



brisbane valley rail trail self guided cycle

Welcome to Australian Cycle Tours, specialists in quality self guided and guided cycling experiences in a selection of the most beautiful regions in Australia.

Being locals, we've developed cycling itineraries in the special places of Australia which not only lend themselves to cycle touring, but, which define the quintessential spirit of the landscapes, towns and folk of the region. Our self guided and guided Australian cycling trips are tailored for those seeking an immersive travel experience with special interests, budgets and time

cycle australia your way

constraints central to our planning.

As the pioneers of self-guided active travel in Australia you can expect a seamless experience and expect first-class and flexible support both on and off the trail. Our quality tour notes and logistical expertise sets us apart and ensures a quality experience for you. We've sourced the highest quality bikes and most authentic accommodations so you can enjoy a stress free cycling trip. Our team is passionate about cycling and their extensive knowledge and experience means you get the very best advice - every time.

Ready to discover the real Australia by bike - at your own pace? Join us on one of our flexible and affordable Australian cycling tours.

IMPORTANT NOTES

DN1-Prices are based on standard category rooms. Supplements may apply where the standard category is not available or an upgraded room is required.

DN2-Please note, when we book your accommodation some hotels may request a deposit/full payment to secure your booking. This amount will be payable, in addition to the Australian Cycle Tours deposit. Any extra payments, along with the \$400 AUD deposit, are non-refundable.

DN3-A high season supplement may apply from 1 Dec to 14 Jan. The supplement will depend on availability and will be advised at the time of booking.

TRIP NAME: BRISBANE VALLEY RAIL TRAIL SELF GUIDED CYCLE

TRIP CODE: BVT

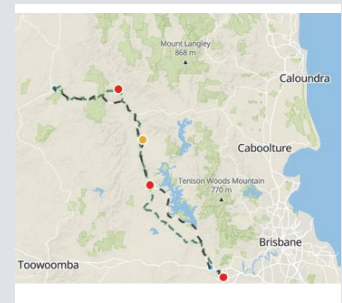
TRIP DURATION: 4 DAYS

GRADE: MODERATE

ACTIVITY: CYCLING

ACCOMMODATION: 4 DAY TRIP, 3 DAYS CYCLING, 3 NIGHTS ACCOMMODATION

DATE DETAILS: DAILY DEPARTURES



highlights

- Enjoy the independence of self-guided cycling with all logistics taken care of for you
- Hassle-free cycling on the dedicated cycle path on the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail
- Appreciate the views of rural Queensland with sweeping valleys and rugged mountains
- Sample beer and bakery treats along the route
- Visit historic towns and villages
- Cycle through classic Australian farming communities

the trip

Between Wulkuraka and Yarraman in southern Queensland is the remnants of the Brisbane Valley rail line, constructed over 29 years between 1884 and 1913. The steam locomotives have long gone, replaced by cyclists following the same path. The conversion of the rail line to a cycle trail took a little less time, about 11 years with completion in 2018, only possible through the dedication and hard work of locals keen to showcase this special region of Australia. At 161km in length, the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail (BVRT) qualifies as the longest rail trail in the country. Our cycle tour starts at the top of the range, giving you an easy start downhill to the plains of the Brisbane Valley and back to Wulkuraka over three days. The cycling is on mixed surfaces of gravel, dirt and asphalt and is achievable for anyone of reasonable fitness and cycling ability. Along the route you'll pass through prime agricultural land, a rugged mountain range and forests of Blackbutt, Hoop Pine and Cedar. Stops at historical townships with good coffee and bakery treats, interesting museums and friendly pubs are all part of the BVRT experience. At night, stay in comfortable accommodation and soak up the atmosphere of country Queensland towns. With all your logistics taken care of including transfers, bike hire, luggage transfers and accommodation bookings, all you need to do is enjoy the cycle day and take in the expansive scenery of this truly outstanding route.





