



## Five Rail Trails Cycle Tour 10D 9N

Love the green countryside, beautiful forests and wild seas as you cycle the relaxing Rail Trails of Gippsland Trails.

### Includes:

10 Days cycling: 100% on cycle paths

9 nights accommodation in a mix of motels, studios, farm stay and BnBs.

Bring your own bikes or Option to hire your bike and cycle equipment from us. Electric bikes and bicycle tag alongs and buggies available for children

Water bottle and a snack

Continental Breakfast every day

Roadside assist

Distance 320km

Rating: Easy, fabulous for families too



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Day One

### Cowes to San Remo - 24km Cycle

#### The Ride

- Today's ride is almost completely on cycle paths. It starts quietly with a lovely cycle along Lovers Walk and through the Roberts Reserve home to many wallabies, birds and sometimes koalas.
- Your route then takes you through Phillip Island, past the Chicory and Oast houses and the artworks to the wild Bass Coast beaches.
- After cycling the quiet bay beaches, cross the Narrows on the Phillip Island bridge and arrive at San Remo – home to wonderful fish and chips.

#### We Love

- The Koala park with its boardwalks is a good place to get up close with these cute marsupials. Amaze'n'Things is full of puzzles, optical illusions and a giant maze. It's very fun.

#### Food

- Near Cowes we recommend the historic Silverleaves Café.
- San Remo is a great spot for cafes and fish and chips. There is also plenty here for dinner.

#### Photo Op

- Cape Wollomai is a popular surf spot with locals. It is also home to 1 million shearwater birds. Each year they nest in Australia before flying north to islands off the Alaskan coast. A distance of over 16,000km.



Night One

### Your San Remo Accommodation

Quays Motel

37 Phillip Island Tourist Road

San Remo, VIC 3925

5678 5555

<https://www.quayssanremo.com.au/>



Tonight you will be staying at Quays Motel.

Set opposite the beach and overlooking Western Port Bay and Phillip Island, Quays Motel San Remo offers rooms with free WiFi and free on-site parking. BBQ facilities are also available.

Quays Motel San Remo is close to San Remo town centre, which has a variety of restaurants, shops and cafes.

All rooms have a TV and a kitchenette with a microwave, refrigerator, kettle and a toaster.

The Quays staff are very welcoming and friendly. They are ready and happy to look after you during your stay.

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Day Two

### San Remo to Wonthaggi

#### The Ride

- This section starts on the cycle path out of San Remo towards Anderson. This cycle path is brand new and has wonderful lookouts with sweeping views of Westernport Bay, French Island and Churchill Island
- The cycle path meets the Rail trail at Anderson. From here you cycle towards Kilcunda a coastal town with wild ocean views.
- If you have time there is a bass coast coastal walk along the cliffs near Kilcunda. You can do as much or as little as you wish.
- After Kilcunda, follow the rail trail along the cliffs, through farmland and into Wonthaggi.
- We will collect you and transfer you to Leongatha from Wonthaggi

#### We Love

- Cycling over the Kilcunda trestle bridge and watching the wild surf.

#### Food

- There is food in San Remo, Kilcunda and Wonthaggi. All have lovely Cafes for lunch. Kilcunda has a pub and a cafe general store.

#### Fun Fact

- The Wonthaggi State Coal mine operated between 1909—1968. The mine produced 17million tonnes of coal and the network of tunnels in the mine add up to 5000km underneath Wonthaggi.
- Mine tours operate at 11:30am and 2pm daily.



Night Two

### Your Leongatha Accommodation

Alkira Leongatha Studios

90 McCartin Street Leongatha

0467 274 872

<https://alkira-garden-studio-accommodation-leongatha.business.site/>



Tonight you will be staying at Alkira Leongatha.

Alkira Leongatha are comfy garden studios located close to the town centre. There is ample off street parking and free WiFi. Each studio has an ensuite , ridge and tea and coffee making facilities. Our dining area has a dining table, toaster, microwave, cutlery crockery and kettle

The Leongatha township has supermarkets and shops. There are also restaurants and cafes for breakfast lunch and dinner.

The Gardens are lush and vibrant.

#### Day Three

#### Leongatha to Fish Creek - 35km Cycle

##### The Ride

- The ride out of Leongatha is through wetlands and dairy country to Koonwarra. Give way to cattle and roaming chickens on the trail.
- From Koonwarra your cycle takes you through the beautiful Black Spur over the creeks on the historic bridges. You'll pass through Koonwarra, Meeniyana and Buffalo on your way to Fish Creek.

