

Bike the Victorian Rail Trails

Saturday 25 April to Tuesday 5 May, 2026 | 10 nights



TOUR OVERVIEW

Pack your gear, join a small group and hit the rail trails for a gourmet back country cycling adventure. You will take in the delights of Northeastern Victoria's remote, rural towns steeped in the history of Australian folklore. Staying in small, friendly places along the way, you will enjoy top quality regional cuisine and award winning wines. The trails are well established, and the gradients are kind, making it ideal for both experienced and not-so-experienced cyclists. It's not a race, and the emphasis is on stopping to smell the roses – or rather to sample the wine, cheese or olive oil! This is the land of vineyards, tobacco, hops, berries and bakeries. The abundance of local produce is just waiting to be sampled. Visit the historic town of Beechworth, the gourmet hub, Milawa in the King Valley and the alpine resort town of Bright. Enjoy exclusive wine tastings, farm gate visits and superb award-winning restaurants.

The second part of the ride is on the Great Victorian Rail Trail which winds its way between the country towns of Mansfield and Tallarook. Alongside the Goulburn River, the trail takes you through country towns and over Lake Eildon. You will cycle past some spectacular high country mountain scenery, rich farmland brimming with birdlife and magnificent stands of ancient red gums.



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TOUR INCLUSIONS

- The services of an experienced New Zealand based Calder & Lawson tour manager
- Economy flights Auckland to Melbourne return
- 10 nights' accommodation (twin share)
- Meals as specified in the itinerary
- All group transfers
- Admissions as detailed in the itinerary
- Pre-tour material
- Electric bike hire

TOUR EXCLUSIONS

- Domestic travel to Auckland. (We are very happy to help book flights if required at an additional cost)
- Travel insurance
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Beverages during included meals, unless specified
- Airline taxes
- Surcharge of 1.5% on credit card payments for Visa/Mastercard (3% on American Express)
- Personal expenses

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Safe and stress-free cycling on the dedicated cycle paths of the iconic Murray to Mountains Rail Trail and Great Victorian Rail Trail
- Sample delicious local wine and gourmet food in one of Australia's most popular regions
- Visit and stay in historic towns and villages
- Soak in the lovely countryside of rolling hills, distant snow-capped mountains, lakes and rivers
- Enjoy the camaraderie of small group cycling with all logistics taken care of for you

TOUR MANAGER: ANNEMARIE ROBB

Annemarie has traveled widely and is always looking for the next adventure. She is a 'people person' and natural story-teller and loves the camaraderie that travel brings. Her interests are wide and varied from biking, tramping, kayaking, and the theatre and the arts. Annemarie has a lively sense of humour and her zest for fun and life in general is infectious.



TOUR PRICE

Twin share per person \$8,990

Single supplement \$1,290

The above prices are in NZ dollars and include economy flights to Melbourne from Auckland.

Please contact Calder & Lawson Tours if you are interested in a single room.

If you are a single traveller looking to share a room, please let us know, and we may be able to find a suitable person willing to share.

