

# RIDE GUIDE 2019

*Ride the  
Outback*



**GREAT  
OUTBACK  
ESCAPE**

# WELCOME

Every Australian should go to Central Australia at some stage of their lives. Unfortunately, not many get the opportunity and most of those that do, spend their time marvelling at the red dust and vast land from behind the windscreen.

Your experience is going to be even better. From the saddle of your bike, you'll be immersed in a place that gives you a unique appreciation for our remarkable country and its history. You'll come away with a renewed admiration for those who've been part of the land for thousands of years and those pioneers who went in search of the great inland sea not that long ago.

We're really looking forward to sharing the Great Outback Escape with you. While what you see will live in your memories forever, who you'll meet along the way will be the bonus highlight. Pedalling together is one of the best ways for acquaintances to become lifelong friends.

We're sure that for months to come, every time you find another red dust reminder of your trip, you'll return in your mind to Central Australia and fondly remember the time you rode a bike in one of the most spectacular places on earth.



**Craig Richards**  
CEO Bicycle Network

Bicycle Network acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this nation. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we are travelling through. We pay our respects to ancestors and Elders, past and present. Bicycle Network is committed to honouring Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas and their rich contribution to society.

# YOUR EVENT TEAM

## Rebecca Lane

General Manager of Events  
*Keeps us all in check.*

## Caitlin Borchers

Event Manager  
*Manages Great Outback Escape and United Energy Around the Bay.*

## Mark Plucinski

Event Coordinator  
*Keeps you moving out on the road.*

## Jaimie Collins

Event Coordinator  
*Feeds and shelters you along the way.*

## Anthea Hargreaves

General Manager of Public Affairs  
*Our Twitter voice.*

## Ethan Kusch

Rider Services Team Leader  
*The man on the phones.*

## Sarah Cunningham

Volunteer Coordinator  
*Queen of Bicycle Network volunteers.*

## Lauren LeQuire

People Operations Manager  
*Looks after us so we can look after you.*

## Richard Cross

Sales Coordinator  
*Does everything man.*

## Kahlia Dix

Event Manager  
*Manages Great Vic and Peaks Challenge.*

## Troy Bussell

Mechanic  
*Your personal mechanic.*

# EVENT ASSISTANCE

The Bicycle Network team will support you along your journey.

On your rider lanyard and bike tag is the Event Assistance phone number. If you need assistance while out on road, please call this number. Because we will be riding in remote areas phone reception can be limited. As well as calling, please also text Event Assistance and include the time you are sending the message at.

## IS IT AN EMERGENCY?

Does it require Ambulance, Fire or Police?

**NO**

CALL EVENT ASSISTANCE

**0425 381 816**

**0425 777 484**

**YES**

**Step 1:  
CALL EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**000**

**Step 2:  
CALL EVENT ASSISTANCE**

In case of an emergency it is always recommended to call 000 first. Calling event assistance after calling 000 is essential so that, where possible, Bicycle Network can work with the Emergency Services to facilitate the appropriate response.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Meals

Your ticket includes the below meals. Tea and coffee provided at morning teas and some alcoholic drinks are included. All additional drinks are to be purchased by the riders.

Food and hydration are very important elements of getting you ready for riding each day. Bicycle Network will carry plenty of water along the ride and we encourage you to fill up your water bottles every morning and at each rest area.

Some of the areas we are visiting are remote and shopping is very limited. If there are any special items you need or snacks you'd like to bring along, please buy them in Alice Springs on Saturday 11 or Monday 13 May.

DAY	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Breakfast		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Morning tea		✓	✓	✓				
Lunch		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Afternoon tea					✓			
Dinner	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Accommodation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## On-event bike transport

Bicycle Network will transport your bikes to the ride start location on most days.

All bikes will need to be packed onto trucks between 5:00pm and 6:00pm the night before. Because we head off early each morning there won't be time for bike loading. Your luggage will be packed on the buses each morning as you hop on the bus.

## Riding times

We will start riding as one each day and there are direction signage and dedicated rest areas along the route. We encourage riders to stay together and ride at a speed you are comfortable with.

Each day there will be a riding route open and close time.

These times give you enough time for sightseeing and photos along the route, and \ allows the Bicycle Network team to give you the best support out on road.

You may wish to explore other areas or take a more leisurely pace which may make you fall behind these times. That's ok, just let the Bicycle Network team know and note that we will pack up each day's signage within the riding route closure times.