##### We Love

- Meeniyana was recently awarded best small town in Gippsland. It has an array of cafes, gift shops and places to explore. Meeniyana has a quirky community garden. Which is right next to the rail trail. Local produce is celebrated here and is home to an annual garlic festival.

##### Food

- Koonwarra is a small town with amazing food. The slow food movement started here. The Koonwarra general store has lots of homemade jams, chutneys, cheeses and other local produce as well as tasty lunch menu items.

##### Fun Fact

- The Fish Creek pub has a big mullet (fish) sculpture lying on top of it. The mullet is designed to look like it has been dropped by a sea eagle flying overhead.
- Alison Lester well known Australian Children's Author also has a shop in fish creek.

#### Night Three

#### Your Fish Creek Accommodation

Alkira Fish Creek

9 Lorimer Street Fish Creek VIC

0467 274 872

[https://  
alkirastudioaccommodation-](https://alkirastudioaccommodation-)



Tonight you will be staying at Alkira Fish Creek. This delightful accommodation is right next to the town centre of Fish Creek.

The whole accommodation has been completely refurbished and renovated. There are very comfy beds with quality bed linen, ensuite bathrooms, free WiFi and a basic kitchenette with tea and coffee making facilities.

Fish Creek main street is just a few doors up where there are some cosy cafes and a tasty pub or pizza place for dinner.





### Day Four

#### Fish Creek to Port Welshpool - 37km Cycle

##### The Ride

- Today you will ride from Fish Creek to Port Welshpool along the Rail Trail. If you're looking for an extra scenic challenge you can choose to ride some quiet country roads to Agnes Falls.
- The scenery is stunning in this section, there are magnificent sweeping views to Wilsons Prom National Park.
- You'll pass through Foster, Toora and Welshpool on your way to Port Welshpool. Foster is a small detour off the trail. It is quite a large lovely town with shops and cafes.

##### Side Trip

- OPTION 1: At Toora you have the option of taking a hilly and scenic route from Toora to Welshpool via Agnes Falls instead of the rail trail. It's a challenge but we love this trip!

##### Food

- Foster has great cafes with plenty to choose from. Toora is smaller but also has a couple of tasty cafes. Welshpool has a pub and small takeaway shop. Port Welshpool also has a pub and a great fish and chip shop. No water or food between towns so carry water bottles and snacks

##### Fun Fact

- You'll see the Toora wind Farm as you pass through Toora. Just one turbine is enough to supply 6,660 homes with electricity!



### Night Four

#### Your Leongatha Accommodation

Alkira Leongatha Studios

90 McCartin Street Leongatha

0467 274 872

<https://alkira-garden-studio-accommodation-leongatha.business.site/>



Tonight you will be staying at Alkira Leongatha. Alkira Leongatha are comfy garden studios located close to the town centre. There is ample off street parking and free WiFi. Each studio has an ensuite, fridge and tea and coffee making facilities. Our dining area has a dining table, toaster, microwave, cutlery crockery and kettle

The Leongatha township has supermarkets and shops. There are also restaurants and cafes for breakfast lunch and dinner.

The Gardens are lush and vibrant. There is a BBQ area and also a firepit if you would like to sit outside with a cool afternoon beverage and toast marshmallows!



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### Day Five

#### Mirboo North Grand Ridge Rail Trail 26km (rtn)

##### The Ride

- The little historic town of Mirboo North is high on the Grand Ridge of the beautiful Strzelecki ranges.
- This is a lovely little ride through forests down to Boolarra. At Boolarra there is a great playground and general store.
- Cycle back along the trail to Mirboo North for the afternoon in town.
- Take a walking tour of Mirboo North for the town murals. The murals depict scenes of what country life has been like here over the years.

##### We Love

- Looking out for the little echidnas, wombats and even kangaroos.

##### Food

- At Boolarra there is a local General Store which does a good selection of takeaway food and burgers for lunch.
- In Mirboo North there are several cafes and bakeries to enjoy.
- There is also the Grand Ridge Brewery in Mirboo North. A brewery ahead of its time before the craft beer movement took off. You can see them making the beer from inside the pub. There is a restaurant and beer tastings.

##### Fun Fact

- The name 'Mirboo' is Aboriginal for Kidney!



### Night Five

#### Your Traralgon Accommodation

City Gardens Motel

80 Argyle St, Traralgon , Vic 3844

5174 6066

<https://www.citygardensmotel.com.au>



Tonight you will be staying at City Gardens Motel, which is a lovely friendly hotel located close by the city centre. It is a very friendly place to stay, Owner operated, friendly, clean & comfortable.