GROUP SIZE Minimum 10, maximum 18

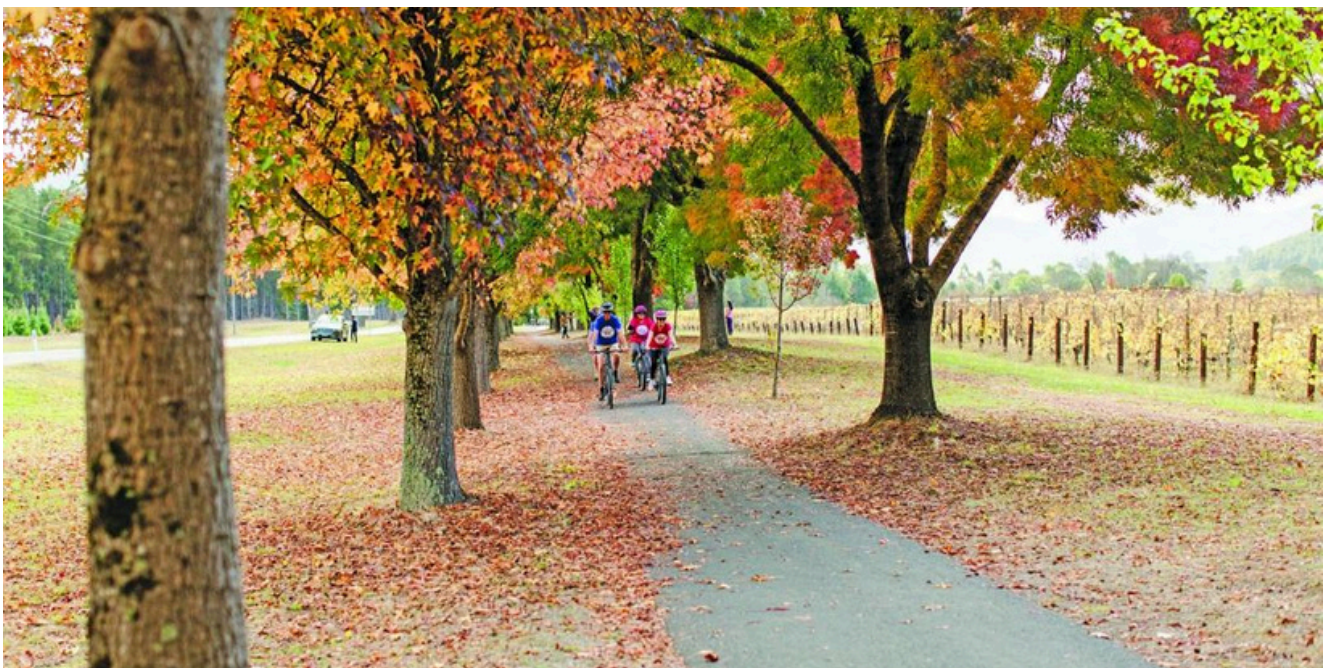
VARIATIONS IN TRAVEL We can make arrangements for any travel you would like to do before or after this tour, or book business class flights. Please contact us to discuss your requirements.

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK ONLINE](#)

IS THIS TOUR FOR ME?

This tour will appeal to those who would like to experience beautiful scenery while getting some exercise on a bike with plenty of stops to try the local food and wine of the Victorian area. The cycling on this tour is graded as easy to moderate, and most of the trail surface is either paved trails or compacted gravel, so it is easy to ride on. The terrain is mostly flat, and the uphill gradients are easy to handle, especially on an e-bike. It is important that you have had recent practice on different terrains (not just roads and footpaths). E-bike rental is included in your package. We strongly recommend that if you do not have recent practice and experience riding an e-bike, you do so before joining the tour, as they require different skills than conventional bikes.

The tour is planned for the autumn, so you should be able to enjoy the fall colours of the area.



DAILY ITINERARY

Saturday 25 April , 2026
Auckland - Melbourne -
Beechworth

Coach: 3 hours
Meals: D
Overnight: Beechworth

Fly from Auckland to Melbourne arriving late morning and then travel north by coach to Beechworth.

The historic town of Beechworth is your starting point, and the perfect place to start your journey. While it retains much of its 1850's charm and façade, Beechworth has undergone serious change in the past 10 years. A growing gourmet scene has emerged, featuring chef-hatted restaurants, a burgeoning coffee scene, and even a wine bar, alongside traditional country pubs and the renowned Beechworth Bakery.

Upon arrival at Beechworth, you will check into your accommodation and there will be time to explore the town, with its historic buildings and stories of Ned Kelly and the Gold Rush of the 1850s. This evening, you will enjoy your first of many treats with a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Sunday 26 April
Beechworth to Yack

Meals: B/L
Overnight: Beechworth

Cycle the Murray to Mountains rail trail's new extension to delightful Yackandandah, where you enjoy a Gin Distillery tour and tasting with lunch. Transfer back to Beechworth. You have a free evening to check out Beechworth.

