1835 – the oldest inland town in WA. Check out the York Motor Museum, several other great museums, historic buildings and art galleries. Feeling more energetic? There are a number of interesting walking trails in the town or you could ride to the Mount Brown Lookout for some great views.



Day 4: Tuesday, 10 October 2023

York to Brookton - 72 km

We follow the Avon River to Beverley, then the Avon River South to Brookton, just as the early settlers did in the 1860s and 1870s. The delay in agricultural expansion was due to the dire shortage of labour in the early colony. This was only solved by the arrival of convicts from 1850 to 1868. By the end of this period about 40% of the WA population was convict or former convict.

Enjoy the spring wildflowers and the bright yellow canola fields along the ride.

Brookton started as a station stop on the Great Southern Railway from York to Albany which was completed in 1889.



Day 5: Wednesday, 11 October 2023

Rest Day - explore Brookton and surrounds

Enjoy an optional bus ride to Boyagin Rock which rises 50 metres above the surrounding countryside. This site is very significant for Noongar people as the last resting place of the Waugal. They also believe that if you walk to the top of the rock without stopping you will live a long life. It is also a very

Starting near Ashfield train station we head northwards following alongside the Swan River before coming to the Brockman River at Lower Chittering. We then follow the Avon River heading east to Toodyay, south east to York and then on to Brookton where we have a rest day. Then we start circling back westwards following the Hotham River to Wandering and Boddington. Following the Murray River to Dwellingup we descend the Darling Scarp and cross the Serpentine River before arriving at Mandurah train station. Finally returning to Perth by train.

popular picnic area with a profusion of wildflowers in spring and one of the last preserves of the native wildlife and plants which once dominated the area.

Check out Brookton Lookout just west of town with good views of the town and surrounding countryside as well as Robinson Park near the Brookton train station in town. Brookton Museum and Heritage Centre houses a good collection of objects and records with historical significance to the district.



Day 6: Thursday, 12 October 2023

Brookton to Wandering - 69 km

On the road again we continue to follow the

Avon River south, crossing over from Ballardong Country into Wilman Country, before coming to Pingelly. We then turn south west and converge with the Hotham River for a time before riding in to Wandering. The town name comes from the Wilman word wandoo in after the wandoo or white gum tree. Wandering was first settled in 1859.

Take a stroll to the caravan park to see the Geoff Marsh Pavilion (now the camp kitchen) and enjoy the short walk around the Wandering Heritage and Nature Walk Trail.



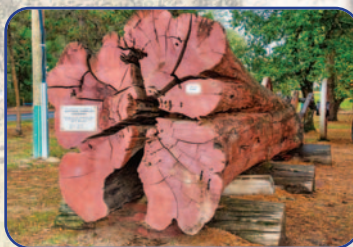
Day 7: Friday, 13 October 2023

Wandering to Boddington - 35 km

We head south to cross the Hotham River and then follow it all the way to

Boddington. Henry Boddington was a shepherd and farmer in the 1860s and 1870s in this area. The townsite was chosen in 1912 when the Hotham Valley Railway was pushed through to meet demand created by the local timber industry. The 1961 bushfires devastated the local timber industry but Worsley bauxite mining and Boddington Gold mine have rejuvenated the town.

Enjoy a walk along the Hotham River Foreshore area to see the Lions Weir and fish ladder. Boddington Arts and Crafts Centre sells a diverse range of handcrafted local arts and crafts.



Day 8: Saturday, 14 October 2023

Boddington to Dwellingup - 52 km

We head south and then west to cross the Hotham

River and enter into Pindjarup Country before heading north west towards Dwellingup. We ride parallel with the Murray River as we enter Dwellingup State Forest. As we approach Dwellingup we ride alongside the restored Hotham Valley Railway from Etmilyn to the town. The original Railway was constructed from Pinjarra to Dwellingup in 1910 and then on to Dwarda in 1913.

Lots to do in Dwellingup. Apart from some great cafes there are numerous walk and bike trails, the Treetops Adventure (with aerial obstacles and zip lines), the Hotham Valley Forest Train and the Lost Eden Art Gallery.



Day 9: Sunday, 15 October 2023

Dwellingup to Mandurah Station - 49 km

Mandurah Station to Perth by train

It's all downhill from Dwellingup as we head west and descend to the coastal plain. Take a look at the Meelon Nature Reserve wetland with wildflowers before resuming the journey north-west to Pinjarra where we converge with the Murray River. We then part with the Murray River but cross the Serpentine River on Lakes Road as we enter Mandurah and ride to Mandurah Train Station.

