

Cycle Touring Association of WA (Inc) *presents*

**On Your Bike
Heart of the Great Southern
Tour 2021**



Saturday 2 — Sunday 10 October 2021

**Narrogin — Williams — Darkan — Wagin
Katanning — Nyabing — Dumbleyung
Wickepin — Narrogin**



The 2021 On Your Bike Tour will be in its 33rd year, we are hoping you can come along and join us. The tour starts in the lower fringes of the Wheatbelt Region at Narrogin, crossing over and sometimes following the Great Southern Highway and Great Southern Railway. The tour will make its way through rolling plains, encompassing rich farming land, along the way staying

Day 1: Saturday, 2 October 2021

Armadale to Narrogin by coach - 161 km
Narrogin to Williams - 35 km

There are two options available for participants to get to the start at Narrogin.

One is taking the organised return transport option leaving from Armadale Train Station car park, which will transport you, your luggage and bike to Narrogin. Or drive to Narrogin to a secure parking location to park your vehicle for the duration of the tour.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided at Narrogin and then it is on your bike heading west to Williams. The ride is on a quiet country road, you will pass the Narrogin Airfield which also houses the Narrogin Gliding Club, just 12 km from Narrogin. Williams is a small town and is used as a stop over for travellers between Albany and Perth, and would be worthwhile having a look around.

Day 2: Sunday, 3 October 2021

Williams to Darkan, 42 km

Leaving Williams, we head west for 6 km before heading south toward Darkan. We pass by rich agricultural farmland which is used for producing cattle, sheep and grain growing. As today is a shorter route there is the option to explore part of the Darkan to Collie rail trail. The Rail Trail covers a distance of 46.5 km and is suitable for walking and cycling, during springtime there is an impressive array of wildflowers along the trail. The trail starts at the Darkan Railway Station and there is water available at Bowelling Station which is 7.5 km along the trail.
<https://trails.wa.gov.au/trails/collie-darkan-rail-trail>

Day 3: Monday, 4 October 2021

Darkan to Wagin, 61 km

After packing up we head east, along the Coalfields Road toward Arthur River, crossing over the Albany Highway. Arthur River is a small historical settlement and at the turn off to Wagin, you will see the restored Wool Shed on the corner. After Arthur River, you will ride along rolling plains, viewing rich agricultural land to Wagin, the home of the Giant Ram and also the town that hosts the annual Woolorama, one of the state's largest agricultural shows.

Day 4: Tuesday, 5 October 2021

Wagin to Katanning, 53 km

Today we leave Wagin and head in a southerly direction toward Katanning, riding on the Great Southern Highway, passing by Parkeyerring Lake, a large lake that can fill with water in good rainfall years. We turn off the Great Southern Highway at Woodanilling, a grain producing area, mainly following the railway line and passing by Boyerine Creek, on quiet country roads to Katanning. Our two overnight stays are at the Katanning Recreation Centre.

Day 5: Wednesday, 6 October 2021

Rest Day, Explore Katanning

The name Katanning (KAAT-NYINY) is a local Noongar word meaning the head sits here. New settlers were attracted to Katanning after the opening of the Great Southern Railway line from Perth to Albany in 1889 and it was not long before the township quickly developed into a thriving regional centre. For the rest day you will have many opportunities to sight see around this interesting town.

at Darkan (a longer day ride option will be offered on this route from Williams to Darkan), Wagin, Katanning, and then heading eastwards to Nyabing, north to Dumbleyung, Wickepin and back to Narrogin. The rest day is in regional Katanning that likes to be recognised as the 'heart' of the Great Southern. A town that is known for its rich cultural diversity, heritage buildings and the massive All Ages Playground that sits alongside the Great Southern Highway at the town's entrance.



Day 6: Thursday, 7 October 2021
Katanning to Nyabing, 61 km

You will now head further east after leaving Katanning to Nyabing, passing by one of the largest undercover sheep saleyards in the southern hemisphere. Further on and located about 17 km from Katanning is the Lake Ewlyamartup camping ground, which has water for most of the year and is home to a number of bird species. You will also ride past the small siding of Badgebup, with a hall and old church. Further on is the Kwobrup Reserve which forms part of the Kwobrup-Badgebup Important Bird Area. There will be a smattering of wildflowers to see on the way to Nyabing, a small agricultural town, with a new modern tavern.



Day 7: Friday, 8 October 2021
Nyabing to Dumbleyung, 51 km

Today you will head slightly north-west towards Dumbleyung, the ride will take you along quiet roads, passing agricultural pastures and crops, wildflowers will also be seen on the side of the road. Now only a plaque shows the heritage site of the early community's Datatine Hall (30 km from Dumbleyung), you may still see some remnants of this once thriving place. Dumbleyung Lake is famous for Donald Campbell's world water speed record in 1964. In the main street, the Shire of Dumbleyung have built a shelter for the Bluebird replica, as part of a tourist attraction. As this is a shorter day the more energetic riders may like to ride out to see the Dumbleyung Lake! Or perhaps you may like to visit the Bluebird Interpretive Centre, also in the main street, to get more information on this historic event.



Day 8: Saturday, 9 October 2021
Dumbleyung to Wickepin, 80 km

Your legs should now be ready for the longest ride of the tour, which will take you through some rolling hills, passing golden canola and green cereal crops. On the way we will see the old Dongolocking Hall and pass through the tiny town of Tincurrin that has a primary school, hall, agricultural store and post office. Another point of interest is the Toolibin Lake which is recognised as a wetland of international and ecological importance. The vegetation provides a habitat for woodland birds and other animals. Wickepin has the original Albert Facey homestead ("A Fortunate Life", author), which was relocated from a farming property into Wickepin in 2000 and reflects the harsh and simple life of living in the 1920s.



Day 9: Sunday, 10 October, 2021
Wickepin to Narrogin, 48 km

The last day takes you back to where you all started on Day 1 of the tour. Leaving Wickepin we head east to Cuballing and then turn south following quiet roads to the regional township of Narrogin. A town that was once one of the largest railway hubs in the southern region, transporting people and goods to many destinations in the area, now the railway lines are only used for the transportation of grain and freight.

Refreshments and take-away lunch will be provided in Narrogin at the Hockey Club pavilion.



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
- Minor bike repairs

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.
- Volunteers for minor bike repairs.
- Support Vehicle.
- First aid 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 2021 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 Armadale 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 0438 110 571. 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 Narrogin. The transport will leave from and return to the car park in Commerce Avenue, just north of the Armadale Train 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 Narrogin, parking for the duration of the tour will be available at a nearby location. A small fee of \$10 will be required, payable on the day 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 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 19 September 2021. You are warmly invited to join the group which will start at Charles Patterson Park, Burswood at 8.30am for a scenic ride to a café for morning tea.

Leader: Brian 0438 110 571

Age Conditions

Persons under the age of 18 on 2 October 2021 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.

- Entry for current CTA (membership valid to 31/12/2021) or first time OYB tour participant \$580
- Entry for non CTA member \$620
- Optional Transport (Armadale Train Station to Narrogin and return) \$40

Refund Policy

Cancellations received by Friday 3 September 2021 will receive a refund of 80% of the payment. Cancellations received after that date will only receive a 20% refund.



**For General Enquiries:
Phone Brian on
0438 110 571**

**Email: oyb@ctawa.asn.au
or write to:
On Your Bike WA, PO Box 174
Wembley WA 6913**