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itinerary at a glance

Day 1	Arrive Ipswich
Day 2 (43km)	Transfer to Yarraman, collect bike then hit the trail for an easy downhill to Linville
Day 3	Cycle south from Linville to Esk with lunch stop in Toogoolawah (54km)
Day 4	Cycle Esk to Wulkuraka via Lowood and Fernvale (67km)

detailed itinerary

DAY 1	Arrive Ipswich On arrival, make your way to your hotel in the centre of town. Ipswich is easy to reach by train from central Brisbane - there are regular services taking 60 minutes. The remainder of the day is free to explore Ipswich. To set the mood for your rail trail experience, why not visit the Workshops Rail Museum with its exhibits of locomotives. You can also visit the art gallery, Queens Park or take in the cafes, restaurants and shops at 'Top of Town' on the historic part of Brisbane Street. Dinner at leisure. meals: NIL
DAY 2	Transfer to Yarraman, collect bike then hit the trail for an easy downhill to Linville (43km) Early this morning (usually at 6.30am sharp during summer/8:30am during winter) you will meet with our local partner for a transfer that will take you from your hotel to the township of Yarraman, the northern end of the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail, approximately two hours north west of Ipswich. The transfer through the Brisbane Valley is a scenic drive through rural areas with sweeping views of the ranges as you cross the Brisbane River along its upper reaches. This is prime agricultural land and even with the ever increasing urban sprawl of Brisbane and Ipswich it still produces a lot of produce for the Brisbane market. By the time we reach the town of Blackbutt the primary reason for the rail systems construction is on display. This is timber country with huge hardwood trees, one species giving its name to the town of Blackbutt, but there are also huge stands of Hoop pine, cedars and other quality timber. The steam locomotives have long gone and are now replaced by cyclists following the same path. Our cycle tour starts at the top of the range giving you an easy start downhill to the plains of the Brisbane Valley and back to Wulkuraka over three days. Today you cycle from Yarraman to Linville. An ideal lunch spot is in Blackbutt which is only a leisurely 19km along the trail, and has a terrific bakery selling pies. Continuing from here, the route takes you down into the Benarkin State Forest, a scenic section of the trail with impressive views. At the foot of the ranges is the small town of Linville, with its historic station and railway carriages a reminder that you are on an old rail trail. Overnight Linville ascent: 182m, descent: 478m *The transfer this morning is from your hotel in Ipswich. If you have your car and prefer to drive to Wulkuraka, you can be picked up from the trailhead carpark instead, located at 163 Grace Street, Wulkuraka. The drive between Ipswich and Wulkuraka is less than 10 minutes. This option means that when you finish on day 4 you will be able to drive straight from Wulkuraka rather than first catching the train back to Ipswich. Please let us know if you prefer this option at the time of booking. meals: NIL



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DAY 3 Cycle south from Linville to Esk with lunch stop in Toogoolawah (54km)

From Linville you still have around 128 kilometres of the 161km trail to cover and today you'll be cycling to Esk passing through the towns of Moore and Toogoolawah. Along the way you will notice a number of sign-posted locations that were once rail stops but now stand as little more than punctuation marks on a rail history long gone. The township of Moore is just 7 kilometres from your start in Linville this morning and is an ideal place to stop for a coffee. You'll then pass through the heritage listed Yimbun Tunnel, the only tunnel constructed on the entire line and a classic photo opportunity. The township of Toogoolawah is a further 27km from Moore and conveniently located as a great lunch and rest spot. You can spend a little time exploring this classic Queensland country town before heading off on the last leg for the day - a further 19 kilometres to Esk. The small town of Esk has become popular with day-trippers from Brisbane, Ipswich and surrounding areas. Esk is the gateway town into the region and most people stop here for a bite to eat at one of the great cafes, to browse the shops or to simply take a break before heading north. Just west of the town are the eastern slopes of the Great Dividing Range rising to the Ravensbourne National Park and a number of cyclists and others have reported deer sightings in their travels which explains some of the deer paraphernalia you may see in town. Overnight Esk.

ascent: 242m, descent: 270m

meals: **B**

DAY 4 Cycle Esk to Wulkuraka via Lowood and Fernvale (67km)

This is the last day in the saddle but with around 65 kilometres remaining you still have some great cycling ahead. If you are looking for good coffee and a big breakfast Esk won't disappoint. There are a couple of great cafes that open early and welcome cyclists. The whole rail trail enterprise has been warmly welcomed by businesses in the region who have seen not only the economic benefits of rail tourism but also how it has raised the profile of the region.