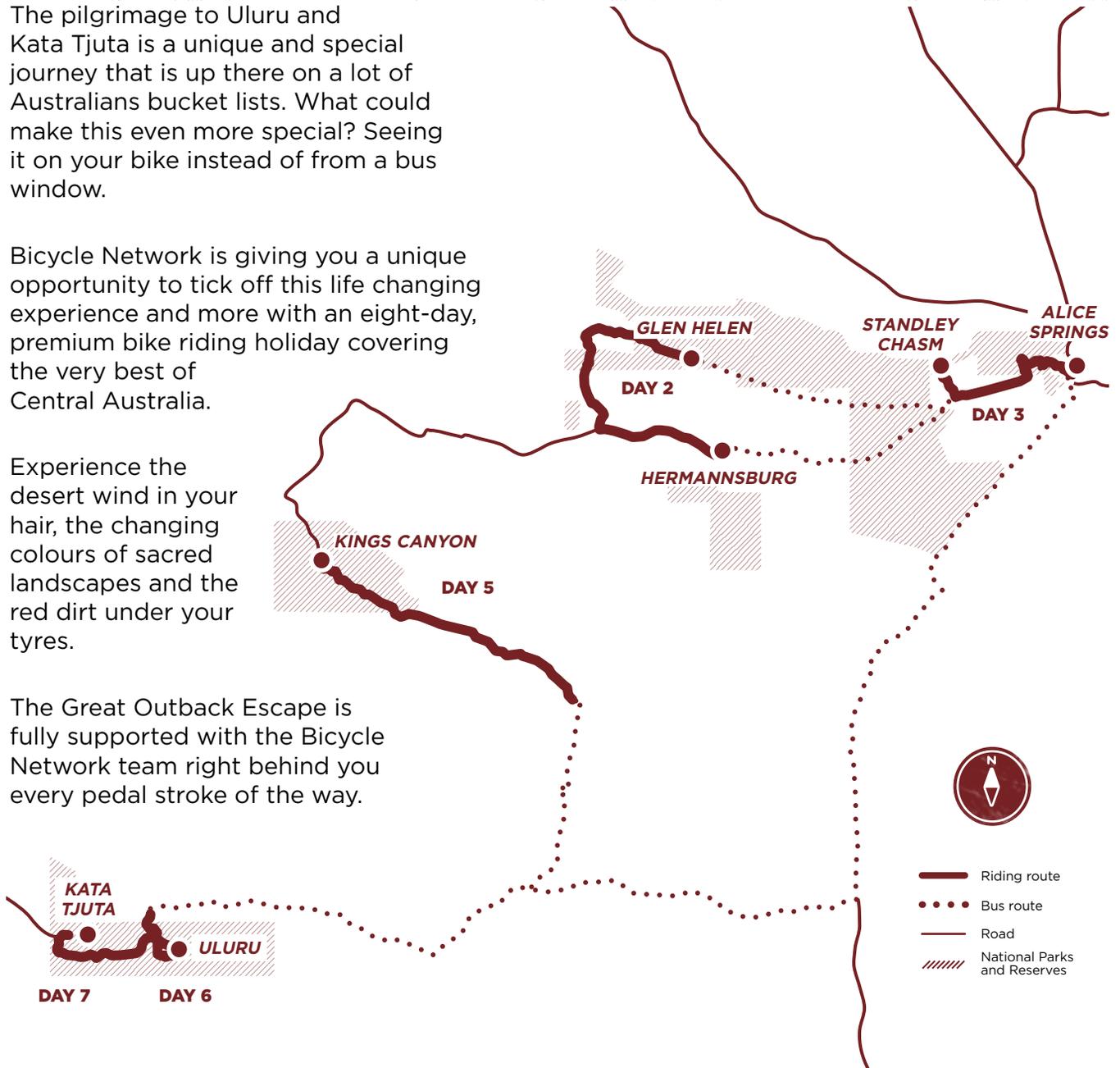
# THE GREAT OUTBACK ESCAPE

The pilgrimage to Uluru and Kata Tjuta is a unique and special journey that is up there on a lot of Australians bucket lists. What could make this even more special? Seeing it on your bike instead of from a bus window.

Bicycle Network is giving you a unique opportunity to tick off this life changing experience and more with an eight-day, premium bike riding holiday covering the very best of Central Australia.

Experience the desert wind in your hair, the changing colours of sacred landscapes and the red dirt under your tyres.

The Great Outback Escape is fully supported with the Bicycle Network team right behind you every pedal stroke of the way.



