



# QUEENSLAND RAIL TRAILS

The Longest Rail Trail Ride in Australia  
3-8 Sep 2024

Photo: Tourism and Events Queensland

## The linking of two great trails

With the recent link route being completed between the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail and the South Burnett Rail Trail, we now have a 309km continuous ride through the beautiful Southeast Queensland Hinterland. On this September departure (what a great time to be in Queensland!) you get quality accommodation, great food, top class support and two of the best rail trails in the state.

Experience the wonderful highlights of the region with hardly an ounce of organisational effort on your part.

## The tour at a glance

**Dates:** 3-8 Sep 2024 (6 days)

**Distance:** 309km

**Bike Type:** Mountain bike preferred

**Accom:** Quality country motels

**Weather:** Sep monthly average is low to mid 20's

**Difficulty Rating:** 6/10

**Average Daily:** 52km

**E-bike:** Great ride for MTB e-bike

**Meals:** All breakfasts, morning teas and 4 dinners

**Group Size:** Small group tour, usually 10-20

**Terrain / Surface:** Easy rail gradients with a few obstacles and some gully crossings. Asphalt, compact gravel, stones, occasional sand and water, plus some quiet backroads and fire trails.

**Who is this tour for?** Cyclists looking for a warm break at the end of winter, a relaxing cycling experience with very little traffic and great scenery.

## Why we love it

- Lots of traffic free cycling
- A magical Queensland end-of-winter getaway!
- Winery visit
- Full support on and off the trail
- Achievable distances with long and short ride options
- Ensuite accommodation
- Beautiful Southeast Queensland Hinterland scenery
- Tour Guide and mechanical assistance
- Ride as much as you like, use the support vehicle if needed
- Unmatched AllTrails camaraderie and service

## Join AllTrails in 2024 on a mid-winter cycling break in Queensland



### Getting to and from the tour

With easy transfers to and from Brisbane city, all you need to do is get yourself to Brisbane...then leave the rest to us.

#### Arriving:

AllTrails transfer from Brisbane. The easiest way is to get yourself to Brisbane anytime on Mon 2 Sep and stay at (or near) our tour hotel (see Optional Extras). We will meet at Royal on the Park Hotel at approx 6:30am on Tue 3 Sep for a 7:00am bus departure to Kilkivan.

#### Departing:

Our bus will head back to Brisbane after the last day's ride on Sun 8 Sep, arriving approx 4:00pm, with a drop off at our tour hotel - Royal on the Park. We are holding a few rooms if you would like to stay here the night (see Optional Extras). It is possible to fly out of Brisbane that evening but we suggest evening flights after 7:00pm (and make sure that you have travel insurance to cover unforeseen circumstances).



## Pricing and payment information

Booking AUD	Until 3 Jun 2024	After 3 Jun 2024
Twin share	\$2990 pp	\$3090 pp
Single room	\$3490	\$3590

### Included:

- Ensuite accommodation (5 nights)
- Winery visit
- Daily maps and directions
- Bike mechanical assistance
- All breakfasts, morning teas and 4 dinners
- Snacks, water and fruit on the road
- Full-time guide support and safety vehicle
- Rider Pack: jersey, bottle, bag

### Payment Schedule:

- Deposit on booking (\$400)
- Progress Payment 30 days after deposit (40% of package cost less deposit paid)
- Balance 3 July (60 days before the tour begins)

### Travelling on your own

We often have cyclists come on our rides who are travelling alone. If so, you may pay the Single Supplement price to have your own room, or you can put your name on our 'Twin Share Request List'. If we have another solo twin share traveller of the same gender, we will pair you in twin share accommodation – if we cannot find you a match, the single room price will apply which will give you your own room for the entire tour. Contact us anytime to have a chat and check twin share availability – we may already have a match for you.

### Travelling with friends

\$50 pp discount for groups of 3 or more cyclists.

### Optional Extras

**Brisbane pre-tour accommodation.** Mon 2 Sep incl. breakfast \$215 single, \$245 twin/double.

**Brisbane post-tour accommodation.** Sun 8 Sep incl. breakfast \$215 single, \$245 twin/double.

**Transfer of bike between Melbourne and tour start/end.** In our AllTrails vehicles (contact for more info) \$70 e/w.

**Carriage of hard bike case or unfoldable bike bag (pending vehicle capacity)** from start of ride to finish \$60.

**Carriage of soft foldable bike bag** from start of ride to finish \$18.

**Carriage of collapsible cardboard bike carton** free of charge.

## Itinerary

Daily distances are set out below. Shorter distances and support vehicle also available.