The rooms are comfortable and well equipped while the motel is within easy walking distance of Traralgon town centre where there are many restaurants, cafes and shops.



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#### Day Six

#### Traralgon to Heyfield

#### The Ride

- The ride to Glengarry takes you over the picturesque Latrobe River floodplain and four spectacular bridges that have been restored for rail trail use.
- Toongabbie has a Rail Trail General Store, natural wetlands, and a historic cricket pavilion.
- Cycle out of Cowwarr on the Rail Trail and soon you will come to a road diversion to cross the Thomson River. You re-join the Rail Trail soon after and cycle into Heyfield.

#### We Love

- The Cowwarr Butter Factory (c1918) is a magnificent example of Federation Arts & Crafts architecture. The building is Heritage listed and has been transformed into the Cowwarr Art Space. The historic buildings in Cowwarr are worth a cycle tour!

#### Food

- There are general stores along the way today. Glengarry, Toongabbie and Cowwarr all have stores for lunch and snacks. Heyfield has a great playground, several cafes and an IGA.

#### Fun Fact

- In Toongabbie there is the Ned Stringer Memorial. In 1862, Ned was the first to discover gold in the area, which became the start of the gold rush in nearby Walhalla.



#### Night Six

#### Your Heyfield Accommodation

Heyfield Railway Hotel

24 George Street Heyfield Victoria

5148 2694

<http://www.railwayhotelheyfield.com.au/>



Tonight you will be staying at Heyfield Railway Hotel.

The Railway Hotel Heyfield has a rich and proud history in Heyfield, dating back to 1878.

The hotel has recently been fully refurbished. From polished concrete floors, custom made furniture and to a fully painted interior and exterior that we are sure you will love.

The new owners and staff look forward to having a yarn and having you enjoy a cold beer and a scrumptious meal sourced from local produce where possible.



#### Day Seven

**Heyfield to Stratford 28 km + 6km return side trip to Knob Reserve.**

#### The Ride

- Today you will cycle along the rail trail through Tinamba, Maffra and Powerscourt.
- This is a fun cycle through the townships and wide open farmland. There is a lot of local history in the area, so take your time to explore the towns.

#### We Love

- The fantastic Vintage Car museum in Maffra. Open Fri to Mon. The museum started by rescuing local old cars and restoring them.
- Option: In Stratford you can do the 6km return cycle to Knob Reserve.

#### Food

- The old pub in Tinamba is now a 4 star restaurant—it's well worth a look at the historic building even if you don't plan on dining.
- Maffra has many cafes and lovely old buildings and was once the centre of the sugar beet industry in Victoria. A great spot for lunch.
- Stratford has a good selection of cafes, restaurants and a supermarket.

#### Fun Fact

- Knob Reserve was a meeting place used by the five Gunaikurnai clan groups in the area. People gathered here for thousands of years.



#### Night Seven

#### Your Bairnsdale Accommodation

The Riversleigh

1 Nicholson Street, Bairnsdale, VIC 3875

5152 6966

<https://www.riversleigh.com.au/>



Tonight you will be staying at The Riversleigh Bed and Breakfast.

Personalised, attentive service and a sense of tranquil relaxation are among the hallmarks of a stay at The Riversleigh where you'll enjoy the warmth of a country hotel combined with the luxury you expect from contemporary boutique accommodation.

Located in the heart of Bairnsdale on a quiet street over-looking the Mitchell River, The Riversleigh features elegant period fittings with tastefully-appointed modern rooms, providing a unique and very high quality accommodation experience to their guests.





#### Day Eight

#### Bairnsdale to Bruthen - 30km Cycle

##### The Ride

- Today is a relaxing easy ride to Bruthen along the East Gippsland Rail Trail.
- Crossing the Mitchell river at Nicholson, there is a small boats mooring area which is very pretty.
- Bruthen is a lovely historic town with a number of speciality shops, a general store (built in 1860) and the historic post office (built in 1890). Shady gardens with a rotunda and picnic areas are situated beside the town's main street

##### We Love

- Relaxing by the Tambo River in Bruthen. There are lots of places to walk and meander among the shady trees.

##### Food

- The Bullant Brewery in Bruthen is a great spot for lunch or beer tastings.
- The old Bruthen Hotel makes a lovely place for dinner with great views.

##### Fun Fact

- In 1958 an RAAF fighter jet crashed on the outskirts of Bruthen. The plane was travelling from NSW to Sale when the engine 'flamed out'.
- The pilot, Ralph Oborn hit the eject button and escaped with minor injuries. He was the first person to safely eject from a plane in Australia.