# DAY ONE SATURDAY 11 MAY

## ALICE SPRINGS - ARRIVAL

Meet and greet your new travelling companions and the Bicycle Network team.

All guests will be able to check into their accommodation from 2:00pm. If you arrive early, the team at the Mercure can store your luggage and bike until check in time, giving you time to explore Alice Springs.

### Key Times

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2:00pm - 6:00pm The Bicycle Network team will be on hand to help you unpack your bikes from travel cases and load them onto transport trucks for our first day of riding. Feel free to go for a pedal around Alice Springs, however all bikes must be on the trucks by 6:00pm.

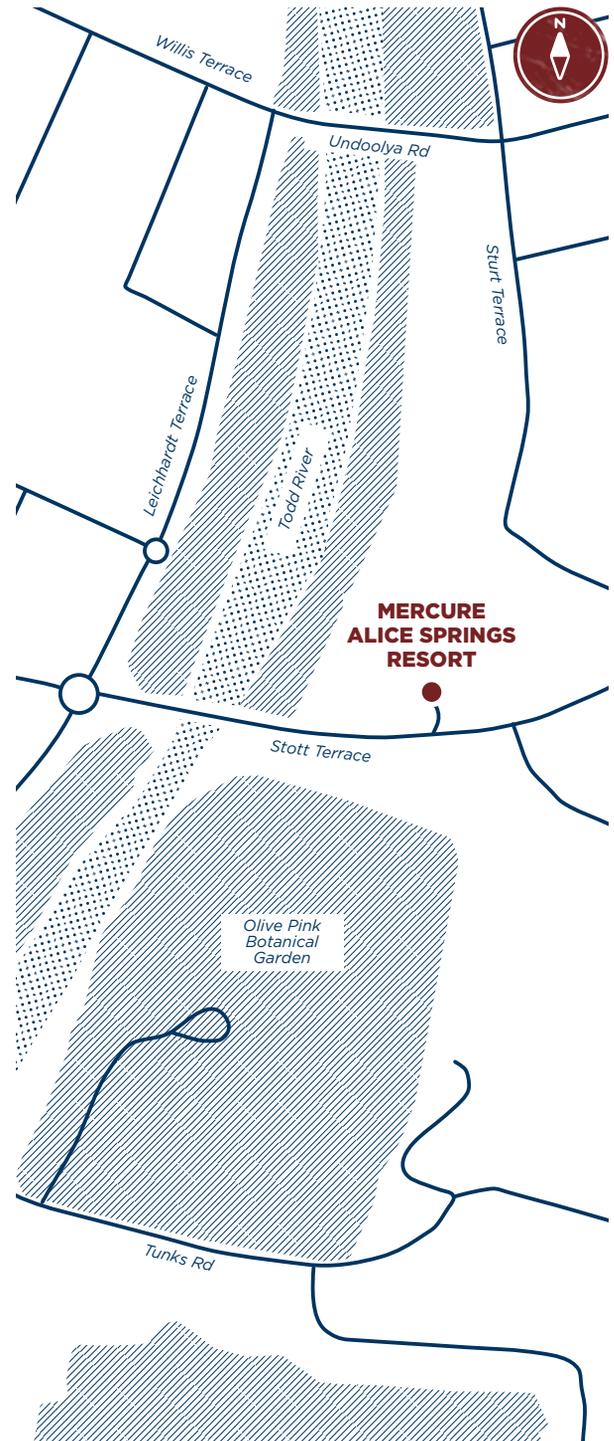
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6:00pm Welcome to Country and an introduction to your Bicycle Network support team on the Mercure Lawns followed by drinks, canapes and dinner.

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### ACCOMODATION:

**Mercure Alice Springs Resort**  
34 Stott Terrace, Alice Springs  
Check in from 2:00pm.



# DAY TWO SUNDAY 12 MAY

## ALICE SPRINGS TO GLEN HELEN

Following breakfast at Mercure Alice Springs Resort you'll kick off the day with a tour of the historic Hermannsburg precinct, followed by coffee, tea and a strudel on the deck overlooking the West MacDonnell Ranges.

Then, it's time to ride! Today's riding will take in quiet roads, rolling hills and the possibility of spotting wild horses and dingoes. Did we mention today is the biggest day of riding? A cruisy 117km.

The Bicycle Network team will be out on the road to support you. We'll have you covered with water, food, toilets, mechanical assistance and even a lift if you're legs aren't up for it.

