



ALPINE ACCOMMODATION

TOUR DE GOURMET ESCAPE

STYLES- Self Guided
COST – Single \$499

DIFFICULTY- Easy
Double \$349

LENGTH – 2 days

The Milawa region is fast becoming renowned for being the gourmet hub of regional Victoria, and for good reason. The combination of fertile land, Italian heritage, fine weather and an Alpine backdrop are ideal for wine and food. Exploring this area on bike is the perfect way to discover the gourmet delights on offer, and this tour ensures you don't miss the best of the area.

Congratulations on choosing to explore the brilliant, beautiful and bountiful North East Victoria on the Tour de Milawa Escape. This information pack will provide everything you need to ensure your tour is everything you hoped for and more. The *Tour de Milawa Escape 2 night, 1 day self-guided cycling itinerary*. The beauty of self guided is that you can cycle at your own pace, stop for as long as you want at the designated stops, and explore places off the beaten path if your heart desires. This guide is the basics only, you are of course free to explore all that the region has to offer. Having said that, Tour de Vines has ensured if you follow nothing else but this guide, you will be savouring the best of the region.

Beechworth

How To Get There

Drive

Beechworth is approx. a 285km, 3 hour drive north of Melbourne. Follow the Hume Freeway (M31) north until you see the Beechworth sign turnoff near Wangaratta.

Train

There is a VLine service to Wangaratta from Melbourne, and from there a coach service to Beechworth, inquire at VLine for latest timetables and costs. www.vline.com.au

Flights

A number of airlines fly to Albury from Melbourne and Sydney, which is a 45 minute drive to Beechworth. Border Shuttle Services can provide a transfer, inquire directly about costs. There is also the Wangaratta Coach Line service from Albury to Beechworth. www.wangarattacoachlines.com.au

What To Bring

This itinerary & water bottles are provided on arrival Cycling clothing (be aware of weather conditions!) Puncture repair/spare tube/pump (if using own bikes) Your sense of fun and adventure!!

Accommodation

Your accommodation is booked and ready for your arrival, and includes a full breakfast on both days and a late checkout on your 2nd morning:

George Kerferd Hotel Mayday Hills Grounds, end of Albert Rd Beechworth. Vic (03) 5728 2618

Bikes

If you have booked bike hire, please ask at reception at The Old Priory who will access the bike shed and provide a pre booked bike for you together with helmet. **The Old Priory, 8 Priory Lane, Beechworth** (heading away from town turn right off Ford Street onto Church St, then left onto Priory Lane).

Cycling Itinerary

The Tour

Town

From the George Kerferd head into town to one of the many of Beechworth's emerging cafes before heading off on your cycling tour. Our local favourites are: lynzz Cafe: 43 Ford Street Providore Café: 18 Camp Street Cellar Door Wine Store: 62 Ford Street

Join the Rail Trail

The following is a *suggested itinerary*. Using the maps provided, and being a self guided tour, you have the flexibility to cycle anywhere you would like to visit. Lunches are booked for you but all other visits are at your leisure. This itinerary covers 32kms of cycling to Milawa. The Rail Trail begins at the bottom of Albert Rd just down the hill from the Beechworth Bakery in the centre of town. There is a Murray to Mountains Rail Trail sign at the entrance. **TIP:** There is a large map just before the original Beechworth



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station which is a great area for photos. This is the original rail station largely in tact. Your first stop is **Pennyweight Winery**, which is a 10-20 minute ride from the start of the rail trail, so don't arrive too early! Wine purchases can be picked up from here. Leaving Pennyweights, join the Rail Trail again heading downhill toward Everton, admiring the rural views across the King Valley. This should take you between 30-45 mins.

Once you reach **Everton Station**, **double back** and turn right at the 'fork/intersection', with signs to Everton. Leave the Rail Trail turning right, then immediately left following the road to Everton. You will soon see the tiny town of Everton with the Everton Hotel on the corner. On a warm day a cold drink here is perfect.

From Everton, carefully join the Great Alpine Rd for about 100 meters, and take your first left at Markwood Everton Rd. **Look for the small blue roadside signs with an 'M', directing you to Milawa**. Follow this road turning right at Markwood Tarrawingee Rd, and follow this for 10-20 minutes turning left at Milawa Tarrawingee Rd. Don't miss **EV Olives** on your right hand side on Milawa Tarrawingee Rd. This award winning olive farm has an incredible olive oil variety and it's well worth tasting (and grabbing some, we can pick these up). Continue on to the T intersection where you will see Milawa Gourmet region clearly sign-posted. Turn left and then first on your right, to arrive at your lunch destination, the **Milawa Cheese Factory**. **Park your bike out the back**. A table and lunch platter will have been booked here for you, so relax and enjoy the abience of this gourmet stop. Any purchases from here can also be collected.

Recommendation: Pop next door to taste some of the Woodpark Wines range, with the very helpful cellar door staff. We love their Shiraz!

After a leisurely lunch, it's a short ride to the heart of Milawa Gourmet outlets and the major intersection has the not to be missed **Milawa Mustards**. We also recommend a visit to Christmont Wines cellar door a short distance from the mustard shop along Glenrowan Myrtleford Rd (left). From the intersection, and after checking out the range of outlets located nearby, head to the **Brown Brothers Vineyard**. An amazing cellar door with a huge range of wines to taste, it's popularity is no surprise. **Pick Up:** Your collection point is inside Brown Brothers right next to the cellar door and the bike racks. **Be ready for a 4.30pm collection** back to Beechworth. Hire bikes will be dropped off and you will arrive back at your ccommodation.

Note: any purchases you have made along the way can be collected on the way back in the bus, so please let the driver know.

Your tour concludes after breakfast and a late checkout the following morning.

Some regional history...

The railway to Beechworth opened in 1875, with a second branch line built from Everton to Myrtleford in 1883 and extended to Bright in 1890. Everton was an important regional railway junction but little evidence of it remains now. The line to Yackandandah was closed in 1956 and the last train ran to Beechworth in 1977. Beechworth, originally known as Mayday Hills, was a major gold mining centre in the 1850s. You can see traces of this activity at Woolshed Falls, the Gorge Scenic Drive and the Old Powder Magazine. Beechworth Historic Park surrounding the town, has unusual cypress pine/box woodland and box-leaf wattle. Construction of the present rail trail began in Bright in 1993 and finished in 2002 to Wangaratta and Beechworth. Soon after he purchased land in 1857, on which Brown Brothers winery stands, John Graham, a Scott, who came to Australia via Canada, planted a small vineyard and orchard. He is credited with being the first to plant grapevines on a commercial scale on the Oxley's Plains. His grandson, John Francis Brown grubbed those vines in the 1880's and planted a larger area, this time with wine making rather than table varieties to commence the business now known as Brown Brothers. J. F. Brown registered the trading name of Brown Brothers in the expectation that his brothers might join the business - but they never did! It was to skip another generation before there were actually brothers involved! In 1891 the Milawa Dairy Company was formed to buy and process the production from the many nearby dairy farms. Butter and casein were produced and cream separation plants established in eight neighbouring districts to avoid the tedious, horse drawn, transport of fresh milk and its deterioration en route.

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