

18 September 2023

Dear Annual Tour rider,

4 weeks to go.....

During the course of our Annual Tour you'll have the chance to take part in some optional activities that need to be booked well in advance.

Please read the information below and if you would like to participate in any of the options, call our office as soon as possible to confirm and pay for your booking.

Day 2 | Glenelg River Cruise, Nelson | Sunday 15 October

Relax and enjoy a scenic cruise on the Glenelg River, set in the majestic Lower Glenelg National Park. Departing from Old Bridge Road in the coastal township of Nelson in Victoria.

Duration: approx. 80 mins Cruise times: 10.45am and 12.30pm

Note: Boat capacity on each cruise is limited to approx. 45 passengers so there may not be sufficient capacity to accommodate all who would like to participate - first in, first served!!

Cost: \$45/pers – Bookings Essential through Bike SA office only.

Call 08 8168 9999 (Mon-Thurs only) to book and pay by credit card. Please book before Thursday 28 Sept so we can confirm required numbers with the cruise operator.

Note: when choosing a cruise time, please consider the time it will take to ride to Nelson. It's 42km from Mt Gambier to Nelson with a refreshment stop en-route at Piccaninnie Ponds (@ 32km)

Depending on how fast you ride, if you depart Mt Gambier when the route opens at 7.30am, 3 hours should be sufficient time to arrive in Nelson by 10.30am. If you are a slower rider, you may wish to take the 12.30pm cruise.

Lunch will be available in Nelson, either when you return from the 10.45am cruise or before you depart on the 12.30 pm cruise. If you are not cruising at all, Lunch will be available no earlier than 11am. If booking the later cruise, please bear in mind there is still 37km to ride back to Mt Gambier afterwards.

Day 6 | Naracoorte Caves visit | Thursday 19 October – Rest Day

The Naracoorte Caves are part of the 800,000 year old Naracoorte East Range. They are World Heritage listed, and one of the world's most important fossil sites.

Of the 28 known caves in the park, four are open to the public. Other caves are set aside for scientific research or to protect the caves and their contents. Many of the caves contain spectacular stalactites and stalagmites. Discover fossil deposits, cave decorations and hosts of native bats!

It's only 12km from our campsite in Naracoorte out to the caves. Ride time is approx 45min each way. We will also arrange for some bus shuttles for those who would like a day off the pedals.

Spend just an hour or two, or the whole day if you wish. Explore the walking trails, visit the café and plan your day around the special cave tour times.

Scroll to bottom to read more information about each option.

Bookings are essential for each of the special Bike SA tour times at Alexandra Cave, Victoria Fossil Cave and the Bat Tour and must be made through Bike SA office only.

Call 08 8168 9999 (Mon-Thurs only) to book and pay by credit card.

Please book before Thursday 28 Sept so we can confirm numbers with the Caves management.

Wonambi Fossil Centre Free entry if taking a tour
Visit anytime between 9am – 5pm

Alexandra Cave Tour Duration: 30 mins - Meet at the cave
Annual Tour price \$22.00 Tours @ 10:00am, 1:00pm, 2:00pm or 2:30pm

Victoria Fossil Cave Tour Duration: 1 hour - Meet at the cave
Annual Tour price \$30.00 Tours @ 11:00am, 11:30 am or 12.15pm

Note: The Victoria Fossil Cave is located 1.6km from the Wonambi Fossil Centre / Visitor Centre.

You'll need to allow 5-10 mins to cycle there or about 20mins to walk.

Bat Tour (Bat Observation Centre and Blanche Cave) Duration: 1 hour – meet at Wonambi Fossil Centre

Annual Tour price \$25.50 Tours @ 10:00am, 10:45am or 12:30pm

Stick-Tomato Cave Self-guided – buy tickets at the Wonambi Fossil Centre
Annual Tour price \$9.00 Visit any time between 9am – 5pm

Roof Top Loop Walk Visit Self-guided

Free: Visit any time between 9am – 5pm

Caves Café Open 10am to 3pm (hot food until 2pm)

Please advise if you intend to have lunch at the Caves Café so we can advise them how many may wish to eat.

[Click here](#) to view a sample menu – actual menu may differ on the day.

Which experience should you choose?

Unsure of which tour options might suit you best? The Naracoorte Caves offer both above and below ground experiences for visitors to enjoy. If you want to head underground for a unique and enlightening cave tour or are keen to try something a little more challenging – here's the perfect guide to help you get the most out of your visit to South Australia's only World Heritage site.

The Wonambi Fossil Centre is a unique window into the past! With exhibitions showing how the caves acted as pitfall traps, dens and roosts for more than 500,000 years, leading to a vast accumulation of skeletal remains of reptiles, birds and mammals. The Fossil Centre recreates a time when megafauna roamed the landscape and the local animal community was more diverse than today.

The Stick-Tomato Cave is an easy self-guided walk starting with about 20 steps leading down into the cave. With two chambers to explore, the cave is well lit and can be enjoyed by all ages.

The Alexandra Cave, located next door to the Wonambi Fossil Centre is a short, easy 30 minute tour. This tour is a good introduction to caves and the geological processes that form them. Your guide will discuss the geology of the region and how the caves were formed.

The Victoria Fossil Cave is the cave we're famous for! Explore the chamber of fossils recognised by UNESCO for its outstanding scientific value. During the one hour tour you'll walk through magnificent speleothem chambers while your guide outlines accumulation of bones in the caves, excavation techniques and current research. About 400 metres of this cave has a developed pathway and constructed stairs. There are about 50 steps into the cave and a steep sloping path out of it, but the walk is relatively easy. This tour is suitable for all ages, however please note that there is about 30 minutes of sitting in the Fossil Chamber.

Note: The Victoria Fossil Cave is located 1.6km from the Wonambi Fossil Centre / Visitor Centre. You'll need to allow 5-10 mins to cycle there or about 20mins to walk.

Bat Tour (Bat Observation Centre and Blanche Cave) Meet at the Wonambi Fossil Centre for a short walk to the Bat Observation Centre, where you'll watch and learn about the fascinating activities of our resident Southern Bent-wing Bats, a critically endangered species and be able to watch them via infrared camera.

The tour then heads into the majestic Blanche Cave which is rich in both natural and European history. In summer, you can watch the bats' spectacular flight from the Bat Cave at dusk as they head out for a feed of insects.

If caves make you nervous:

You can still enjoy Naracoorte Caves even if you're not keen to head underground. Our award-winning **Roof Top Loop Walk** is fully accessible and provides wheelchair and pram access for people of all ages and abilities. Strategically placed viewing platforms provide a glimpse into the cave interior, or even let you witness bats flying in or out of their underground home. There is also plenty of interpretive signage along the way.

Please take time to review our previous updates as well.

- [Annual Tour 2023 - Rider Update #1](#)
- [Annual Tour 2023 - Rider Update #2](#)
- [Annual Tour 2023 - Rider Update #3](#)

We will be sending out more information shortly.

As always, don't hesitate to contact us if you have any queries in the meantime.