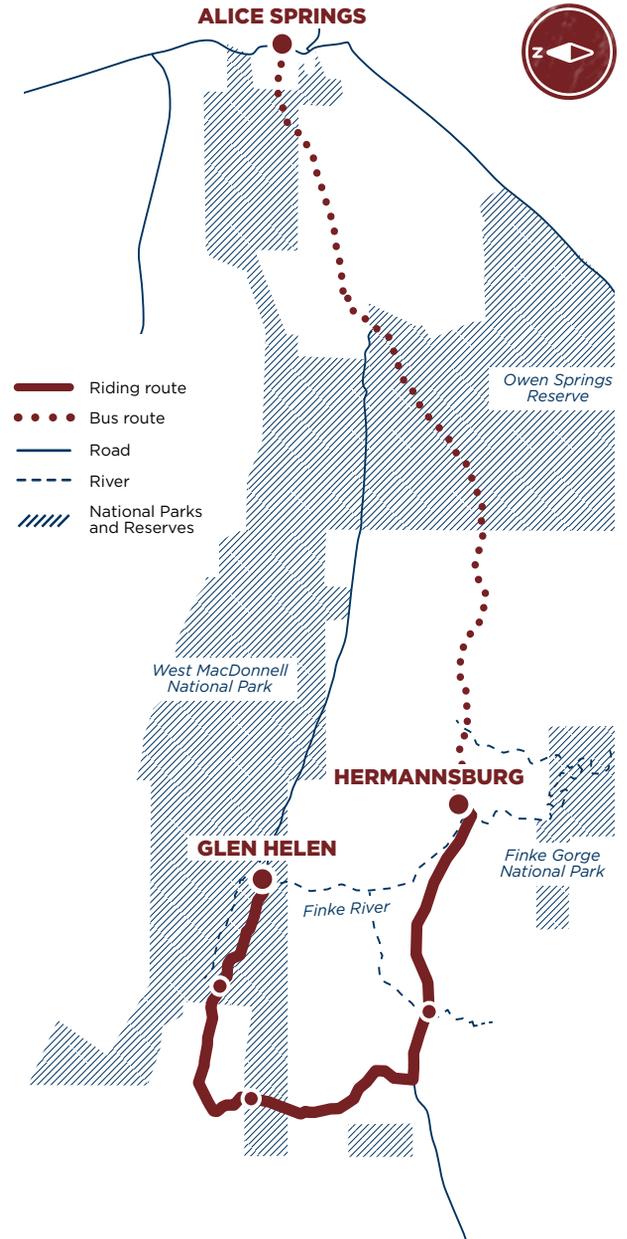
Upon arrival, Lux ticket holders can settle into their rooms at the homestead.

Premium ticket holders will have a true outback experience by camping under the stars. Tents will be pitched by the Bicycle Network team and you'll have use of the campground's amenities.

After freshening up, feel free to explore Glen Helen Gorge, before settling in for a BBQ dinner and a campfire.

### Key times

6:00am	Breakfast at Mercure Alice Springs Resort
7:00am	Buses depart for Hermannsburg.
9:30am	Start riding from Hermannsburg to Glen Helen Lodge
9:30am–5:00pm	Riding route open
5:00–6:00pm	Load your bikes onto the bus for tomorrow's riding
6:00pm	BBQ dinner and campfire



