

27 April 2023

Dear Outback Odyssey rider,

There is just over a week to go now before we set off on our Outback Odyssey adventure riding the Mawson Trail!

Here are a few reminders as you make your final preparations. There is quite a bit of information here - **please take the time to read it.**

Please ensure that you have read and understood all the information on our website, Ride Guide and Rider updates. In particular, please make sure you are familiar with all the information regarding luggage capacity / weight limits and what to bring. Please ensure that all your bags, phone/device chargers and cables are all clearly labelled with your name. PLEASE ENSURE that your bike has been fully serviced and is “fully fit for the 900km tour of duty”.

Weather outlook

Adelaide and the surrounding regions have had little rain and this has extended through Autumn. Whilst we are optimistic that the weather gods will be kind to us, there is still the chance that we will experience some showery conditions whilst on tour. So please ensure you have packed adequate wet weather riding gear just in case. Our overnight camping venues may be a little soft and damp underfoot, or very hard and dry as we head further North. You may wish to bring a lightweight ground sheet to further protect the underside of your tent.

In addition, we highly recommend that you that you have flashing front and rear lights fitted to your bikes to increase your visibility to other road users. We also recommend that you bring a good bike lock with you to secure your bike each night.

Outback Odyssey - Official Start location

A quick reminder that the Outback Odyssey start location will be in the South Eastern corner of [Hindmarsh Square](#) (cnr Pulteney Street and Pirie Street and opposite the Channel 9 building).

There is plenty of street-side car parking available on the eastern side of Hindmarsh Square. Please note that from 8am a parking ticket is required.

Check-in at will be from 7.00am on Sat 6 May with a Rider briefing at 8.10am before departing at 8.30am.

As part of our risk management protocols, **you will be asked to complete a Health Check declaration** confirming that you do not have (and you are not showing symptoms of) Covid-19 or cold and flu.

At Check-in you will receive your rider pack including Ride Guide, Rider Name Plate and Mawson Trail maps. **Please keep Map #1 of Section #1** with you for the first day of riding and store the remaining maps in your luggage for safe keeping.

Please note that due to supply issues outside of our control, **your complimentary Outback Odyssey jersey will NOT be available at the start.** We will keep you updated with delivery dates.

We will have a complimentary croissant available for you once you have checked in, however please make sure you have fuelled up with an adequate breakfast beforehand. Coffee will also be available for purchase at the Square.

The luggage truck will be at the start venue to load all baggage immediately AFTER you have checked in. Luggage can also be dropped onto the luggage truck at our office location (11a Croydon Road, Keswick) on Friday 5 May, **only** between the hours of 3pm and 5pm. You can take a day pack with you for your overnight requirements on Friday night and then proceed directly to the start venue on Saturday morning, where you can deposit your bag with the luggage truck. Please note that we DO NOT have the facility to store bikes overnight on the Friday.

Route navigation / Mawson Trail Maps

The Mawson Trail map collection is made up of 9 individual maps covering three distinct sections of the Mawson Trail. Printed hardcopies of these maps are provided as part of your Outback Odyssey / Mini Mawson tour registration. You should carry the map relevant to your day's journey with you whilst riding.

For more information about navigating your way along the trail each day please refer to the following information sheet - [Mawson Trail Navigation Information - How do I find my way?](#)

What sort of bike are you riding?

Have you filled in our bike survey yet? If not, please take a few minutes to do so. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OdysseyBikeSurvey2023>

This information will assist our bike support mechanic, prepare stock of spares so please take time to do so now. More information about the Bike Mechanic service for Odyssey 2023 will be sent out shortly.

Crockery and Cutlery

As an ongoing consideration of Covid-19 food service and hygiene protocols, crockery and cutlery will be provided for all meals. In some cases, meals will be served on biodegradable or compostable disposable plates and bowls. Where provided, hot beverages will be served in take-away cups. Stainless steel /disposable cutlery will be provided for all meals. This means that you will **not need** to bring any eating or drinking utensils with you and you will not have to do any washing up.

Final Night Venue – Blinman. Sat 20 May

This year our regular overnight venue at Alpana Station is unfortunately unavailable for us to use. Instead we will be staying at the Blinman Sports Club which is located on the southern edge of the town, approx. 1km from the General Store and North Blinman Hotel.

This will essentially be a "bush camp" scenario as there are currently no permanent facilities onsite. Whilst it may be a little "rustico", we will be making use of hire infrastructure, amenities and facilities with portable generators for power and water tanks.

COVID-19 protocols for Outback Odyssey

As we continue to live with the presence of COVID-19 within the wider community, we need to give consideration to the safety and wellbeing of event participants, volunteer personnel and the communities through which we will travel. Accordingly, we have implemented the following protocols for Outback Odyssey.

Face masks are no longer required to be worn in most settings, however Bike SA supports the wearing of face masks during our tour if participants prefer to do so. Anyone who has booked a bus transfer may be asked to wear a mask whilst on the bus.

While density limits no longer apply, as an additional safeguard to our participants, Bike SA will configure indoor settings for dining to allow as much distance between tables as possible. In addition, everyone will be regularly reminded to be vigilant with their personnel hygiene including the frequent use of hand sanitisers and hand washing.

Pre-departure Health Check

If you are unwell or develop COVID-19 symptoms immediately prior to the start for Outback Odyssey you should not attend Outback Odyssey.

When checking in for the start of the Outback Odyssey, you will be required to sign a Covid-19 declaration acknowledging your current health status.

What happens if I test positive just before the Outback Odyssey departs?

In the event that you test Positive to COVID-19 within 7 days of the tour commencing you will NOT be able to travel with us. Bicycle SA recommends that you take out travel insurance including coverage for COVID-19 events.

Infection Response Protocols and Rapid Antigen Testing during the event

We will be travelling into regional areas of South Australia where there are limited resources for COVID-19 testing. Therefore, **all participants will be required to bring at least 5 Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) kits with them. You should also bring some face masks in case you require them.**

Participants who present with any COVID-19 symptoms during the event will be required to take a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) and immediately isolate alongside any members of the same travelling party sharing a tent/room.

Our team will work through any necessary requirements and you will be in safe and caring hands. Our aim is to minimise disruption to all participants when this occurs.

What happens if I test positive for Covid-19 during the event.

Should you return a Positive result for COVID-19 following a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) you will not be allowed to continue on the event and will be required to make your own arrangements to isolate (this may be at the nearest available accommodation) for as long as necessary and make your own arrangements to travel home. Any associated costs will be the responsibility of the participant. Bicycle SA will do as much as possible to assist you whilst ensuring the safety of all other participants and our volunteer personnel.

For further information about what to do if you test positive for COVID-19 please [view the current guidelines from SA Health](#)

Please check previous updates for further reminders

[Outback Odyssey Update #1](#)

[Outback Odyssey Update #2](#)

[Outback Odyssey Update #3](#)

Stay tuned for a final update coming soon.

The Bike SA Team