

Ride the
**TOP
END**



RIDE GUIDE



**GREAT
TOP END
ESCAPE**

11-19 JUNE 2022

WELCOME

Craig Richards

I have a confession: I'm biased. I love the Top End.

It's in Australia, but when, like me, you come from the south it feels like another world.

The scenery is captivating. Stunning water holes. The sun setting over milky blue seas. Termite mounds without any sign of a termite anywhere. Kites soaring overhead in search of a morsel.

The people are just so chilled. They love a laugh, but not often out loud. They don't get worked up over the little things, but they don't mess about with the things that matter - like the crocs!

The weather in the middle of the year is made to order. Warm, but not hot days. Comfortable, but not cold nights. Day after day it's as close to perfect as you could imagine (hope that hasn't mozzed us).

Whether this is the first time you've been to the Top End or the twenty-first, there's no better way to see this incredible part of Australia than from the seat of a bike. It'll give you the time to really soak it up, and like me, fall in love.

Thanks so much for joining us. We can't wait to share this special part of Australia with you.

Bicycle Network acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we travel through and pay our respects to ancestors and Elders, past, present and emerging.

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.

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**BICYCLE
NETWORK®**

We've got your back

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YOUR EVENT TEAM

Rebecca Lane

Happy on the bike for a fun time, not a long time!

Can't wait to catch the sunrise & sunset in Kakadu on the same day when we cruise yellow waters & finish the day at Ubirr.

Caitlin Borchers

Rides towards coffee & croissant

I can't wait to see the sunset over Kakadu and visit some water holes, minus crocodiles.

Jaimie Collins

Rail trail explorer

Known for taking way too many photos - will happily fill my camera roll snapping the perfect sunset and spectacular scenery.

Sarah Cunningham

Recreational rider

Looking forward to putting faces to names and meeting all our wonderful riders in person after many months chatting on the phone.

Louis Coad

Active commuter/runner using the bike daily to cross train

Excited to fly high over Nitmiluk Gorge by helicopter.

Sam McSweeney

Active commuter

Looking forward to chasing some waterfalls and watering holes.

Richard Cross (AKA Crossy)

Endurance Rider

Really looking forward to the swimming holes and waterfalls at Litchfield National Park.

Troy Bussell

High country mountain biker

Keen to see the amazing sights that you will only find in Australia's Top End.

David Payne

What's a bike?

Excited to explore the Northern Territory - the final state untouched in Australia!

Mark Plucinski

Active commuter

Can't wait to roll out all of our hard work planning the event whilst also exploring the top end.

VOLUNTEERS

Also a big thank you to all of our amazing volunteers who helped us pack and prepare for this event.

EVENT ASSISTANCE

Bicycle Network has your back and is here to support you on your journey. On your rider lanyard and bike tag you will find the Event Assistance phone number. If you need help or support while out on the road or at any time on the event, please call us on this number.

Reception can be limited in some of the remote areas we're riding through so in addition to calling, please send a text with the time the message was sent.

In case of an emergency, please call 000 first.

IS IT AN EMERGENCY?

Does it require Ambulance, Fire or Police?

NO	YES
<p style="margin: 0;">CALL EVENT ASSISTANCE</p> <p style="margin: 0;">0425 381 816 or 0425 777 484</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">STEP 1: Call EMERGENCY SERVICES 000</p> <p style="margin: 0;">STEP 2: Call EVENT ASSISTANCE 0425 381 816 or 0425 777 484</p>

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 meals listed below. Each dinner will include one alcoholic beverage. All additional drinks will need to be purchased.

Water will be readily available along the route and we strongly encourage you to fill up your water bottles at the start of each ride and at each rest area.

If there are any special items you need, or snacks you'd like to bring, we encourage you to purchase them in Darwin on the day you arrive as opportunities for shopping along the route are limited.

Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Breakfast	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Morning snack	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Lunch	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Afternoon snack			✓		✓		✓	✓	
Dinner	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Accommodation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

ON-EVENT BIKE TRANSPORT

Where required, Bicycle Network will transport your bikes to the start line on ride days. All bikes will need to be packed onto trucks the day before. Bicycle Network's friendly team will be on hand to help.

Your luggage will be loaded on to buses each morning as you hop on the bus.

Ensure all hard luggage is removed from the coach after each journey. If day bags are being moved between stops valet bags will be provided and you will be briefed on this.

RIDING TIMES

You will begin each day of riding together as a group at the times indicated in your daily itinerary. Please stay together as a group where possible and ride at a speed you are comfortable with.

There will be directional signage and rest stops along the way.

Please note that the route has open and close times. This will ensure that you have enough time for sightseeing and allows the Bicycle Network team to give you the best support out on the road.

GREAT TOP END ESCAPE ITINERARY

The Great Top End Escape isn't just a bike ride - it's a jam-packed adventure with unique attractions that showcase the best of the region.

Over nine days, you'll get the chance to ride through and marvel at world heritage-listed national parks like Kakadu and Litchfield, swim in century-old watering holes, catch up with some crocs and immerse yourself in historic indigenous cultures.

-  Riding route
-  Event day
-  Bus route



DAY 1

SATURDAY 11 JUNE

DARWIN - ARRIVAL

Welcome to the Great Top End Escape!

Meet and greet your new travelling companions and your Bicycle Network support team who will be with you for every pedal stroke. Our bike mechanic will also be on hand to help check your bike and provide any assistance.

All guests will be able to check into their accommodation from 2.00pm.

If you arrive early on Saturday, the Bicycle Network team will be on hand at H on Smith hotel lobby to assist with storing your luggage and bike until check-in time.

KEY TIMES



Airport shuttles

2.00pm - 5.30pm



Bicycle Network check-in open.

The team will assist you with the following 3 things:

1. Collect rider pack (including complimentary towel and drawstring bag)
2. Collect room key
3. Prepare your bike in the H on Smith car park

5.30pm



Shuttle to the welcome dinner at Darwin Sailing Club. There will be two shuttles.

6.00pm



Welcome dinner at Darwin Sailing Club

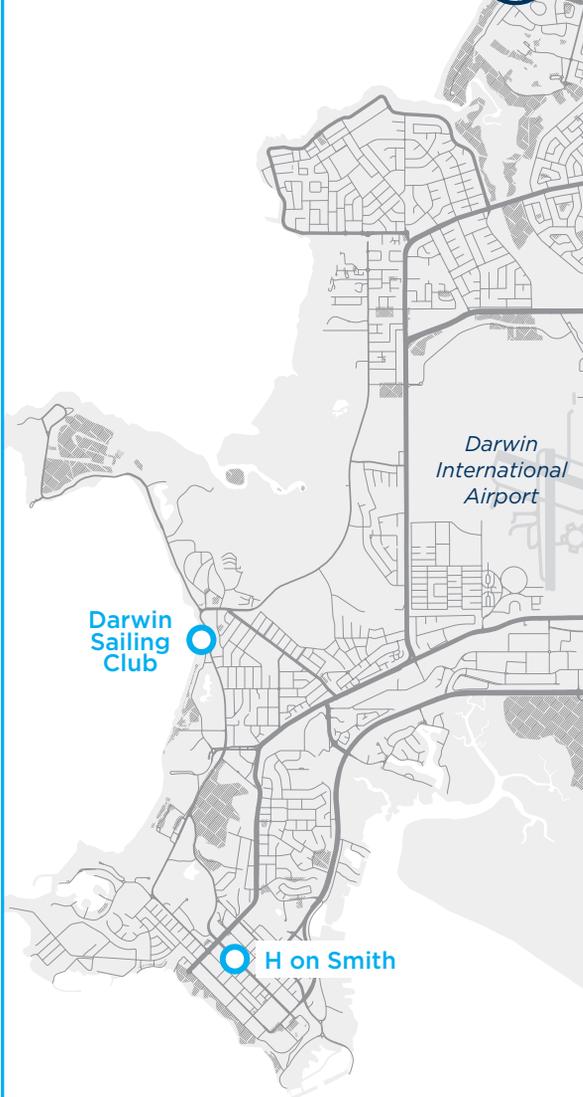
Welcome to Country 6.05pm

8.00pm



Shuttle to H on Smith Hotel. There will be two shuttles.