### Key locations on riding route



# DAY THREE MONDAY 13 MAY

## GLEN HELEN TO ALICE SPRINGS

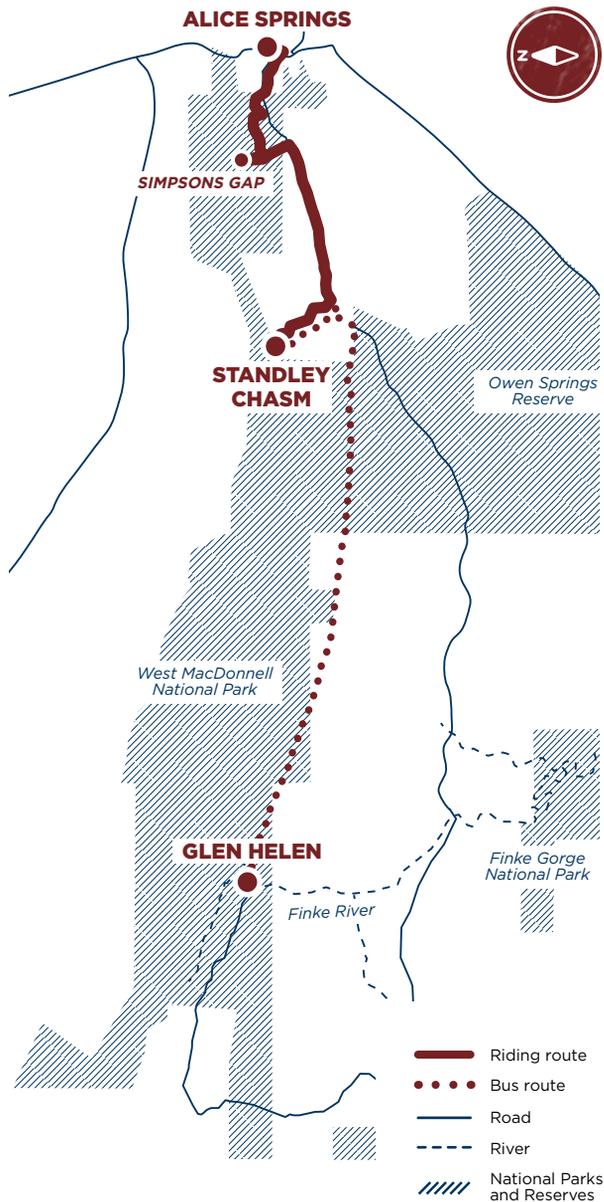
After a bush tucker brekkie, we'll board the bus and head towards the spectacular Standley Chasm. We'll then stretch our legs with a 40-minute return walk to Standley Chasm, where you'll learn about its place in the Iwupataka culture from a local guide.

The Angkerle Artists group from the local Arrernte community who develop their traditional art into small souvenir products have also been organised to showcase their work to us.

Go for a relaxed ride and cruise the 70km back to Alice Springs. There will be plenty of time for a dip in the pool or to explore the town before dinner.

### Key times

6:00am	Breakfast at Glen Helen
7:00am	Depart on bus to Standley Chasm
8:30am	Optional walk through Standley Chasm followed by morning tea
9:30am	Start riding from Standley Chasm to Alice Springs
9:30am-4:00pm	Riding route open
2:00pm	Check in at the Mercure Alice Springs Resort
5:00pm-6:00pm	Load your bikes onto the bus
6:30pm	Two course dinner



### Key locations on riding route



# DAY FOUR TUESDAY 14 MAY

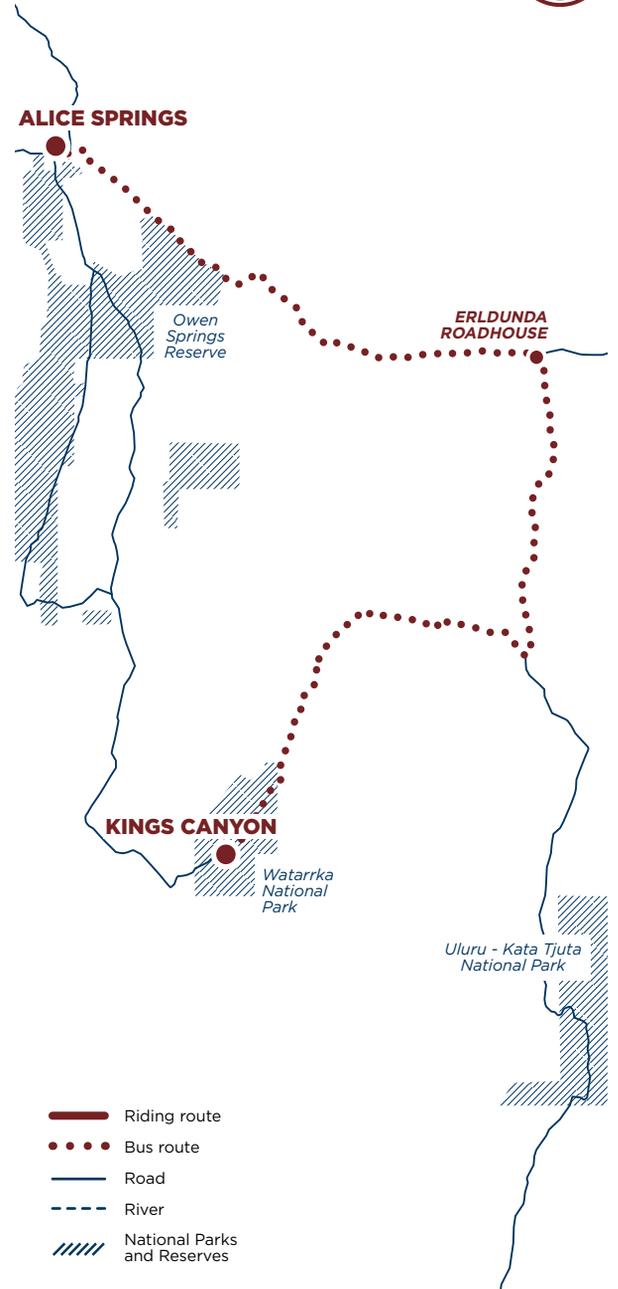
## ALICE SPRINGS TO KINGS CANYON

It may be rest day, but we have an early wake up time. We need to hit the road early because there is a long drive to the stunning Kings Canyon and the earlier we leave, the more time we will have to spend there!