Trail Composition:

Tar sealed bike path, hard packed gravel, shared country road and boardwalks

Biking:

25km

Monday 27 April
Beechworth to Milawa

Meals: B/L/D
Overnight: Milawa

Riding the Rail Trail from Beechworth is a delight, with the first 15 kilometres downhill! Enjoy wine tasting stops along the way and a well earned lunch at the lovely Sam Miranda Winery. Arriving in Milawa, there are a variety of produce venues to visit, including the Milawa Mustard Factory. You will finish with dinner at a local restaurant.

Trail Composition:

Tar sealed bike path, hard packed gravel and sealed country road.

Biking notes:

Total distance 35km
Elevation gain +50m/- 350m

DAILY ITINERARY

Tuesday 28 April

Milawa – Myrtleford

Meals: B/L/D

Overnight: Myrtleford

Today's cycling rejoins the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail and takes you from the King Valley into the lush greens of the Alpine Valley, on the way to charming Myrtleford. You will tackle a hill at Taylors Gap, on the way to Myrtleford. It's a slightly longer day of riding, broken up with a lunch and wine tasting at Gapstead Winery. Leaving Milawa, you initially retrace your path back to Everton, then rejoin the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail, heading to Myrtleford. Enjoy the stunning scenery down the Alpine Valley and of Mt Buffalo as you make your way to your overnight stop.

Trail Composition:

Tar sealed bike path, hard packed gravel and sealed country road.

Biking Notes:

Total distance 43 kms

Elevation gain +208m /- 350m

Wednesday 29 April

Myrtleford – Bright

Meals: B/L

Overnight: Bright

Today starts with a very brief cycle to your hearty breakfast at a local café, the first of several stops today on your cycle ride to Bright. Following the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail, it's an easier day on the bike, with more frequent stops. Just past Myrtleford, following the trail, is the Myrtleford Pumpkin Seed Factory, a recommended visit. Continue along the trail where stunning views of Mt Buffalo await you, coupled with a superb gourmet platter lunch. It's a gorgeous cycle into Bright, with optional stops at the Rail Trail café (amazing cakes) and the Bright Brewery upon arrival into town.

Trail Composition:

Tar sealed bike path

Biking notes:

Total distance 30 kms

Elevation gain +208m /- 350m

Thursday 30 April

Bright to Harrietville (return)

Meals: B/D

Overnight: Bright

Ride from Bright to Harrietville and return today on a 27km (each way) fully sealed path following the Ovens River passing trout farms, historic diggings and charming picnic spots.

Trail Composition:

Tar sealed bike path.

Biking notes:

Total distance 54km

Elevation gain : minimal

DAILY ITINERARY

Friday 1 May

Bright - Mansfield - Bonnie Doon

Meals: B/D

Coach: 2hrs

Overnight: Bonnie Doon

Start your journey with a transfer to Mansfield nestled in the foothills of the Victorian Alps and surrounded by grazing land and mountain forests, Mansfield boasts a number of interesting historical buildings that date back to its time as a stock route camp and gold mining town. This afternoon, you will commence riding the Great Victorian Rail Trail. Start your journey with an easy ride to Bonnie Doon. You will pass through the small town of Mairdample, where you may wish to stop at the Mairdample Whistle Stop, a resting place in a local couple's garden that offers cold drinks and shelter out of the sun. Cycle across the impressive 385-metre bridge over Lake Eildon. Bonnie Doon was immortalised in the hilarious Australian classic movie "The Castle" and is a cute lakeside town.

Trail Composition:

Tar sealed bike path

Biking notes:

Total distance 21 kms

Elevation gain +105m /- 141m

Saturday 2 May

Bonnie Doon - Alexandra

Meals: B

Overnight: Alexandra

Today you set off through farming country, cycling past rocky outcrops, livestock and open farmlands. Merton Gap is the highest point on the trail, and the spectacular views from the top are well worth the climb. From here it's a long gentle descent all the way to Yarck, where you can stop for a lunch break. Continuing the ride there is one more gentle climb before you head into the scenic country town of Alexandra which recently celebrated it's 150 year anniversary.