#### Night Eight

#### Your Bruthen Accommodation

Bruthen Cottage

39 Great Alpine Rd, Bruthen 3885, Victoria.

0428 556 088

<http://www.bruthencottage.com.au/>



Tonight you will be staying at Bruthen Cottage.

Bruthen cottage is a comfortable three bedroom timber cottage in the country village of Bruthen.

The front verandah overlooks the lush farmland of the Tambo River valley, while the spacious back patio looks into the large private garden.

The freshly renovated cottage has a calm, welcoming feel with polished timber floorboards, contemporary furniture, large living room with fireplace, huge kitchen/ dining room 2 bathrooms, separate toilet and three bedrooms.



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#### Day Nine

#### Bruthen to Tostaree - 37km

##### The Ride

- You will ride from Bruthen to Tostaree on the East Gippsland Rail Trail . If you have some extra energy you can cycle along the Lakes Discovery Trail which can be a little hilly.
- Cycle quietly and you will see wallabies, wombats and other native animals. This ride is quite remote and wild and very enjoyable.
- Ride past the amazing trestle bridges that loom out of the forests.

##### We Love

- Being intrigued by the artwork of Nowa Nowa's arts community. In Nowa Nowa there is a constantly evolving sculpture walk. Other artworks are the Ramsdell Collection at Mingling Waters Café and the famous Nowa Nowa nudes which are now just a memory!

##### Food

- Nowa Nowa is a little town that is evolving to be very interesting. With an original Petrol Station, now a gift shop and café, and the new cafes in town it is a good spot to stop for lunch.

##### Fun Fact

- Tonight you will stay at Tostaree built on the site of an old stage coach inn. There were fruit trees (orange and apples) and flowers to see. Tostaree Railway Station was opened on Monday 10 April 1916 as part of the Orbost Railway Line. The station closed in 1987.



#### Night Nine

##### Your Tostaree Accommodation

Tostaree Cottages Farm Stay

51 Jonsons Road Tostaree

5155 7254

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Bed-and-Breakfast/TosTaree-Cottages->



Tonight you will be staying at Tostaree Farm Stay.

At Tostaree Cottages you be staying on a working farm, surrounded by animals and wild life. The cottages are a perfect place to enjoy the peace and quiet with loved ones.

All cottages are self contained including kitchen and BBQ. We also provide dinner and breakfast. Tostaree Cottages also have a entertainment room that has Karaoke, bar, pool table and a lovely fireplace to sit and enjoy during your stay.





### Day Ten

#### Tostaree to Orbost - 34km Cycle

##### The Ride

- Today you will head towards the end of the East Gippsland Rail Trail. This section has no water or food but is a lovely ride through the bush and gives you a real appreciation of how far away from Melbourne you are.

##### We Love

- Cycling into Orbost and crossing the Snowy River. The Snowy is an iconic Australian River which starts high in the Snowy Mountains. There is a very famous poem by Banjo Paterson called the man From Snowy River.
- The Snowy River Hydro Scheme, upstream in NSW, is the largest engineering project to be undertaken in Australia.

##### Food

- There is no food along the way today. Orbost is a reasonable sized town with lots of tasty cafes and bakeries to enjoy.

##### Fun Fact

- Orbost was first settled in 1842 and originally used for cattle grazing. A township began to develop in the 1870s and it eventually became an important service centre for what has developed into a major cattle and agricultural district.
- In Orbost you can visit the historical Slab Hut – an original 1872 pioneer hut relocated from the upper Snowy River.

#### Onwards After Your Ride

When you finish your ride in Orbost you will be transferred by Snowy River Cycling to Bairnsdale for return to Melbourne