Meals and Accommodation inclusions: Breakfast = B, Morning Tea = MT, Lunch = L, Dinner = D, Accommodation = A

Daily Ride	Overnight	Distance	Date	B	MT	L	D	A
Kilkivan to Murgon	Kingaroy	45km	Tue 3 Sep 2024	-	MT	-	D	A
Murgon to Kingaroy	Kingaroy	44km	Wed 4 Sep 2024	B	MT	-	-	A
Kingaroy to Yarraman	Yarraman	56km	Thu 5 Sep 2024	B	MT	-	D	A
Yarraman to Moore	Esk	49km	Fri 6 Sep 2024	B	MT	-	D	A
Moore to Esk	Esk	48km	Sat 7 Sep 2024	B	MT	-	D	A
Esk to Wulkuraka		67km	Sun 8 Sep 2024	B	MT	-	-	-
	<b>Total Distance Cycled</b>	<b>309km</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Average Daily Distance</b>	<b>52km</b>						



# Day to Day

## Kilkivan to Murgon 45km

**Day 1.** Our ride begins at the start of the South Burnett Rail Trail in the small country town of Kilkivan, where we will arrive mid-morning after transferring from Brisbane. After a lovely morning tea we ready our bikes and run through a safety briefing, then you are on your way! The first day of the trail to Murgon will be the most adventurous and fun section of the trails we will traverse in the next 6 days. The track surface here will alternate between dirt and gravel interspersed with patches of original blue-chip rail stone. Goomeri is today's midpoint, and the perfect spot for lunch before continuing through to Murgon where you can soak up the town's quirky country charm and relax after our Day 1 ride. We will then transfer ahead to the bigger town of Kingaroy for tonight's accommodation – a well-appointed hotel complete with pool, bar and restaurant. The first of our nightly briefings will recap the fun of the day and what to look out for tomorrow, followed by a welcome dinner.

## Murgon to Kingaroy 44km

**Day 2.** After a great night's rest and a bountiful breakfast this morning, we head back to Murgon to start today's ride. Yesterday's rough surface is replaced today by the pristine, smooth, glorious asphalt bike path that will accompany you all the way to today's destination of Kingaroy. Ahh, life really is beautiful. Remember not to rush - slow down and enjoy the birdsong as you traverse gentle undulations through farm and bushland. Be sure to call in at the AllTrails café that will be set up, path side, with hot and cold refreshments, fruit and snacks, and all the smiles and gossip of the day. At Kingaroy the AllTrails crew will direct you to the best lunch spots, coffee outlets, picnic supplies shops or the famous 'Peanut Van'. We will be taking an early afternoon trip to a local winery where you can taste a couple of the local drops, or even grab a late lunch. Back in town this evening we gather for our evening briefing. Dinner tonight is "GYO" (Get Your Own) – a great opportunity to satisfy your own tastebuds.

## Kingaroy to Yarraman 56km

**Day 3.** Another full and satisfying breakfast and another change of scenery and surface today as we say goodbye to the South Burnett Rail Trail and wind through the old stock route and some quiet country backroads that provide a link from here to the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail. Morning tea will be set up, ready and waiting for you at Nanango, before pushing through to Yarraman. Unlike the gradual gradient of the rail trails, this section is more rustic so expect a few bumps as you climb and descend. And even though this is a 'link route', it still serves up some beautiful scenery from the eucalypt gum trees to the grain, bean and peanut farms. Yarraman is a timber-town, fringed by hoop pine plantation forests, bunya pines and picturesque grazing countryside. Have a wander around town or drop into a local pub if you are feeling thirsty, before our nightly meeting to round-up the day's events and enjoy a group dinner.

## Yarraman to Moore 49km

**Day 4.** Today we begin the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail. The trail leads into the rugged and picturesque Blackbutt Range, visiting small towns along the way, the largest being Blackbutt where we stop for morning tea. From here we head through to Moore as the flora changes from eucalypt and scrub to grass trees and grazing land. Moore provides plenty of options for lunch after the day's ride, then Esk is just a short drive away where you can freshen up and explore the town before our dinner tonight at the Grand Hotel.