From Esk you will spend the day cycling back to Wulkuraka. It is an easy ride along well maintained cycle trails passing through the towns of Coominya, a possible morning tea stop, then onto Lowood and Fernvale. Each town has a range of lunch break options. On arrival in Wulkuraka, you will be met for the bike and luggage handover, then the trip will conclude. From Wulkuraka it's an easy train trip back to Ipswich or into Brisbane.

If you would prefer to be transferred back to Ipswich after the bike handover in Wulkuraka please let us know and this can be arranged.

ascent: 297m, descent: 377m

meals: **NIL**

additional deposits

Please note, when we book your accommodation some hotels may request a deposit/full payment to secure your booking. We will notify you if this is the case. This amount will be payable, in addition to the World Expeditions deposit. Any extra payments, along with the \$400 deposit, are non-refundable.

inclusions

- 1 breakfast (continental style)
- 3 nights accommodation in hotels and motels on a twin share basis with private facilities on most nights
- Mountain bike hire including a helmet, bike lock, back rack with one side pannier, water bottle holder, hand pump, repair kit (electric bikes can be hired for an additional supplement)
- Luggage transfers on cycle days - please ensure you have no more than one piece per person weighing 15kgs max (excess luggage can be left at the hotel in Ipswich)
- Route notes & maps available to download and use on your phone
- GPS information
- Transfer Ipswich to Yarraman
- Bike return on last day





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items not included

- Travel to/from Ipswich and Wulkuraka
- Accommodation before or after the trip
- Travel insurance
- Most meals
- Phone handlebar mount
- Water bottle

getting there

BY CAR

Ipswich and Wulkuraka are located just over 40km south west of Brisbane city. You can leave your car in Wulkuraka where non secured spots are available. You can also leave your car in Ipswich, either on the street or at your hotel (fees apply). There is also a Secure Parking in Ipswich where you can book and leave your car: <https://www.secureparking.com.au/en-au/car-parks/australia/qld/38-limestone-street-ipswich-car-park/>

If you have your car you may prefer to drive to Wulkuraka early on the morning of day 2 so you can be picked up from the train station instead of your hotel in Ipswich. The drive between Ipswich and Wulkuraka is less than 10 minutes. This option means that when you finish on day 4 you will be able to drive straight from Wulkuraka rather than first catching the train back to Ipswich. Please let us know if you prefer this option at the time of booking.

BY TRAIN

Ipswich is an hour by train from Brisbane Central. As Ipswich is a commuter town, there are regular services from early in the morning until late in the evening. For timetable information, see translink.com.au

BY AIR

The nearest airport with regular services is Brisbane Airport. From the airport there are shuttle services to Ipswich. See <https://www.theairportflyer.com.au/service-regions/ipswich-brisbane-west>

trip grading - Moderate

This self guided trip involves 3 days of undulating, dedicated cycle trails. Daily cycling distance varies from 43km to 67km. The Rail Trail is usually gently undulating, with a few longer ascents that on completion you are rewarded with stunning views. The Rail Trail path is shared between walkers and horse riders, but is free from road traffic. The trail surface is made up of either gravel or dirt which can sometimes be soft and therefore requires care. Some short sections are more challenging as the gravel is coarse and rocky, and there are steep gulleys where it is recommended that you dismount your bike. The trail is best suited to mountain bikes - we provide hard tail mountain bikes, or you can pay a supplement for an e-bike.

trip organisation

The great thing about a self-guided holiday is that there is no typical day - you set the tone for the day and travel at your own pace.

Cycle at a leisurely pace and have a long lunch break to enjoy the natural beauty around you or challenge yourself to reach your destination quickly to relax and explore the local towns, the choice is yours.

equipment provided

Hardtail Mountain Bike

The bicycles we provide are a Hardtail Mountain Bike and are available in a range of sizes. You will be supplied with a helmet, bike lock, bike rack with one side pannier, basic repair kit, and a water bottle cage affixed to the bike. Generally, we use TREK Marlin 6 bikes as they are best suited to the trail. It is not possible to attach your own seat or pedals to the bikes provided.

