

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE OUTBACK ODYSSEY

The new day on the campsite usually begins between 6.30am – 7am. If you are a really early riser we ask you to be considerate of others still in bed by keeping as quiet as possible. We ask all riders to refrain from talking in the tent area before 6am so that those who cherish that last half an hour of sleep can rest undisturbed. We don't give wake up calls so it's up to riders to get themselves going and on the road each morning.

Before breakfast you may need to freshen up for the day and visit the toilet. The toilet facilities are open throughout the night, and where possible the showers are too. We use on site facilities, which vary from campsite to campsite. Sometimes they're big, plentiful and spotless, and other times they can be football club style (i.e. communal showers). Where possible, we always make sure there are private shower facilities.

Breakfast 6:30 – 7:30am (unless otherwise stated)

If you're new to the Outback Odyssey, here's how our meal service arrangements work: breakfasts and dinners are served from the Mawson Morsels dining space (e.g. football club) or marquee (e.g. caravan park).

Except for the occasional fry-ups, breakfasts are self-serve, with a selection of cereals, fruit and toast. There's also tea, Milo, instant and REAL filter coffee. Feel free to make fresh coffee in the plungers, but please also empty and rinse out the plunger if you get the final cup.

Don't forget to bring all your own eating/drinking utensils with you. We suggest that you carry your plates, knife, fork and spoon and cup in a shoulder bag enabling you to keep both hands free to carry your food. Don't forget to pack a grab of scroggin for later.

Once you've got your food you can either eat with your group or sit yourself down with a total stranger. Bicycle SA is known for its intimate, friendly rides and you will soon find that riders on the Outback Odyssey are a welcoming bunch.

After you have eaten breakfast, it's time to wash up your dishes and cutlery either at the kitchen sink or at the special Bicycle SA wash-up stand.

All that's left to do before you hit the trail is pack your bags and tents and place these on the luggage truck. You're required to deliver your bags onto the back of the luggage truck, where our luggage crew volunteers will stack them for you on the truck. Please don't drop off your bags on the ground beside the luggage trucks as these may get left behind.

IMPORTANT! By the luggage truck there is a check-list with every rider's name. Put a tick against your name EVERY MORNING when you leave, and put another tick EVERY AFTERNOON when you arrive at the next campsite and collect your luggage. In this way we know whether you're at campsite or en route. An information board is also by the luggage truck, with updated news, local information and is a place where riders can leave each other messages.

Lunch (approximately 11am - 1pm, though occasionally earlier on really long days). Lunch is at the designated lunch stop, typically around 60% along the route. Lunch may either be a filled roll or something hot. Note that lunch on both Rest Days is not provided.

Morning and Afternoon refreshments. While you will very occasionally pass a café or bakery along the trail, Bicycle SA offers refreshments approximately 25km – 30km into each day's ride. There will be water, Nippy's juices, hydration product, tea, coffee, Milo, fruitcake, biscuits and fruit, plus a few extra bags of scroggin. The same is provided at the occasional afternoon refreshment stations, though most often you'll enjoy all these goodies when you arrive at each campsite.

Dinner 6pm – 7.30pm. Each dinner includes 3 courses – soup, main and dessert. Each course is served separately. Typically the evening rider briefing from 7pm will take place between the main course and dessert.

The Handle Bar will be run either by the local (sports) club or, when no club is available, by Bicycle SA. The locally run bar require payment at the time, but Bicycle SA runs a tab for you for the other nights.

Vegetarian riders and those with special dietary requirements are always catered for. Please only take these special meals if indeed they were requested at the time of your registration so those riders who need it don't miss out.

DAILY PROGRAMME

- 6.30am – 7.30am Breakfast (unless otherwise advised)
- 7.30am Route opens
- 9.30am – 11am Morning Refreshments
- 11am – 1pm Lunch
- 1pm – 4pm Afternoon Refreshments (when applicable)
- 6pm – 7.30pm Dinner
- 7pm Rider Briefing

ARRIVING AT EACH CAMPSITE

Once you have got to the campsite at the end of your day's ride you will probably want to find your luggage, set up your tent and attend to your ablutions before enjoying a well-deserved drink or setting out to explore the nearby locale. But even before that, you must sign in with a tick against your name in the book by the luggage truck. This is very important, as it's our principal way of knowing who's safely in camp and who might still be out on the route and needing our support.

Bags from the luggage truck are laid out on the ground in rows. If it rains, the luggage crew will place tarpaulins over the rows of bags so please make sure you replace these covers carefully after you have retrieved yours so that other riders' luggage remains sheltered.

Generally you can pitch your tent wherever you like within the designated campsite, though be very aware of any areas marked out as no camping. Often irrigation systems are located near the surface and any tent peg driven through them will leave you very wet and removed from the groundsperson's Christmas card list.

By the luggage truck will be a white board with a campsite layout, showing quiet / not-so-quiet / snoring camping areas; as well as location of water, showers and toilets.

Bear in mind that in your tent you have maximum visual privacy but minimal audible privacy, especially if space is limited and we're forced to camp close together. If you are a light sleeper we recommend you select a quiet tent site apart from other campers or bring earplugs. If you are a snorer, be considerate and park your tent away from the others.

The loud and lyrical sounds of socializing are focused on the dining area and bar, where you're welcome to stay after dinner and share a natter and drink with fellow riders. Beyond 10pm noise and mayhem are not welcome in the camping areas, where tired bodies are snoozing.