#### What is included

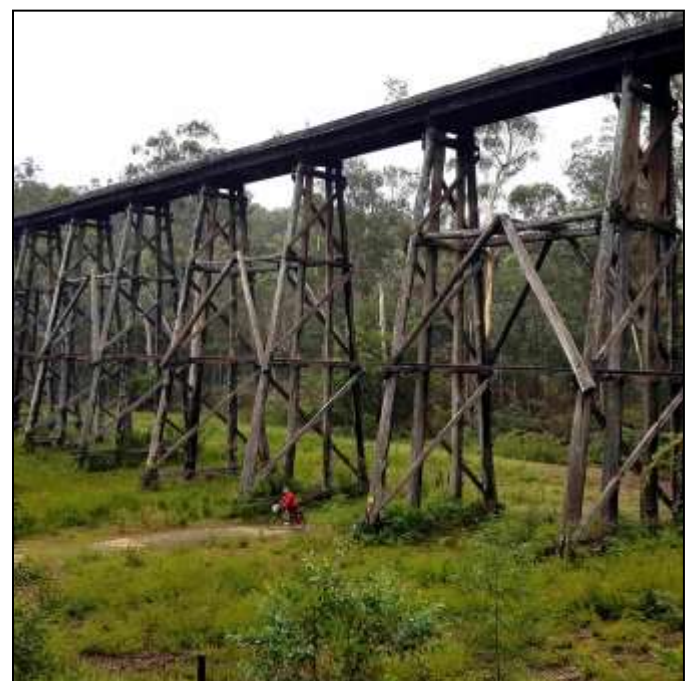
- All accommodation, luggage transfers and continental breakfasts. Maps, ride notes, water bottles
- One dinner at Tostaree Farmstay
- Return transport to Bairnsdale Station for your to take the train to Melbourne Cross Railway station

#### OPTION

- Bike Hire: All adult and children bike hire includes bicycles and helmets if required, locks, handlebar panniers, extra rear pannier if required. Electric Bike Hire available.

#### What to Bring

- Wear shorts or comfortable trousers, t-shirt and covered shoes for cycling.
- Sunscreen, sun-glasses and wet-weather gear.
- Cycling gloves are recommended.
- A jumper for winter; swimmers and small towel for warmer months.
- A small camera, phone, wallet and snacks which can fit into the front panniers.
- Money for lunches, dinner and snacks; money for any attractions and incidental expenses.
- Clothes and accessories for the week. Luggage is limited to 1 bag per person, maximum 12kg.







## Terms and Conditions

The following Terms and Conditions apply for all bookings and tours with Australian Cycling Holidays and are applicable to all participants.

### Bookings

Once we receive your booking request, the following conditions apply:

- Your booking is not confirmed until a deposit of 30% is received.
- Payment in full is required at least 30 days prior to departure. If full payment is not received by the due date, the booking will be automatically cancelled and our Deferrals, Cancellations and Refunds Policy will apply.
- If you are making a booking less than 30 days prior to departure, full payment is required at the time of booking.

### Deferral, Cancellation & Refunds Policy

If you are unable to proceed with the tour as booked, you have the following choices:

1. You may choose to defer your tour to a later date. In this case, the following conditions apply:
  - Notification must be given to Australian Cycling Holidays at least 7 days prior to the tour start date.
  - The tour can be deferred for up to 1 year from the original start date of the tour.
  - Bookings for deferred tours are subject to availability.
  - A deferral fee of \$200 applies each time a tour is deferred.
2. You may choose not to proceed with your tour. In this case, a refund may be made which depends on how much warning you give us prior to the tour start date.
  - More than 30 days prior: 90% of the tour price will be refunded.
  - 7 days to 30 days prior: 70% of the tour price will be refunded.
  - Less than 7 days prior: no money will be refunded.
  - No refunds will be provided once tour commences.

## Other Information

Australian Cycling Holidays acts solely as the agent for securing accommodation and transfers and shall not be held liable in the event of the failure of any person or company to render transfers, accommodation or other service. Australian Cycling Holidays shall not be held liable for any damage, expense or inconvenience outside of its control, such as late arrival, industrial disputes, breakdowns, inclement weather, road closures or Acts of God.

Cycling is a recreational activity which can be dangerous and by agreeing to the Terms and Conditions, participants accept the risks inherent in participating in a cycling tour. Participants must abide by applicable road rules and regulations at all times during the cycling tour.

All participants must be physically healthy to participate in the Tour. By agreeing to these terms and conditions, the participant warrants that they have no medical or other condition which suggests that any participant should not participate in the cycling tour. Australian Cycling Holidays strongly recommends participants have full insurance covering any injury they might suffer, including evacuation costs and medical and hospital treatment.

All cycling participants must be able to ride a bicycle without training wheels, and must be familiar and competent with the use of handlebar brakes. Australian Cycling Holidays reserves the right to refuse service without refund if any cycling participant is unable to demonstrate the ability to cycle proficiently.

Participants are responsible for any damage (other than ordinary wear and tear) to or loss of the bikes and equipment sustained during the tour. Participants should inspect the equipment provided for the tour, and should not participate in the tour unless they are satisfied with the adequacy and condition of the equipment.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information provided in the maps and ride notes is accurate at the time of printing. Details may change without warning, and where possible will be advised to you.

