

Great Ocean & Otway Classic Ride

Course Description:

This magnificent ride begins in the heart of Torquay, at Elephant Walk Reserve right on the Torquay foreshore. Starting on the flat, cyclists will have a very gentle climb as they make their way from the water's edge out of town and onto the Great Ocean Road, where they will ride past Torquay Golf Club, before turning onto Anglesea Road.

Within 10km cyclists will be pedalling along quiet roads winding their way between the fields and flat open lands that sit behind Torquay. After a few rolling hills, cyclists will roll into the first refreshment stop located at Moriac, approx 25km from the start. This quiet little town, comprised of a general store will have a drink stop and toilet facilities for those requiring a quick break.

From here cyclists will travel along an open stretch of the ride, taking in Lake Modewarre and Wurdiboluc Reservoir. Heading towards the town of Birregurra, the rolling fields continue as a few more hills are introduced as the road twists and turns and gently climbs towards Deans Marsh (75km). Just prior to Deans Marsh there is a wonderful decent that arrives just in time to give those legs a well earned rest.

On entering Deans Marsh there will be another refreshment stop and toilet break. Boasting plenty of water and snacks this refreshment stop will provide enough sustenance to get you over the hill and into Lorne. The town also has a well stocked general store and cafe, so additional supplies can also be purchased should you require them.

After Deans Marsh the ride takes cyclists on a climb to the top of the Otway Ranges. Along the way there are quaint farm cottages, plenty of dairy cattle and a fantastic vista of the rolling hills as you climb your way to the top of the mountain! Once you have ridden through this section of Victoria you will realise why the Otways are considered one of the State's best kept secrets.

On reaching the top of the range, the course flattens out for a couple of kilometers, prior to the decent into Lorne. As you reach the peak of the range you should feel a great sense of achievement – you have just climbed to 440m above seas level.

The decent to Lorne is a fantastic experience. The road corkscrews down towards the sea, with the flora changing from native eucalypts and pines to ferns in a rainforest setting. For those wanting a rest once you start the decent there is little/no need to pedal until you arrive in Lorne – just sit back and enjoy the view.

Care needs to be taken on this section of the course as the sharp corners and slope of the descent can catch cyclists of guard.

At the bottom of the hill, cyclists have the option of turning right and pedalling about 500m to arrive in the heart of Lorne. At just over half way, Lorne is the ideal spot for an extended rest and some food and refreshments, with numerous cafes and food outlets to satisfy your every desire. Alternatively there will be a well stocked refreshment station on the Lorne foreshore, next to the life saving club, so why not come on down, relax on the grass, while you refuel and take in the beautiful view that spans out in front of you. If you are still full of energy then turn left at the bottom of the hill and continue onto the next magnificent stretch of road.

Heading out of Lorne, cyclists will ride along one of the most scenic parts of coast in the world – The Great Ocean Road. Taking in breath taking views of the ocean as it crashes against the coast, cyclists will make their way along this rugged stretch of land through Fairhaven, Airey's Inlet and on to Anglesea, where another refreshment stop will be provided.

From Anglesea to Torquay the road goes slightly inland with some terrific rolling hills – nice and gentle on the legs after 125km on the bike. On entering Torquay, there is a nice little descent that takes you to the main roundabout at the bottom end of the town. Here you will turn right and cycle the remaining 1km to the finish line.

On arriving at Elephant Walk Reserve, cyclists will cross the finish line to the cheer of the crowd. Once you have crossed the finish line, we invite you to enjoy the surroundings and soak in the atmosphere of the event. There will be bike racks where you can leave your bike, while you grab something to eat, listen to the band, check out the sponsor displays and cheer on your friends and fellow riders as they cross the finish line.