

Australian Cycling Holidays

GRAND PACIFIC CYCLE TOUR Itinerary

Day 1: Waterfall – Wollongong, 47 kms.

Route Overview One long but slow hill, and a couple of short but sharp hills in the morning, before you hit the cycle way just after lunch. Then it's easy cruising all the way into Wollongong! Expect 4 – 5 hours of cycling, not including breaks.

Meet the Australian Cycling Holidays team at Waterfall Station, on the outskirts of Sydney, between 9 and 9:30 am. Bikes are fitted, maps provided, routes explained, your luggage is collected for delivery to the hotel, and then you're off!

In the morning, cycle through the cool gums and tree ferns of the Royal National Park, before climbing to Stanwell Park lookout on the Illawarra Escarpment where you are rewarded with stunning views down the coast.

Continue along the undulating road perched between the mountains and the sea, travelling through the small towns along the way, and stop to admire the sea-cliff bridge. There are plenty of lunch options available en route, including cafes, pubs and take-away.

In the afternoon, you pick up the Illawarra Coastline Cycleway, a lovely bike and pedestrian path that meanders beside the beaches and lagoons all the way into Wollongong. A celebratory drink awaits you at your accommodation, the 4 ½ star Novotel Wollongong Northbeach*.

*Photos from top: View from Stanwell Park; The cycle path leading into Wollongong; On the Sea Cliff Bridge; As the name suggests, the Novotel Wollongong Northbeach is right on the beach. *Luxury Tours only.*



Day 2: Wollongong - Kiama, 46 kms.

Route Overview An easy cycle in the morning, mostly on bike paths. The afternoon's ride is beautiful but challenging, with a series of 5 short but sharp climbs just before the finish. It's worth it though for the stunning scenery!

After breakfast at the hotel, follow cycle-paths through Wollongong to the Nan Tien Temple. You have time to look around the temple before heading on to Lake Illawarra.

At the entrance to the lake, the cycle route re-joins the ocean, taking you through beach-side suburbs to the pretty village of Shellharbour. With plenty of cafes and restaurants, this is a great place for a late lunch or snack.

In the afternoon you cross the Minnamurra River and reach the dramatic, roller-coaster landscape around Kiama. This scenery is stunning, and there are some great secret beaches to explore on the way.

Expect to arrive at the lovely resort-town of Kiama around mid to late afternoon, leaving time for a quick cycle around the headland and out to the blowhole.

Finish your tour with a celebratory drink at the Sebel Harbourside Kiama. Australian Cycling Holidays will meet you here with your luggage. From the hotel, it's just a short walk to the train station for the trip back to Sydney.

Photographs: Nan Tien Temple; Lake Illawarra (photo courtesy of Tourism Shellharbour); Arriving in Kiama as the sun sets on a winter's day; The cycle path near Minnamurra River; Kiama Harbour.

