MY GEAR

WHAT SHOULD I PACK FOR THE JOURNEY?

Before you set out from home you may need to pack your bike into a carton for transit and your personal luggage will need to be packed into a maximum of two bags. This section provides important advice and information to help you pack for the Outback Odyssey.

Packing your bike for travel to the start (this section is relevant only to those riders travelling by air and / or taking the coach from Blinman back to Adelaide).

Riders taking advantage of the optional coach transfer from Blinman to Adelaide will need to think about how your bike is carried. Our transport provider is very experienced in carrying bicycles – both boxed and unboxed. Having your bike in a box or bag will provide greater protection but will mean a little extra time is needed to dismantle your bike before the bus departs. When a bicycle is transported unboxed, heavy removals-type blankets are placed in between the bike to protect them from damage. You may also be required to turn the handle-bars and remove the pedals to make packing the bikes a little easier. The choice is yours.

While every care is taken when packing bikes into trucks, trailers and buses it is difficult to prevent damage caused in transit if bikes are not individually boxed or bagged. It’s not difficult to pack your bike and costs next to nothing. Here’s how:

Firstly you will need a used bike carton to pack your bike into. Your local bike store will usually have used cartons on hand … for free! If your store won’t help you can phone the Bicycle SA office and we will recommend a number of stores that will. Please bear in mind that you may have to ask your bike storeowner to save you an undamaged carton as they do normally break them down flat and dispose of them regularly to the recyclers.

There are roughly two sizes of cardboard cartons used to pack new bikes. The larger of the two permits the rear wheel to be left fitted to the frame and offers minimal disassembly. The smaller size requires that both wheels be taken out of the frame. We recommend you do not use the smaller size.

When collecting a bike box you should also ask for a couple of plastic wheel keepers. These plastic fittings are designed to fit into your bike frame in place of the wheel axles to protect the forks from being squashed when the wheels are not fitted. If you do not use wheel keepers in your frame you run a very high risk of frame or fork damage in transit. These fittings will usually slide into most frames and forks but as there is a wide variety of fork and frame shape and design you may have to shape the keepers to fit snugly in your frame and forks.
To pack your bike you need only do the following (if you are not mechanically minded your bike store will usually do this for you for a small fee):

- Remove both left and right pedals;
- Remove the front wheel. If your bike has a rear rack fitted you may have to remove both wheels to fit it in the box;
- Fit wheel and frame keepers to replace the wheel axles;
- It is always wise if you are travelling by air to deflate the tyres to a very soft tyre pressure. Though this is no longer a necessity on most modern passenger jets, as their luggage compartments are pressurised, it is always a wise precaution in case your bike gets separately freighted on a smaller aircraft or stowed in an unpressurised compartment;
- Carefully lower your bike frame into the box turning the handlebars and forks 90 degrees so that they are in line with the frame. If the handlebars do not fit comfortably into the box you may need to loosen the clamp holding the handlebars so that they can be rotated to fit. You should not normally need to loosen the stem in the forks and frame.
- Tape your handlebars to the frame so that there is no movement in frame or forks;
- Place your front wheel inside the box fitting packaging material in between the frame and wheel to prevent damage;
- Place your pedals and any other loose items from the bike (pump, empty water bottles etc) inside the box. These should also be wrapped in packaging or paper to prevent damage to the other parts of the bike;
- Tape up the box and with a black marker-pen, address your bike to: your name, 2015 Outback Odyssey. You should also write in a separate panel marked - Return address: your name, your home address, your phone contact number including mobile (if you are bringing a mobile phone on the ride).

BIKE ONLY TRANSPORT

If travelling independently to / from Burra and Melrose, or from Blinman to Adelaide, Bicycle SA can separately transport your bike for you (a fee of $20 applies to this service).

PACKING YOUR BAGS

Your luggage allowance on the Outback Odyssey is 25kg. This must be packed into two bags. To protect the health and safety of Bicycle SA’s volunteers, each bag must not weigh more than 14kg. Excess baggage fees apply up to a maximum of 28kg. See more details in the Luggage Handling section below.

