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Orange 360 Cycle Tour

Orange – Neville – Canowindra – Cowra – Cargo – Molong - Orange
6 days/5 nights - Fully supported tour - Start/Finish – Orange

(Arrival): Orange

Your adventure starts in the city of Orange so make your way to Orange where accommodation has been pre-booked for you.

Day One: Orange – Neville – 66km

Picturesque ride today from Orange to Milthorpe, a beautiful heritage listed village located between Orange & Blayney. An array of eclectic shops & accommodation where we will stop for morning tea. Once you have wandered the streets of Milthorpe we will continue onto Carcoar – the picture-perfect village nestled in a pretty valley beside the meandering Belubula River. Classified by the National Trust, Carcoar is a true historic gem and the third-oldest settlement in New South Wales west of the Blue Mountains.

Carcoar has an almost "untouched" feel, with many original preserved 19th-century buildings. A wonderful way to experience this unique village is on foot or bike. Take a tour through the charming streets around the historic Court House, marvel at the Victorian buildings along the main street, St Paul's Anglican Church, and the 1849 convict-built stables of Stoke House.



From here we cycle to Neville, a small and charming village located near the spectacular Abercrombie Caves. It is known for its historic charm and community spirit. The village features mid-to-late 19th-century buildings, including three churches, a post office, and a school that was built in 1858 and is still in use today.

Day Two: Neville – Canowindra – 61km

Leaving Neville, we head for Mandurama for morning tea. Mandurama acts as a service hub for the surrounding agricultural region, known for its beautiful homesteads. The town's streets reflect its agricultural heritage, named after original orchards like Olive, Cherry, Peach, and Loquat Streets. The Royal Hotel, or Mandurama pub, is an iconic venue featuring a grand balcony, intricate iron latticework, and regular live music nights that capture the essence of a true country pub. Other well-preserved buildings include the Masonic Hall, local bank, and churches.

Canowindra is home to the annual International Balloon Challenge and Festival and the Age of Fishes Museum. Canowindra's unique curved main street maintains the integrity and character of a classic 19th century country town settled on the banks of the Belubula River. A stroll through the township will reveal restored guesthouses, historic country pubs and quaint shops filled with old wares, alongside art galleries, cafes and garden homeware stores. The Belubula River Walk links the town centre with the natural path of the river, taking visitors to the original Swinging Bridge crossing and back into the main street.



We stay in Canowindra for two nights.

Day Three – Canowindra – Cowra – Return – 76km

Today we will do a loop ride to Cowra to visit the Japanese Gardens. Cowra is home to the largest land-fought battle on Australian soil during WW2, the gardens being one of the ongoing legacies of peace and reconciliation. Explore the gardens during our lunch break here before heading back on a different route to Canowindra.

Day Four – Canowindra – Cargo – 23km/40km

Before we leave Canowindra, we will explore the unique Age of Fishes Museum home to significant and rare 360-million-year-old fish fossils discovered by chance in an ancient riverbed nearby. Time to relax and enjoy a coffee before the Museum opens. Lunch is your choice.



After lunch we will ride to Cargo – which was established during the gold rush of the 1850s and once thrived with hotels, a bank, churches, schools, and a flour mill. Today, the town is experiencing a revival as new residents are attracted to its natural beauty and relaxed pace of life. The old general store has been transformed into a rustic coffee and gift shop, while the town's last hotel has gained popularity as the 'gears and beers' pub of the Central West.

Day Five – Cargo – Molong – 65km

Once breakfast has been had we will head off towards Cudal - a quiet historic village known for its rich heritage in wheat and sheep farming, as well as diverse industries. Cudal is particularly picturesque during the canola cropping season, showcasing vibrant green and gold fields.

While taking a scenic walk along Boree Creek, which flows through the town, you might even catch a glimpse of a platypus. Notable highlights in Cudal, a saddlery, and the historic EW Corden Store building. We will have morning tea here and then continue onto Manildra for lunch.