There are plenty of optional extras to enjoy at the Kings Canyon resort, or you can just put your feet up and enjoy the peace and quiet.

### Key times

5:30am	Breakfast at Mercure Resort
6:15am	Bus departs for Kings Canyon, stopping for morning tea at the ERLDUNDA ROADHOUSE
12:30pm	Arrive at Kings Canyon for lunch
1:30pm	Optional activities
5:30pm	Enjoy a champagne as the sun sets over Kings Canyon
6:30pm	Two-course dinner at Carmichaels Restaurant



# DAY FIVE WEDNESDAY 15 MAY

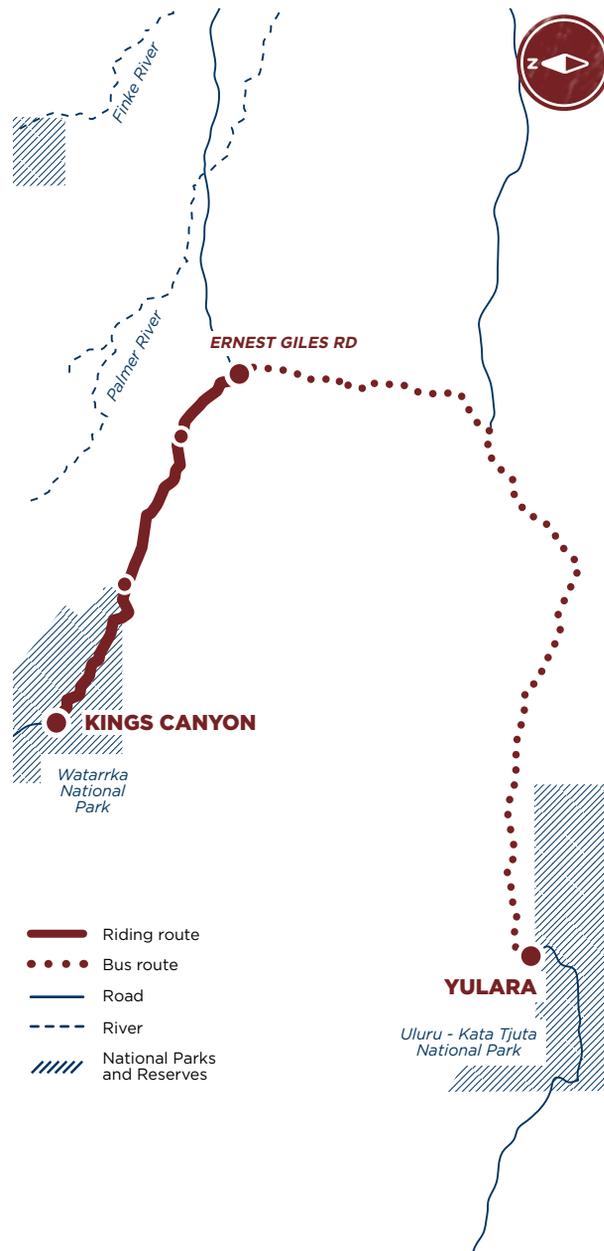
## KINGS CANYON TO YULARA

Today's riding will take you along mostly flat terrain with quintessential outback views all day. The ride goes through the heart of the Watarrka National Park and is guided by the stunning ridge-line along the western end of the George Gill Range.

Either take your packed lunch or pick it up along the way and pull up wherever takes your breath away to soak up the scenery. By the end of the day we will be enjoying a glass of champagne watching the sunset.