We suggest you use one bag for your wet tent, cutlery, plates etc and the other for your sleeping bag, dry clothes and personal items.
We strongly recommend that you test the water-proofness of your bags before you leave home. If they are not waterproof we recommend you seal clothing and other items inside plastic bags within your luggage. While we make every possible effort to keep bags dry in transit, it is very difficult to prevent moisture seeping into trucks and under tarpaulins or from other bags. Wet tents packed inside luggage will usually leak moisture so make sure you either pack them inside a plastic bag or pack with items which are not affected by moisture.

A final packing tip: less is best! By selecting a good combination of cycling clothing and casual wear you can often get by with a modest amount of clothing and accessories. If you dress in layers you will probably find that it is only the innermost layers that need regular washing. If you travel with family or friends you can also share some camping equipment (tent) and reduce the bulk of your luggage.

PACKING CHECKLIST

Bike and accessories:

- Mountain bike, serviced and in good mechanical order (and boxed if required for transit). We recommend at least front fork suspension and knobbly tyres;
- Two large 750ml water bottles (mounted in cages on your bike frame) and / or hydration pack;
- Pump (ensure you have the correct valve connection), spare tubes and repair kit including tyre levers and a wheel nut spanner if you don’t have quick release hubs;
- Any additional spare parts particular to your bike, which may not be carried by the mechanics;
- We also recommend you pack a spare chain and cassette, plus derailleur hanger;
- Small rear pannier bag on rear rack to carry your day gear (plus chord or straps);
- Lightweight bike lock – an essential item for securing your bike on the campsite overnight;
- A plastic bag or cover for your saddle

Riding gear:

- 2 pairs of bike shorts / knicks (minimum);
- 2 riding tops / jerseys or t-shirts (minimum; but remember to leave space for your Outback Odyssey jersey, which you receive on the first day);
- Cycling shoes or cycling sandals for riding;
- Socks;
- SPF30+ sun block;
- Sunglasses;
- Helmet;
- Warm, windproof jacket. Evenings and mornings at this time of year can be cool to cold and after pedalling you will need to keep warm for any time spent in town;
Riding gloves;
• Long riding tights or tracksuit (just in case we get a cold morning);
• Wallet and;
• Reflective vest, harness or jacket;
• Plastic cup or mug for morning and afternoon teas (to reduce the need for disposables)

Tools:
• Small screwdriver;
• Pliers;
• Tyre levers;
• Allen keys;
• Spare tubes;
• Puncture repair kit;
• Spare spokes;
• Any special tools for your bike

Off the bike:
• Casual clothes (shorts, jeans/trousers, skirt, dress, shirts etc);
• Shoes or runners for wearing off the bike, plus flip-flops or similar;
• Socks, handkerchiefs, underwear, etc;
• Your outfit for the Black tie Ball at Tanunda (plus any other fashion statements you wish to make!);
• Tracksuit (good to wear if it gets cool on or off the bike or to sleep in);
• Rain jacket;
• Swimmers;
• Towel;
• Hat or cap;
• Warm gloves or mittens;
• Bathroom kit with toiletries (soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, etc).

First Aid kit
• Sticking plasters;
• Bandage;
• Pocket knife;
• Pain killers;
• Tweezers;
• Antiseptic;
• Personal medication;
• Personal ID;
• Money for a phone call or a phone card;
• Mobile phone

Outback Odyssey 2015
Camping equipment:

- Plate, bowl, cutlery, cup and tea towel (pack these in a lightweight shoulder bag);
- Waterproof tent (don’t forget all the right pegs and poles!);
- Sleeping bag and self inflating sleeping mat;
- Small torch and batteries;
- Ear plugs (if you have difficulty sleeping in a thin walled tent)
- Swags may be brought along by arrangement (they take up a lot of space in the luggage truck)

Miscellaneous basics

- Sunglasses
- Sun block
- Lip balm
- Mawson Trail Maps
- Rubbish bag
- Insect repellent
- Sewing kit
- Emergency toilet paper!
- Small backpack for camp use

Optional extras:

- Fly / mosquito net (to wear over your helmet / hat)
- Camera and film to record your adventure (plus your network cable if you want to share your pics on the projector during the ride);
- Mobile phone and charger;
- Pack of cards;
- A good book;
- Diary and pen;
- We always welcome riders with good voices and a way with musical instruments. Let us know in advance if you want to pack a guitar or harmonica, but be prepared to share your talents!
WHAT SHOULD I WEAR WHEN I RIDE?