## Moore to Esk 48km

**Day 5.** This morning after breakfast you can leave our luggage in your room and board the bus back to Moore. The trail this morning is relatively smooth with a few interesting ascents and descents where rail bridges have been removed and the trail dips into creek beds, and also the only tunnel on the trail. Toogoolawah is our recommended lunch stop where you can grab a bite to eat, then through farmland onto our destination town of Esk where we enjoy a celebratory group dinner for our final evening.

## Esk to Wulkuraka (Ipswich) 67km

**Day 6.** After nearly a week on the bike you'll be primed and ready for the longest day on tour, cruising through the native bush and farmland to Coominya for morning tea, then on over the large Lockyer Creek Bridge to Fernvale – a great place for lunch with its bakery and café. Our last section sees the rural landscape change to increasingly urban as we get closer to the outskirts of Ipswich. Arriving in Wulkuraka it's congratulations all round as you tick off Australia's longest rail trail ride - quite an accomplishment. All aboard the bus for a transfer back to Brisbane!

# Frequently asked questions and helpful information

Feel free to contact us at any time if your question is not answered here.

## Travel insurance

You may get sick of us reminding you about travel insurance, but it is important and usually very good value – in particular for Australians travelling domestically. Travel Insurance is different to the insurance you get from being a member of a bicycle organisation. If you are investing in a tour like this, it is worth investing in some peace of mind for your payments.

## Training for AllTrails tours

To keep to the daily scheduled times on a multi-day road bike tour you need to be a reasonably keen cyclist – not necessarily fast, but consistent. To train for your tour, slowly build up until you can cycle close to the average daily distance of your chosen tour, at the expected speed, for two days straight. This will usually put you in a good position to be ready for your tour. We have a training schedule specific to each ride which we send to you after you place your deposit, however we can send this earlier to help you decide if the tour is right for you – just ask us for a copy and we will get it out to you straight away.

**For this tour:** Average distance 52km/day. Expected average speed 20km/hr on flat terrain (more time allowed for sections with hilly terrain).

## Support vehicles / scheduled times

There is no vehicle access in many locations along rail trails. Where the trail is accessible, the vehicle will be stopped at strategic locations helping riders with water, snacks, bananas or information. You will also see the support vehicle at morning tea and lunch locations. Riders may get in our support vehicle at the meet-up points if they would like to skip a section of the ride or if they have fallen well behind schedule. Times for morning departure and stops such as morning tea will be given on the 'Day Sheets' provided before the ride and we try as best we can to stick to the schedule. This also keeps the group within a reasonable distance of each other and the AllTrails support (for safety reasons), however the rail trail tours do have quite a bit of flexibility and you are welcome to go 'at your own pace' within reason. Slower riders should try to leave first to allow plenty of time to enjoy their ride and breaks, while faster riders can leave a bit later.

## Accommodation on our tours

We always try to obtain great accommodation in the best location for you to rest your weary head (and legs) in each town whether it be a motel, hotel, B&B, resort, cabins or lodge. We aim for 4 star where possible and also take into account the welcoming cycle-friendly and group-friendly nature of accommodations. On occasion we travel through some very small towns where accommodation is extremely limited. If for whatever reason, such as limited options, a room is below normal standard, we strive to improve this with an extra good room the next night or nights following.

## Sharing rooms – how it works

On the online entry form you can nominate any travelling companions who you would like to share a room with and/or be accommodated close to so that couples or friends can be grouped together. This can be in a double bed or twin beds. If you are travelling alone like many of our riders, a Single Supplement price is available for those who would like their own room for the whole trip. If you wish to share a room as a solo traveller, you can put your name down on a Twin Share Request List and we will try to match you up. If you are a snorer, a very early riser, or have other habits that may affect your fellow roommates, we ask that you book your own room at the Single Supplement price.

## Room types for solo travellers

**SOLO TWIN:** If you are coming on your own and have booked in as twin share, this usually means that you will share a room with one other solo twin share cyclist or crew member of the same gender, however in some cases we may have larger rooms (eg. two-bedroom apartment or a B&B/house with multiple bathrooms) where we may have 3 or more single twin share travellers together.