DARWIN



ACCOMMODATION

H on Smith Hotel, 81 Smith Street, Darwin
Check in from 2.00pm

DAY 2

SUNDAY 12 JUNE

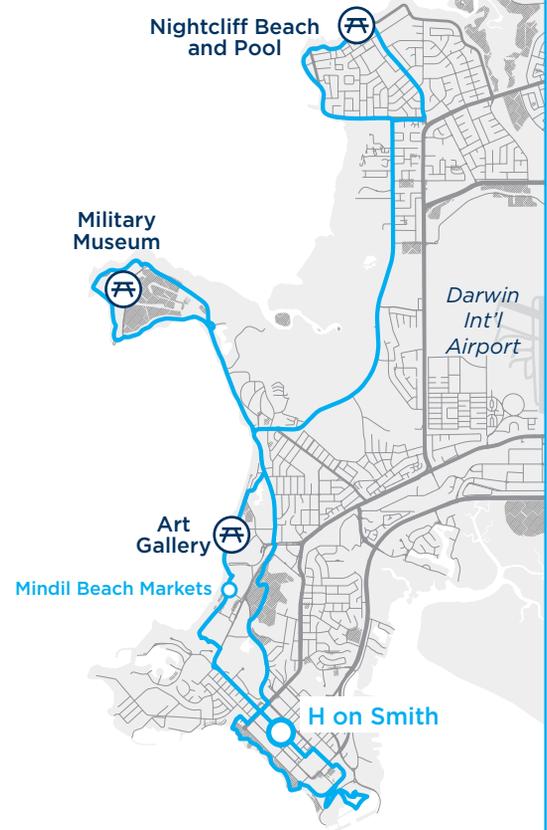
EXPLORE DARWIN 38KM | 208M ELEVATION

The first day of riding takes in Darwin's major attractions and allows you plenty of time to explore. You can ride with us and stick to our rest area support times or enjoy the freedom to ride independently and take your time exploring Darwin's inner-city sights including the Museum and Art Gallery, Military Museum or Nightcliff Pool.

KEY TIMES



DAY 2 RIDE MAP



TOP TIPS

- Don't forget to bring your bike lock - we recommend a sturdy D-lock.
- You will need to pack a spare pair of walking shoes to explore the museums.
- Museum entry has been pre-paid.



KEY REST STOPS



DAY 3

MONDAY 13 JUNE

RIDE TO FLORENCE FALLS, LITCHFIELD NP 56KM | 392M ELEVATION

On day three we will venture to Litchfield National Park on a 56 kilometre journey through vast outback landscapes and undulating terrain.

Our first rest stop is at Wangi Falls. Enjoy a snack whilst listening to the roaring sounds of the nearby waterfall.

The day's end sees us arrive at the spectacular Florence Falls, where you can enjoy panoramic views of the open valley and waterhole below.

For dinner, the Katherine Outback Experience is sure to have you entertained as you enjoy a celebration of the Northern Territory's rich pastoral cultural and history through live music and humorous bush tales.