Manildra is home to the Manildra Flour Mill, which is the largest of its kind in the southern hemisphere. Family-owned, this mill is a significant source of employment and economic stability for the town, as well as a point of community pride. The train wagons of the flour mill have been painted with large-scale portraits of local residents by internationally acclaimed artist Guito van Helten.

Additionally, Manildra features the Amusu Theatre, the oldest continuously operating theatre in Australia. Virtually in its original condition, this venue allows visitors to experience the charm of a working Art Deco cinema, where new release films are still being screened. Next door, there is also a movie poster museum.

The heritage rural town of Molong is nestled amidst the picturesque and productive agricultural lands on the edge of the Macquarie Ranges. Molong's heritage-listed main street is now home to vibrant cafes, boutiques, and stylish outfitters and homeware stores.



The significant history of the region is retained in the early buildings, built and used by legendary coach company Cobb & Co and settlers now housing yarn stores and artisan crafts. The waterways around the town have always been home to platypus and the Molong Creek is dotted with walking track and rest areas.

Day Six – Molong – Orange – 58km

We will head out on the Molong-Orange Road for a short bit before turning off at the sign for the gravesite of Yuranigh, Sir Thomas Mitchell's Aboriginal assistant, and is the only known site in Australia where Aboriginal and European burial practices coexist is located on.

Moving on we will stop at Dindima Winery for a tasting & lunch. It is a family-owned boutique vineyard and winery. Established in 2003, Dindima is renowned for its handcrafted wines that reflect the unique cool-climate terroir of the Orange Wine Region. The vineyard produces an exquisite range of wines, including Semillon, Chardonnay, Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot blends, Rosé, and fortified Muscat.

Leaving Dindima we will head back to Orange via Lake Canobolas and Borenore, which hosts the annual Australian National Field Days event, the oldest agricultural exhibition in the country, which has been established since 1952.

$1,650 inc GST per person (not including accommodation)

INCLUDED:

- ✓ Personal tour guide with over 40 years cycling experience & 15+ years of tour guiding around the Central West, Warrumbungles & Orange areas *(see information on us further along)*
- ✓ All accommodation pre-booked by us
- ✓ Some continental breakfasts
- ✓ Full mechanical support, daily, from start to finish (*on the spot mobile bike shop*)
- ✓ Luggage transfer from accommodation to accommodation
- ✓ Support van & custom bike trailer for rider/bike transport if required
- ✓ Navigation assistance with cue sheets/Ride with GPS files
- ✓ Route tips & advice for each day
- ✓ Car fridge on board with cold drinks
- ✓ Morning tea/lunches en-route where stated
- ✓ Signage & flashing light coverage on busy sections
- ✓ Snacks/energy bars/gels, trail mix, sweets, water, drinks, tea/coffee
- ✓ Bikes locked & secured each night
- ✓ Detailed attention always

Not Included:

- ✓ Accommodation costs – *ranges from $50-$150 per room approx.* NB: Accommodation around the route has been chosen by us as it meets a lot of our needs with regards to bike storage and a comfortable stay. ***Double Room****: $790 approx;* ***Single Room****: $680 approx.*
- ✓ Some Breakfasts (unless stated) – *ranges from $10-$20 approx*.
- ✓ Meals at night (unless stated) – *ranges from $15-$35 approx*.
- ✓ Personal items
- ✓ Pre & post accommodation
- ✓ Consumables ie: tubes, cables etc
- ✓ Travel to/from start

Please advise us if you have any dietary requirements.

Extras:

- Bike hire – quality new hardtail mountain bikes (Treks/Meridas) starting from **$50/day**
- Quality e-bikes from **$80/day**
- Refundable bond of **$200** per bike

Group Size: Min: 6, Max: 8

Non-refundable Deposit: $500; balance payable 21 days from start of tour.