Here are some suggestions regarding what to wear while riding and things to pack on your bike so that you enjoy a comfortable ride. Refer also WHAT ABOUT THE WEATHER?

· **Bike shorts** (or longs) – known as knicks – are much more practical for cycling than cotton shorts, jeans or track suits. They are made of lycra, a fabric that stretches with your leg movements. They have a padded crotch insert that takes the ‘ouch’ out of sitting on a bike saddle for hours at a time. Not everyone wears underwear with knicks but you will have to wash them overnight unless you pack extra pairs. If you bring a minimum of two pairs of knicks and wash one pair at the end of each day you should always have one pair to wear while the other pair is drying out.

· **Cycling tops** or t-shirts are cool and comfortable to wear. Wear long sleeved shirts to protect your arms from sunburn or use lots of SPF30+ UV sunblock. Cycling tops – jerseys – are made from material that wicks away moisture and always feels dry on the skin. As part of your Outback Odyssey registration fee you receive an exclusive event jersey. Your jersey has useful pockets at the back so you can store small items such as money, snack bars and even your mobile phone. You can usually get by with two shirts or jerseys if you wash out your shirt at the end of each day. Avoid cotton tops which can become waterlogged (with sweat and rain) and cause a chill when wind causes evaporation.

· **Shoes or riding sandals** should be comfortable and stiff soled. Sandshoes or runners will be adequate but the stiffer the sole the better. Shimano SPD sandals and pedals are a good way to feel warm air between your toes. Sandal wearers should protect the tops of their feet by using sunblock. On cooler mornings a pair of socks will keep your sandaled feet warm until the day warms up. SPD pedals are more comfortable to use and easier to get into and out of than toe clips and straps.

· **Bicycle helmet.** It is a legal requirement in Australia that you wear a bike helmet, one that conforms to Australian standards. Make sure the straps are firmly adjusted so that the helmet sits squarely on your head, not tilted back at the front, and that the strap adjusters sit comfortably just below your ears. Your helmet should fit firmly on your head and not shift around. Special scarves or peaked caps can be worn beneath your helmet, but make sure they don’t compromise the overall fit and safety. Cracked helmets should be replaced, and any dents should be checked carefully, as you may need a new one.

· **Sunglasses.** Sports sunglasses (especially the special cycling glasses that fit close to your eyes and wrap around) protect your eyes from UV glare, dust, insects and the wind.
· **Water bottle.** Bring two 750ml water bottles and / or hydration pack and keep them replenished throughout the day. Drink regularly during your ride. We recommend that you drink at least 5 litres of water during each day’s ride, but this depends on the distance and terrain and may need to be increased during hot weather.

· **Wet / windy weather gear.** Be prepared for cold, windy and wet weather. Pack a waterproof jacket and dress in layers so that you can easily discard clothing when the day warms up. Bicycle SA has a reputation for sunshine during the Outback Odyssey, but you should be prepared for the full spectrum of weather. Hopefully the gods will be kind to us this year, but the ride goes on, rain or shine.

· **Food (road rations).** We recommend that you always carry some high energy food to supplement your normal meals. If you run into headwinds or use up more energy riding between the refreshment stations, you can easily stop and fuel up with your own supplies. Each day help yourself to a bag of Bicycle SA’s unique energy-giving scroggin, full of dried fruit, sweets and almonds – the perfect reward at the top of a big climb.

· **Sun protection.** We recommend that during daylight hours you wear sunglasses and protect your exposed skin from the strong Aussie sunshine by using lots of SPF30+ UV sunblock. Sunblock is available at campsite and at refreshment stations, but we recommend that you always get used to carrying your own supplies.

· **Carry Money** to buy food, refreshments and souvenirs along the way (while we won’t be passing through many towns en route, there are often small businesses, local producers and wineries nearby). Lunch and refreshments are supplied during each day’s ride, but you should have your own means to treat yourself to that espresso and bakery treat, or indeed that cold beer in the pub. You should also carry some form of ID with details of an emergency contact and any medical conditions.