KEY TIMES

- 6.00am  Breakfast
- 7.00am  Coach departure
- 9.00am  Riding route opens
- 9.45am - 10.45am  Rest Stop 1: Wangi Falls open.
700m return walk to falls (cleat accessible).
- 10.30am - 12.15pm  Rest Stop 2: Lost City Road open
- 10.45am - 1.30pm  Rest Stop 3: Florence Falls open.
Lunch available.
- 1.00pm  Riding route closes
- 1.30pm  Coach departure
- 3.30pm  Afternoon snack
- 5.30pm  Arrive in Katherine. Bikes to be taken to rooms.
Mechanic services available 5.30 - 6.00pm.
- 6.30pm  Coach departure to Katherine Outback Experience
- 7.00pm  Dinner
- 8.45pm  Coach departure to hotel

DAY 3 RIDE MAP

TOP TIPS

-  Pack a small bag for the coach ride to collect at Wangi Falls and Florence Falls - we recommend jacket, change of clothes, bathers, towel and shoes for Bicycle Network to take for you on the coach

-  Enjoy a post-ride swim at Florence Falls!



5km



KEY REST STOPS



DAY 4

TUESDAY 14 JUNE

RIDE TO NITMILUK 66KM (33KM EACH WAY) | 262M ELEVATION

Today we will ride to one of the Northern Territory's most famous landmarks, Nitmiluk Gorge.

The beginning of the ride travels through iconic outback terrain that is a hot-spot for native animals like kangaroos. In the distance you'll notice the booming figure that is the gorge.

As we roll on, the gorge's enormity and beauty is on full show. Take a moment to soak up the gorge and all its power as you feel dwarfed by Mother Nature.

You will also have the special opportunity to learn about the cultural and spiritual significance of the gorge for its Traditional Owners, the Jawoyn and Dagomen people. Nitmiluk is the Jawoyn name for Katherine Gorge. It is pronounced Nit-me-look, and literally means Cicada Place.

KEY TIMES



DAY 4 RIDE MAP

TOP TIPS

Exploring the gorge by helicopter? Make sure you set off at 6am to make your flight. Carry a light jacket and change of shoes with you today.

Pack a small bag for Bicycle Network to carry for when you arrive in Nitmiluk. We recommend packing a change of clothes and shoes for the tours and your swimmers and towel if you plan to go for a quick dip in the gorge.

NITMILUK TOURS

7.40am - 8.30am
Block one: helicopter tours
8.15am - 9.15am
Block two: helicopter tours



KEY REST STOPS



DAY 5

WEDNESDAY 15 JUNE

RIDE TO JABIRU, VIA NOURLANGIE 82KM | 352M ELEVATION

Today is the longest riding day of our Great Top End Escape, with an 82 kilometre trip from Yellow Water to Jaibiru.

We start after lunch, heading out on a mesmerising ride through the world heritage listed Kakadu National Park, the largest national park in Australia.

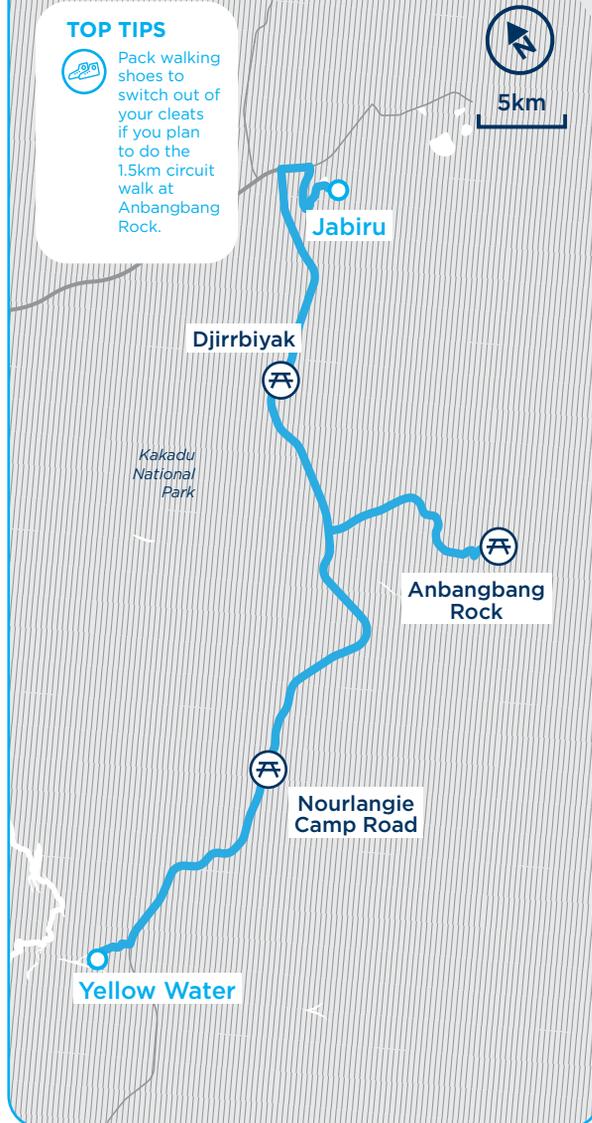
As you ride, keep a look out for the termite mounds towering upon the horizon, exotic flora and fauna and maybe even a grey nomad or two.