Catch the train and relax on the ride back to Perth after a good tour of the Rivers of the Darling. Exit the train where you wish or change trains in Perth to take the Midland line to return to our starting point near Ashfield Station.

The Fine Print

Volunteers

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

Tasks include:

- Breakfast assistance in the morning
- Baggage loading in the morning
- Assisting with the evening meal
- Breakfast setup after the evening meal
- General clean-up in the morning
- Minor bike repairs in the afternoon

If you would like to help in any of these tasks or the numerous other small 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 infamous 'On Your Bike' porridge. If you need a good start to the day before a long ride then the porridge will sustain you.
- Morning tea en route including tea, coffee and Milo. In-season fruit will also be available.
- A two course evening meal provided by a local organisation. If you have a dietary requirement, please indicate on the entry form.
- A 'Sag Wagon' if you or your bike require assistance en route.
- Luggage transport between campsites.
- Signposting en route for turn off locations.
- Support vehicle for potential minor repairs en route.
- Volunteers at camp to assist with minor bike repairs.
- First aid support.
- Name badge and three luggage labels (two for your luggage and one for your bike).
- A tour booklet containing route directions and profiles and town maps and historical information. Additionally, an electronic copy of the route directions will be available on the CTA Website.
- Commemorative garment, being a short sleeve polo shirt for 2023.
- A shoulder to cry on and or a pat on the back when you achieve your personal goals.
- The best nine days of fun you will have this year!
- Complimentary membership for the remainder of 2023 to the Cycle Touring Association of WA (CTA). 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 reliable bicycle with a wide range of gears. The bicycle 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.
- An eBike may be granted with prior approval from the OYB Organising Team. You will need to provide the following details:
 - The weight of your eBike
 - The range (distance) your eBike can travel before recharging
 - The reason you require an eBike, for example, any medical conditions
- Cycle helmet in accordance with AS/NZS Standards.
- Cycling accessories: water bottles, pump, spare tubes, tools and a bicycle lock.
- All your camping gear: small waterproof tent, inflatable mattress and a sleeping bag.
- Breakfast utensils: unbreakable plate, bowl, mug, cutlery and a tea towel for drying your utensils.
- Sufficient cycling and casual clothing and toiletries.
- Travel insurance, if required.
- Lunches: Except for the first and last day, we do not provide lunch during the tour. Participants will be advised during the tour where lunches can be purchased.
- Your 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 – Pre tour

Luggage drop off locations prior to the start of the tour will be available for participants. 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 Duncraig by contacting Roy on 0410 008 793. 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.

Luggage Collection at end of tour

The last riding day finishes at Mandurah Train Station and from there participants have options to arrive back at Ashfield Train Station to collect their luggage and or vehicle. Luggage collection times will be advised in the Tour Booklet.

- Take the train to Perth Underground Station and transfer to the Midland Line from Perth Station to Ashfield Train Station.
- Take the train and disembark enroute and make your own arrangements to collect luggage from Ashfield Train Station car park.
- Make own arrangements from Mandurah to collect luggage from Ashfield Train Station car park.

Transport

No participant transport is required for the tour as the start and finish location is at Ashfield Train Station car park on the Midland Train Line from Perth.

Vehicle Parking

For those participants electing to drive their own vehicles to the start at Ashfield Train Station, limited parking for the duration of the tour will be available at a nearby location. A small donation fee of \$10 will be required, payable in cash.

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 must not be used while cycling.
- Alcohol may only be consumed in accordance with relevant legislation.

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 10 September 2023. You are warmly invited to join the group which will start at the south side of the Narrows adjacent to the Toilet block for a scenic ride, with a morning tea stop at Leighton Beach.

Leader: Christine 0400 570 077

Age Conditions

Persons under the age of 18 on 7 October 2023 may only take part in the tour at the discretion of the OYB Organising Team and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Tour Costs and Payments

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

- Entry for CTA member
- or First Time OYB tour participant
- Entry for non CTA member
- Optional Rest Day Bus Trip to Boyagin Rock

\$675.00

\$710.00

\$20.00

Refund Policy

Cancellations received by Friday 10 September 2023 will receive a refund of 80% of the payment. Cancellations received after that date will only receive a 20% refund.



For General Enquiries

Phone:

Christine 0400 570 077

Email: oyb@ctawa.asn.au

or write to:

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Wembley WA 6913