### Key times

6:00am	Breakfast at Kings Canyon Resort
7:00am	Start riding from Kings Canyon to Ernest Giles Road
7:00am-2:30pm	Route open
12:30pm	First coaches depart from Ernest Giles Road to Yulara
2:30pm	Afternoon tea at Curtin Springs
5:30pm	Welcome drinks and canapes
6:30pm	Taste of the Outback BBQ Poolside at Sails in the Desert



### Key locations on riding route



# DAY SIX THURSDAY 16 MAY

## YULARA - ULURU LOOP

Surprise! It's an early start today, but trust us, it will be worth it! Enjoy the Field of Light in the darkness and take a self-guided tour through the stunning field before watching the sunrise from a viewing platform with the backdrop of Uluru over breakfast.

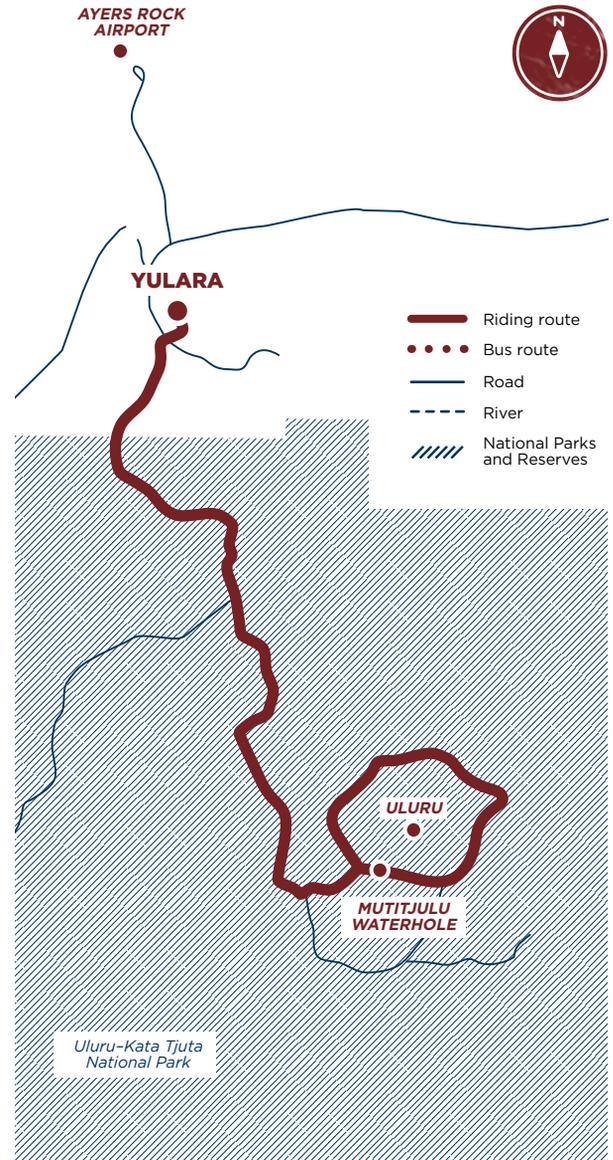
During the day you'll have time to ride a full loop of Uluru, stop in at the cultural centre and go for a stroll to the Mutitjulu waterhole.

The afternoon and evening are open for you to enjoy some free time - there are plenty of activities to choose from - book into one of the beautiful restaurants or simply kick back and relax.

### Key times

6:00am	Bus departs for Field of Light
6:00am	Self-guided tour through the Field of Light before sitting down to breakfast at sunrise
8:15am	Bus back to accommodation
9:00am-1:00am	Riding route Open. Riders can head off at any time to enjoy the Uluru loop. On road support will be provided by Bicycle Network during this time.
From 12:00pm	Enjoy additional activity options and free time

(Only breakfast is provided today)