Be sure to check out the Anbangbang rock art, showcasing the ancient history of the land through extraordinary indigenous artwork dating back tens of thousands of years.

KEY TIMES



DAY 5 RIDE MAP



KEY REST STOPS



DAY 6

THURSDAY 16 JUNE

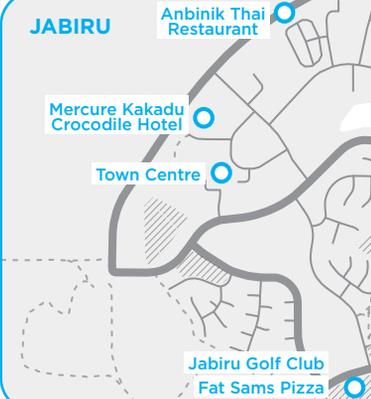
REST / ADVENTURE DAY

Today is what you make it. Take the opportunity to relax at the hotel with your fellow riders, go for a gentle walk or rest those legs. Or, if you're interested in something a little more adventurous, try one of the amazing tours on offer.

KEY TIMES

5.30am		Tour departure: Yellow Water Fishing Tour Estimated return time 10.45am
6.00am - 8.00am		Breakfast
6.45am		Tour departure: Spirit of Kakadu 4WD Adventure Tour Estimated return time 3.45pm
7.45am		Tour departure: Arnhem Land Tour Estimated return time 3.45pm
9.00am		Kakadu Day Explorer Free Tour departure: Bardeddjilidji Walk (walk 9.30am - 11.00am) Estimated return time 11.30am
10.00am		Tour departure: Yellow Water Fishing Tour 2 Estimated return time 3.00pm
12.00pm - 1.30pm		Lunch packs can be collected for those not on tours.
1.30pm		Kakadu Day Explorer Free Tour departure: Nawurlandja Lookout, Anbangbang Billabong and Anbangbang Rock for those that missed day prior (Billabong tour 2.00pm - 4.00pm) Estimated return time 4.30pm
4.30pm - 5.00pm		Mechanic services available
		Dinner is your own choice

*Please note all tours will depart from the Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel lobby.



JABIRU

DINNER
Dinner is your choice tonight. Here are our recommendations:

- + Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel Restaurant
- + Jabiru Golf Club
- + Anbinik Thai Restaurant
- + Fat Sams Pizza

DAY 6 REGION MAP

TOP TIPS



Pack a day bag for the day. Depending on your chosen activity, we recommend a jacket, hat, sunscreen, water, snacks, swimmers and towel.



DAY 7

FRIDAY 17 JUNE

RIDE JABIRU TO UBIRR 44KM | 162M ELEVATION

We begin the day with a magical cruise of the Yellow Waters (Ngurrungurrudjba) Billabong. The intimate cruise encompasses the natural surrounds of Kakadu National Park, taking you through one of Australia's unique ecosystems.