Cancellation Policy: if a participant cancels up to 7 days prior to start of the tour 50% of tour cost will be refunded. After 7 days no refund will be provided.

ABOUT US.....

We are a small, husband and wife business, based in Dubbo NSW.

Mick is Fitter/Mechanic by trade and loves his bikes. He has ridden a bike for as long as he can remember. He is a BNSW Master Ride Leader, an AusCycle Road & Track Skills Coach and an MTB Level 0 Skills Coach as well.

Kerrie is the behind-the-scenes Secretary, who started riding bikes in 2005 when the Dubbo Bicycle User Group formed. A Ride Leader with Dubbo BUG, with a love of travel and cycle touring.

Together, we have been doing tours since 2007, taking annual leave from our jobs to guide other like-minded cyclists around the Central West.

We have been riding a lot of these roads for many years and since the trail began, we have been doing regular tours, so we have got to know the area very well. We have got to know a lot of the locals and as a result have a lot of behind-the-scenes contacts for road conditions, works etc.

Now, Mick has retired from his 'other' job and has taken on full-time cycle touring encompassing the new Central West Cycle Trail as well as others such as the Tour of the West, Warrumbungles Tour, Orange 360, Gravel Tour of the West and some new ones in the making.

We look forward to welcoming you on one of our tours where we can fully support, guide, nourish and encourage you around our wonderful part of country NSW.

THE CENTRAL WEST CYCLE TRAIL....

The Central West Cycle trail provides a 400 km circuit through rolling rural landscapes away from the main roads. Located in New South Wales, Australia the circuit has been developed by local cyclists who know the backroads between the towns. Enjoy sweeping views, character filled towns and friendly locals who have embraced the newly developed trail and what it has brought to the local economies. Country hospitality at its best awaits you.

The group who has developed the trail, one of which is Mick, are cyclists who have been to many parts of the globe cycling and saw the ready-made opportunity to enjoy similar cycling here in Australia, following routes not marked on your normal map.

Initially the group was a sub-committee of the Mudgee Bushwalkers and Bike Riders Inc. but have since become their own entity.

WHAT TO BRING....OTHER INFORMATION

Listed are some considerations regarding bikes and equipment on one of our supported Central West Cycle Trail/Warrumbungle/Orange 360 tours:

- A suitable bike including E-bikes that meet NSW legal requirements.
- If bringing a new or borrowed bike, make sure you have had some long rides on it to iron out any potential problems.
- Please have your bike serviced before commencing a tour.
- If bringing an e-bike, with a removable battery, **DON'T** forget the key!
- Small power board for charging e-bike.
- As the trail is 50% gravel (CWCT), a suitable bike that you are comfortable to ride on varied surfaces including rocks, sand, corrugations and water. If you are not confident on these surfaces we would recommend an MTB with wide tyres, otherwise a gravel bike would suffice.
- Mudguards are a good idea if wet to keep you and your bike a bit cleaner but make sure they have plenty of clearance for mud build up.
- Please keep luggage to a minimum. One medium sized soft bag (if possible) as they pack better. A rack and rack bag for carrying daily 'stuff' is recommended.
- Ear plugs are a good idea.
- **Cash** for those places that don't have EFT facilities. ie: Mendooran/Neville accommodation
- Wet weather gear in case it rains.
- Some good hi-visible clothing as country drivers on quiet roads are not expecting to come across us.
- Tools and spare tubes specific to your bike. No need to bring spare tyres as we have most sizes.
- Front and rear lights are a good idea in case of bad visibility.
- A cyclo computer (or similar) to compare distances with the supplied navigation cue sheets.
- Install the RideWithGPS app on your phone and familiarise yourself with it. This is the app we use for navigation and can send any modified routes to your phone in minutes.
- NB: Vodaphone and Optus have very limited, if at all, coverage around the trail. Some places do not have WIFI.
- Let us know if you have any dietary requirements ie: Gluten Free