Electric Bike





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Electric Bikes are available for hire at an additional cost and are available in a range of sizes. You will be supplied with the same accessories as with standard mountain bike hire. Generally, we use TREK Allant 7+ Low Step E-bike. It is not possible to attach your own seat or pedals to the bikes provided.

a note on our self guided adventures

Self guided cycling requires individuals to use problem solving skills, be adaptable and have a keen eye. On self guided cycling tours it is expected that you will know how to repair punctures and make minor adjustments to gears, handlebars and seats. For anything more serious, our local partner will be able to assist. It is recommended that you are comfortable map reading, referring to route notes and that you have a good sense of direction (or are willing to work on improving this!) Sometimes route finding, losing your way, finding it again and asking the locals for help is all part of the adventure. If you've never been on a self guided trip, after the first couple of days you will get the hang of it as the vast majority of our first time travellers attest. Please be assured that our route material issued to you for route finding is updated regularly and we provide a 7 day service hotline in the event of any problems. Using directions and maps can be more difficult for solo travellers as often two heads are better than one when it comes to finding your way. There is a certain level of the unknown that comes with self guided trips, however with a methodical approach potential problems will be averted. The freedom of a self guided cycling trip is something that, once experienced, is sought time and time again.

joining instructions

On day 1 you will need to make your own way to Ipswich.

accommodation

pre tour

Talk to our team if you require assistance with booking accommodation before or after your trip. We are able to book you a night in Ipswich if you'd like to arrive the day before the cycle trip begins.

during tour

You'll spend 3 nights in clean and comfortable 2-3 star hotels. The rooms are spacious, clean, double/twin rooms, most of which have ensuite facilities (the only option in Lenville has shared bathrooms). The hotels are well located, close to town and the bike path.

the region

If you are travelling in Australia during the months of August and November you may encounter some swooping magpies. Only a small percentage of magpies will swoop during the mating season and they generally only protect a small area.

Areas with swooping magpies are generally signposted and it is recommended that you walk rather than cycle through these areas.

Some people will attach reflective streamers to their helmet during the months of August to November. A PieProof helmet is provided at no extra charge during magpie season.

fast facts

CLIMATE

The climate in southern Queensland is generally mild to warm and temperate, with significant rain fall. Summer temperatures are around 30 degrees Celsius during the day, with evenings dropping to around 18 degrees Celsius. Winters can fall to 5 degrees Celsius minimums particularly on the range and have around 15-20 degrees Celsius maximums on average. The driest month is July, while the wettest month is January. While the trail can be cycled throughout the year, the summer months may be very hot at times and wet. In severe weather conditions, the trail may be closed to cyclists.



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MIN GROUP SIZE 1

MAX GROUP SIZE 10

SPECIALIST GEAR REQUIRED A specialist gear list will be provided on the confirmation of your booking. This will detail what clothing and equipment is required for your adventure.

luggage

Your luggage will be transferred in between each hotel. Please keep your luggage to one bag per person, that weighs less than 15kg. Any excess luggage needs to be left at your hotel in Ipswich.

You luggage will be delivered to your next hotel in the afternoon of each cycle day.

private groups

The adventures featured in our brochure, and on our website, are just a starting point for many of our private group travellers. We can organise custom designed itineraries for groups of friends, clubs, charity's, schools or even work colleagues. Our staff will assist you with all aspects of your private group adventure. Contact our office today.

how to book

You can book your trip online or if you prefer, downloaded a paper booking form from our website. On completion please email or post the form, along with your non-refundable deposit, to Australian Cycle Tours or your nearest World Expeditions office. If you have any questions please contact our team.

AUSTRALIAN CYCLE TOURS

1300 767 381

WORLD EXPEDITIONS:

Australia: 1300 720 000

United Kingdom: 0800 0744 135

New Zealand: 0800 350 354

Canada and USA: 1 800 567 2216

e-newsletter

Never miss a deal or new trip release! To keep up to date with our range of exciting Australian cycling opportunities head to our website to subscribe to our e-newsletter!

IMPORTANT NOTE

THE ABOVE ITINERARY IS TO BE TAKEN AS A GUIDE ONLY. INCLEMENT WEATHER, YOUR FITNESS AND A NUMBER OF OTHER FACTORS MAY INFLUENCE THE PLANNED ITINERARY CAUSING DELAYS AND VARIATIONS. ON GUIDED TRIPS THE GROUP LEADER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE MODIFICATIONS AND OR ALTERATIONS TO THE TRIPS ITINERARY IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF ALL INVOLVED.