**SINGLE:** A Single Supplement booking usually means your own room with ensuite. On very rare occasions when we travel through small towns or we are limited in accommodation options for any reason single supplement bookers may share a larger unit/house/lodge with other single travellers of the same gender. You will have your own room but not necessarily your own ensuite.

## Snorers can enjoy their own room

If you are a chronic snorer, very early riser or have other habits that may affect your fellow roommates we suggest booking your own room (single supplement cost). This is not just a courtesy to your fellow travelling companions but will also give you the space and privacy you need to enjoy your sleep after a long day on the bike.

## Frequently asked questions cont.

### Meals and food

Always a big part of any cycling holiday! Check tour details for meal inclusions on your ride. Our emphasis is on fresh food and balanced diet with plenty of carbohydrates, proteins, fruit and vegies catering for a cycling holiday. We successfully cater to most dietary requirements, however, feel free to contact us with any questions. Most meals are included as part of our tours; however, as this tour has an emphasis on travelling at your own pace, you can expect to purchase your own lunches at a time/place convenient to you. We will of course provide you with ample opportunity and suggestions.

### Bike type – which is best

A comfortable mountain bike is recommended due to gravel surfaces (slick road tyres and hybrids are not suitable for some of the terrain and surfaces). Front suspension may add some comfort but is not a requirement. Front mudguards are not compatible with our vehicle bike racks; please remove these prior to coming on tour. This tour does have some gravel, uneven surfaces and the occasional sand patch. Basic off-road skills may be required to navigate these surfaces when encountered. Whatever bike you select, ensure you are comfortable riding the daily distances and average speed of the tour. Ask us for the 'Training Tips' document for this ride to get an idea of distances and speeds you need to train for.

### Ebikes

Ebikes are welcome on AllTrails tours and we have special bike racks that can accommodate their unique size and weight, keeping your bike safe when we need to transport it. Our racks (and staff) can carry (lift) bikes weighing up to a **maximum 25kg** (battery removed). The racks carry the bike in a vertical position with the front wheel nestled in a cradle, meaning that any front wheel/fork accessories such as pack racks, panniers or mudguards must be removed prior to coming on tour.

### Non-riding partners and part-time cyclists

Want to spend your holiday with a loved one who is not a keen cyclist? We are happy to accommodate non-riding partners and part-timers who only want to ride a little bit each day, or only certain days. Entry price will be the same for part-time riders, while non-rider prices will be dependent on their tour plan.

### Bike mechanical assistance provided

A staff member with good bike mechanical knowledge will be part of our crew and will have a stand pump for different valves. The mechanic will often be able to help you with a safety check, general tips and advice about your bike and its upkeep, as well as fixing mechanical problems. We will have limited parts available for replacement which will be charged at shop prices. Labour is free for the first fifteen minutes, there after costs may be incurred at the mechanic's discretion. Cyclists with rare or different bikes are asked to contact us at AllTrails as parts can often be very difficult to obtain.

### Carrying personal items on the bike

We suggest you carry a spare tube, a full water bottle and your own personal goods such as camera, wallet and rain gear, on your bike with you. We transport your luggage, drawstring day bags, food and extra water. A more detailed list of things to bring and not bring is on our 'Tour Preparation Guide' which is sent out to you before the ride.

### Safety

We have a great safety record, but accidents can happen. We have trained First Aiders as crew, comprehensive First-Aid Kits, a list of hospitals in the areas that we travel through, as well as mobile phones and a satellite phone for emergency calls when we are out of cellular range. Safety discussions are held throughout the tour as part of the daily briefings.



### Why book with us?

We only run 10-15 tours per year, always adding fresh destinations each year. This makes every tour as special to us as it is to you because we are not operating the same rides repeatedly week-in week-out - we are just as excited to be there as you. On most occasions the owner-operators of the business will be on tour with you and the reassurance that comes with that is one of many great reasons to have confidence in booking your cycling holiday with us. Also check the hundreds of testimonials on our website.

*We are a proud Australian-owned company, with the privilege of taking cyclists to the small towns and communities all over the country, supporting regional economies and offering cyclists the opportunity to experience the hospitality of Australia outside the big cities. We have earned a top reputation in the cycle tour industry through hard work, dedication and genuine care for every person on every tour. Our longevity in the industry and large community of loyal AllTrails customers who keep coming back year after year are testament to the high standard of tours that we provide. We consider ourselves the best in the business, providing tours that represent a high-quality product at a fair price.*