### Key locations on riding route



# DAY SEVEN FRIDAY 17 MAY

## YULARA - KATA TJUTA LOOP

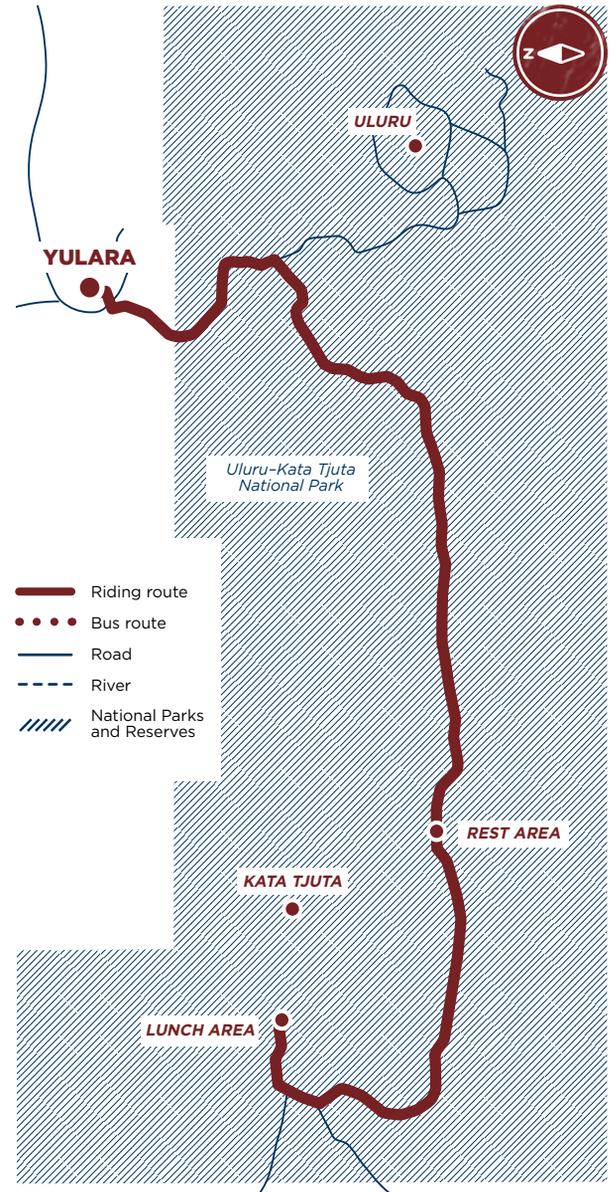
The winding road through Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park features stunning views of Kata Tjuta on the ride out, and even better views of Uluru on your return to Yulara.

The Sounds of Silence dinner is the perfect opportunity to reflect on the best memories of the trip and enjoy a final night with new friends. You'll be dining under the desert night sky while a storyteller shares with you tales as told in the stars.

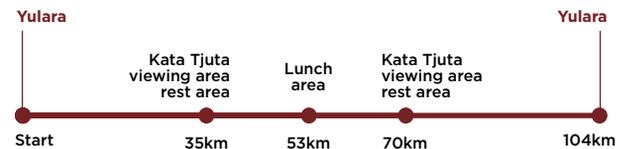
It's the perfect way to wrap up arguably the best day of riding for the trip!

### Key times

6:00am	Breakfast at Ilkari Restaurant
7:00am	Start riding through Kata Tjuta National Park
3:00pm-4:30pm	Load bikes onto buses for riders using the bike transport to Melbourne and the bus to Alice Springs
5:00pm	Bus departs for Sound of Silence dinner
6:00pm	Three-course dinner under the stars
9:00pm	Bus returns to accommodation



### Key locations on riding route



# DAY EIGHT SATURDAY 18 MAY

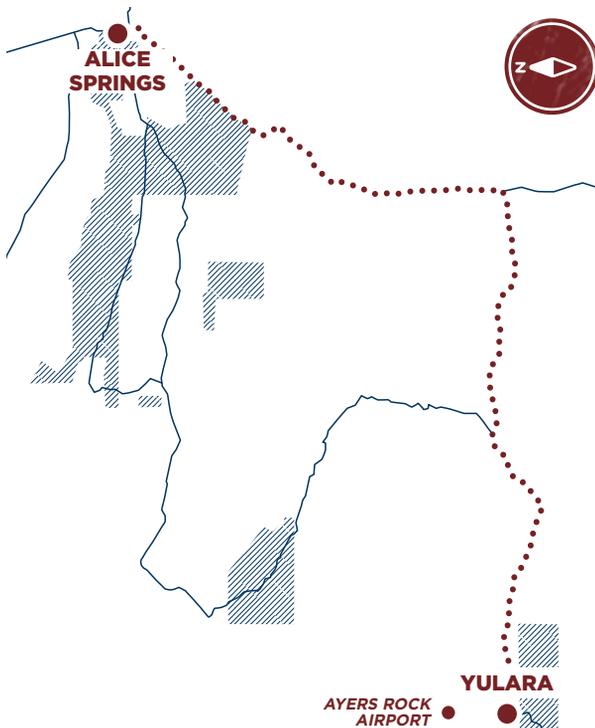
## YULARA - DEPARTURE

The time has come to say farewell and pop the camera away.

Depart any time on your own or enjoy our optional transfer service back to Alice Springs. If you're flying directly from Uluru, you can use the resort's free airport shuttle service.

### Key times

6:00am	Breakfast at Ilkari Restaurant
8:00am	Buses depart for Alice Springs and Alice Springs airport



Ride the  
Outback

