

28 September 2023

Dear Annual Tour rider,

2 weeks to go.....!

Here are some more quick updates and reminders to help you prepare.

Pre & Post Annual Tour accommodation and activities

Many of you are driving to Mount Gambier and may have plans to arrive a day or two earlier or even stay longer afterwards to explore the region further. We certainly encourage you to enjoy the most of the fabulous Limestone Coast region.

Please be aware that you will NOT be able to stay at the South Gambier Football Club before Saturday 14 October. You will need to make arrangements to stay elsewhere if you are arriving in Mount Gambier prior to this.

Similarly, you will need to ensure you are offsite after lunch on the final day - Sunday 22 October.

There are many accommodation options in and around Mount Gambier including hotel, motel, BnB, caravan parks and camp grounds. The following link is a helpful resource

<https://discovermountgambier.com.au/activities/stay-do/>

You can also view a Mount Gambier City map [here](#) and a Mount Gambier Regional Guide [here](#)

You may also wish to stay in a regional location nearby to Mount Gambier. The District Council of Grant (serving the region surrounding Mount Gambier) has provided the following additional information about the tourism and food options in the region – many of them within 10-20 mins drive from Mount Gambier.

Please refer to the following links:

<https://www.dcgrant.sa.gov.au/discover> <https://www.dcgrant.sa.gov.au/discover/planyourvisit/placetoeat>

Port Macdonnell is a short drive away on the coast and a lovely place to visit. It is a popular holiday destination, and an active fishing village that is home to the largest Southern Rock Lobster fleet in Australia, but it was once the second busiest port in South Australia. That meant many ships coming and going, and this shipping activity combined with wild weather conditions, and rough seas, led to many shipwrecks. Many people are fascinated to learn about the history of the many shipwrecks along the coastline, by visiting the Maritime Museum which is located within the Port MacDonnell Community Complex on Charles Street, Port MacDonnell. The Complex is open 7 days a week- on Saturdays and Sundays it is open from 11am-3pm. There is a small cover charge to enter the Museum.

Note: Our final day itinerary does include an optional ride out to either Mount Schank (40km return) or Port Macdonnell (70km return). However, if you have plans to pack up and depart Mount Gambier earlier on Sunday 22nd and you arrive a few days earlier, you could visit in your own time either by car or riding from Mount Gambier.

Saturday 14 October: Day 1 - arrival and free time to explore

Once you have checked in and set yourselves up you will have the afternoon free to explore Mount Gambier including Engelbrecht Cave, Cave gardens, the Umpherston Sinkhole and of course the famous Blue Lake and adjacent Valley Lake.

View [Mount Gambier walking and cycling trails information](#) including a [cycle trails map](#) and a [walking trails map](#)

If you're checking out the Blue Lake, it's just a short ride down the hill on Bay Rd towards Port MacDonnell to visit the small [Badenoch Shopping Centre](#) where you'll find the following places to indulge:

- [Scroll Queen](#) Open Sat & Sun 9 am–3 pm
- [Badenoch's Ice Cream Cafe](#) Open Sat 9 am–3:30 pm & Sun 10 am–3:30 pm
- [Good Intentions Wine Co.](#) Open Sat & Sun 12-pm-6 pm

Note: be mindful of traffic parking or reversing out as you approach and leave the shops

Mount Gambier Show

Please also be aware that the annual Mount Gambier Show will take place on Friday 20 and Saturday 21 October. We will be riding back in to Mount Gambier on the Saturday.

The Showgrounds are not far from where we are staying and you may find time to visit if you arrive early enough after cycling from Penola.

Whilst the Show should not impact our stay at the South Gambier Football Club, it will mean that other accommodations options will be limited that weekend.

Luggage

A reminder that we limit the weight of each rider's luggage to 25 kilograms. This needs to be contained in 2 separate bags with no bag weighing more than 14 kilograms.

Please refer to the detailed LUGGAGE SPECIFICATIONS AND HANDLING information in the Annual Tour Ride Guide – available to download in the Participant Information tab on the [Annual Tour Event Information page](#)

We suggest that you use waterproof duffle bags, as these are easy to manage for both yourself and our hardworking volunteers. Yes, handling up to 400 pieces of luggage twice a day certainly gives our luggage team healthy appetites by dinner time! Dry Sacks are ideal to put your tent into, quick and easy. Check your local camping/outdoor store for a variety of brands. Making sure that your luggage is waterproof is important, as it is not always possible to protect your luggage during loading/unloading.

Sharing the love...

For those who like to share their experiences online feel free to use the following hashtags as you prepare for the event and of course, whilst you are having fun on the Annual Tour.

#annualtour2023 #limestonecoast #southaustralia #bikesa

It is a great way for all riders to share images from the trail and also make your friends and family envious as they follow your adventures.

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](#)
- [Annual Tour 2023 - Rider Update #4](#)
- [Annual Tour 2023 - Rider Update #5](#)

We will be sending out more information shortly.

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