· Please also carry your reusable cup for morning and afternoon teas. Tea and coffee are always available, but you can help us save on unnecessary waste by bringing your own cup.

· **Lights.** The Outback Odyssey route is only open during daylight hours so you won’t need bike lights on the ride unless you ride into town in the evening. It’s a good idea to have them in case we encounter thick fog. By law, however, you must have a red rear reflector as well as a bell or horn attached to your bike as a warning device.

Outback Odyssey 2015
WHAT SHOULD I WEAR OFF THE BIKE?

At the end of each day in the saddle it’s good to lock up the bike and explore the campsite and towns on foot. For this kind of activity you will need normal street clothes and it’s up to you what you wear, but with limited luggage, most people dress casually.

- A Warm and windproof jacket to wear on cool evenings and mornings
- Street clothes - bring shorts for the warm weather and longs for cool. Flinders Ranges weather is predictably dry during autumn, but *on ne sais jamais*!
- Save room in your luggage for your posh gown or tux and any other party threads. During the Outback Odyssey we’ll have occasion to let our hair down, so use your imagination, and be prepared for a dance!
- Swimmers and towel (there’s a pool at Rawnsley Park)
- Flip flops or similar for showers and mooching around can be a good idea too
- Hat or cap to keep the sun from burning your head
- Bathroom kit with toiletries (soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo etc)

LUGGAGE HANDLING

Before loading your luggage bags, please ensure they are clearly tagged with airline style waterproof luggage labels containing your full contact details. It is advisable to also attach similar contact details inside your bag just in case the external label comes adrift. To ensure your bag can be easily distinguished, we suggest tying coloured ribbons around the handle.

Our luggage truck volunteers will weigh your bags before loading. Luggage ID tags must remain fixed to your bags during the Tour. Only bags with official luggage ID tags will be accepted by loading volunteers during the ride. Annual Tour total luggage allowance is 25kg. This must be packed in two bags each weighing no more than 14kg. If any of your bags exceeds the 14kg individual bag limit you will be required to unload or redistribute the bag contents. For the health and safety of the luggage volunteers we will not carry bags weighing more than 14kg. If your total luggage weight exceeds the 25kg maximum you will be charged an excess luggage fee of $25 per kilogram up to a maximum of 28kg ($75) and may be required to re-bag your luggage. If, after redistribution and paying the excess fee, the total weight is greater than 28kg (that is, more than 14kg in each bag), then you’ll be required to remove items to bring down the total weight to a maximum of 14kg per bag.

On past rides we have permitted riders one bag with a limit of 20kg. This weight poses occupational, health, welfare and safety issues for both our volunteers and riders. To minimise potential injury and comply with our current standards, we now ask that you pack your gear in two smaller bags.
Each morning, before loading your luggage, change into your riding clothes and take out any items that you will need with you out on the road, as once you load your luggage onto the trucks you will not be able to get to it again until the campsite at the end of the day. We strongly urge you to take a set of extra-warm outer clothes (it may be cold and windy) as well as any other items you will need with you on the ride.

WHAT ABOUT THE WEATHER?

Below are the weather averages for May.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>NURIOOTPA</th>
<th>BUNDALEER FOREST</th>
<th>HAWKER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean daily max</td>
<td>17.0C</td>
<td>17.7C</td>
<td>20.1C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean daily min</td>
<td>6.7C</td>
<td>5.9C</td>
<td>7.1C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean 9am temp and wind speed</td>
<td>12.0C; 8.4km/h</td>
<td>11.7C; (no wind speed data)</td>
<td>13.2C; 5.5km/h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean 3pm temp and wind speed</td>
<td>15.9C; 11km/h</td>
<td>16.2C; 10.9km/h</td>
<td>18.8C; 9.5km/h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean monthly rainfall</td>
<td>55mm</td>
<td>59.8mm</td>
<td>30.7mm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mean number of rainy days / month</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>3.9</td>
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More weather information can be found at [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)

For more information go to [www.bikesa.asn.au](http://www.bikesa.asn.au) or email [office@bikesa.asn.au](mailto:office@bikesa.asn.au)