Trail Composition:

Mostly hard packed gravel

Biking notes:

Total distance 58 kms

Elevation gain +348m /- 429m

Sunday 3 May

Alexandra - Yea

Meals: B/L/D

Overnight: Yea

Today you head to the historic and thriving town of Yea. This area is a rich pastoral and dairy farming region, with the Yea River flowing around the town. There are a couple of small climbs this morning out of Alexandra, for which you are rewarded at Eglington Gap, with outstanding views back over Alexandra and the hinterland. From here, you have a long, gentle descent to Molesworth. Further along, you will come to the 201-metre-long Cheviot Tunnel, the longest trail tunnel in Victoria. It was constructed from 675,000 handcrafted bricks made on site with local clay in 1889. The town has many historical buildings from the 19th century in good condition, and worth a visit.

Trail Composition:

Mostly hard packed gravel

Biking notes:

Total distance 37 kms

Elevation gain +279m /- 320m

DAILY ITINERARY

Monday 4 May

Yea - Tallarook - Melbourne

Meals: B/L/D

Overnight: Melbourne

Today's ride follows the Goulburn River to Tallarook. Fuel up with breakfast, included at your accommodation. You will ride next to the heritage-classified Goulburn River, passing through the Trawool Valley. This is a region that has been painted by many of the famous Australian painters in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, in particular Tom Roberts, Arthur Streeton and Frederick McCubbin. Towards the end of the route there are particularly fine views, and it is worthy of a stop to enjoy the beautiful Goulburn River. You will ride into the quiet town of Tallarook, nestled at the foot of the magnificent Tallarook Ranges.

In the late afternoon, you will catch the train back to Melbourne. Upon arrival in Melbourne, check into your hotel and then enjoy a farewell dinner.

Trail Composition:

Mostly hard packed gravel

Biking notes:

Total distance 39 kms

Elevation gain +285m /- 282m

Tuesday 5 May

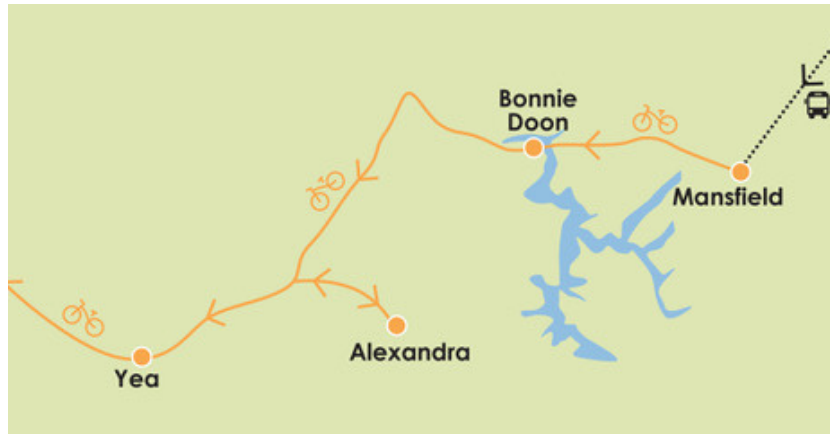
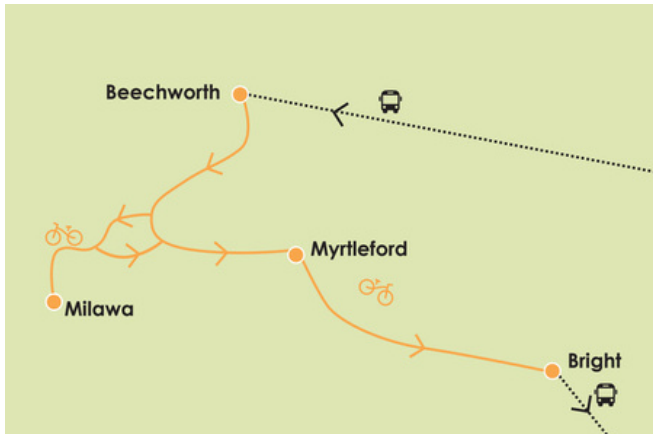
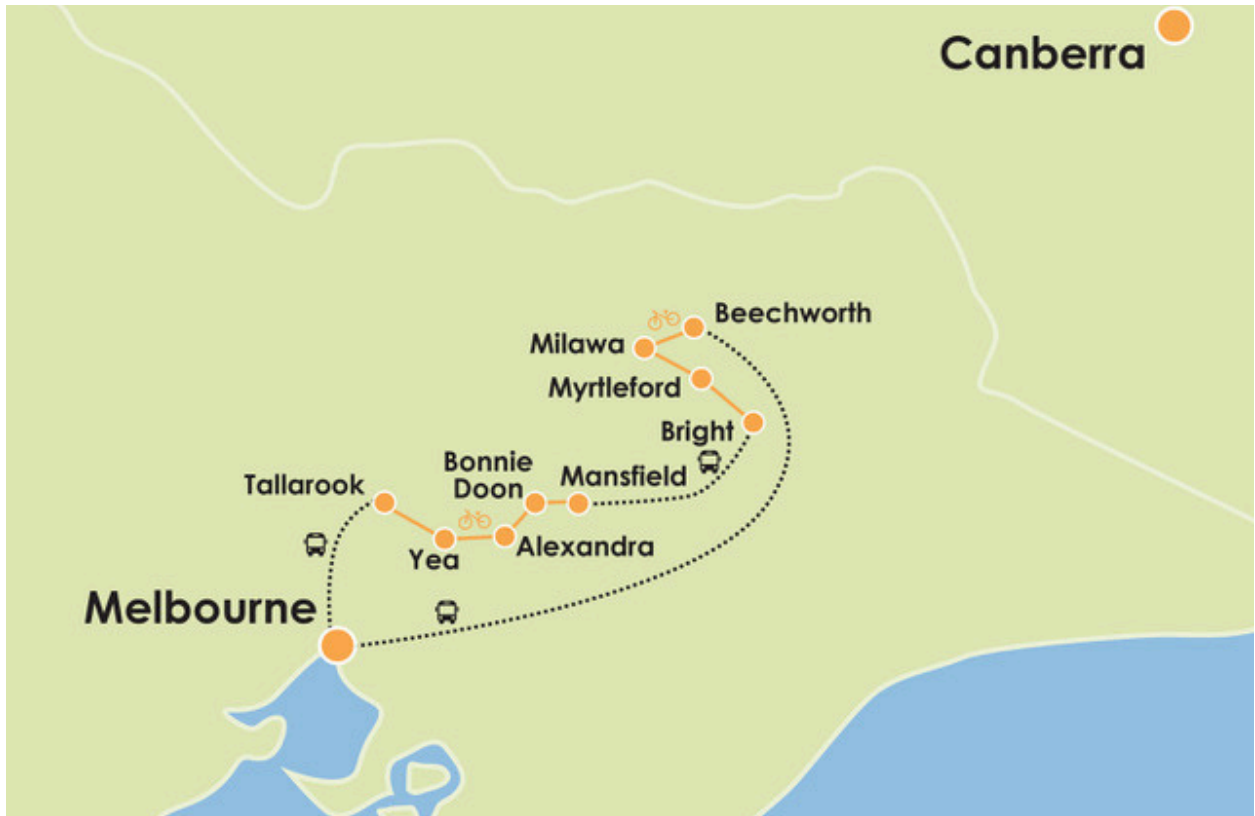
Melbourne to Auckland

Meals: B/in flight

Check out and transfer to the airport for your homebound flight or choose to extend your stay in Australia. The Calder & Lawson Tours team can help arrange extensions and activities for you



MAP



HOW TO SECURE YOUR PLACE ON THIS TOUR

A deposit of \$1,000 is required to secure your place on the tour. This deposit becomes non-refundable once the tour has reached minimum numbers and becomes a confirmed departure.

Click below to complete the online registration form, pay the \$1,000 deposit, and your place on this tour is secured. Or you can complete a paper registration form. You can download one from our website www.calderandlawsonstours.co.nz/forms or give us a call and we will email or post one to you.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Can be found on our website www.calderandlawsonstours.co.nz/forms, on the back of the paper registration form, or on the summary page when you complete an online registration. There is a 1.5% surcharge if you pay by Visa or MasterCard or 3% for American Express.

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