One for birders and twitchers, Kakadu National Park is home to approximately one-third of Australia's bird life, with up to 60 species found soaring between the surrounding floodplains, woodlands and wetlands, so keep your eyes on the skies.

There's also a good chance you'll spot some crocodiles in their natural habitat and buffalo on the floodplains.

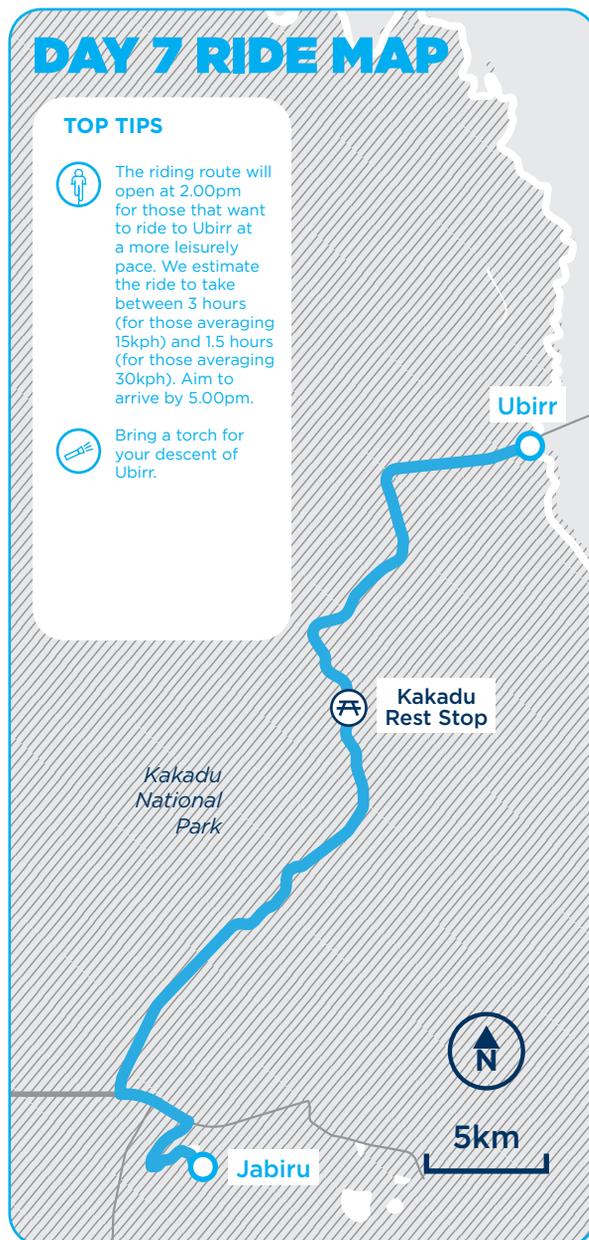
KEY TIMES



DAY 7 RIDE MAP

TOP TIPS

- The riding route will open at 2.00pm for those that want to ride to Ubirr at a more leisurely pace. We estimate the ride to take between 3 hours (for those averaging 15kph) and 1.5 hours (for those averaging 30kph). Aim to arrive by 5.00pm.
- Bring a torch for your descent of Ubirr.



KEY REST STOPS



DAY 8

SATURDAY 18 JUNE

RIDE BERRY SPRINGS TO WAGAIT BEACH 76KM | 314M ELEVATION

Just when you thought it was all over, there's one more memorable experience to top it all off - the Jumping Crocs cruise! You'll have the chance to get up close and personal with the prehistoric predators of the Northern Territory.

As the day draws to a close, we take the Mandorah Ferry back to Darwin and reminisce on a full week of action-packed adventure and unforgettable moments.

Please join us for one last meal as we say farewell to friends new and old and celebrate a truly incredible holiday.

KEY TIMES



DAY 8 RIDE MAP

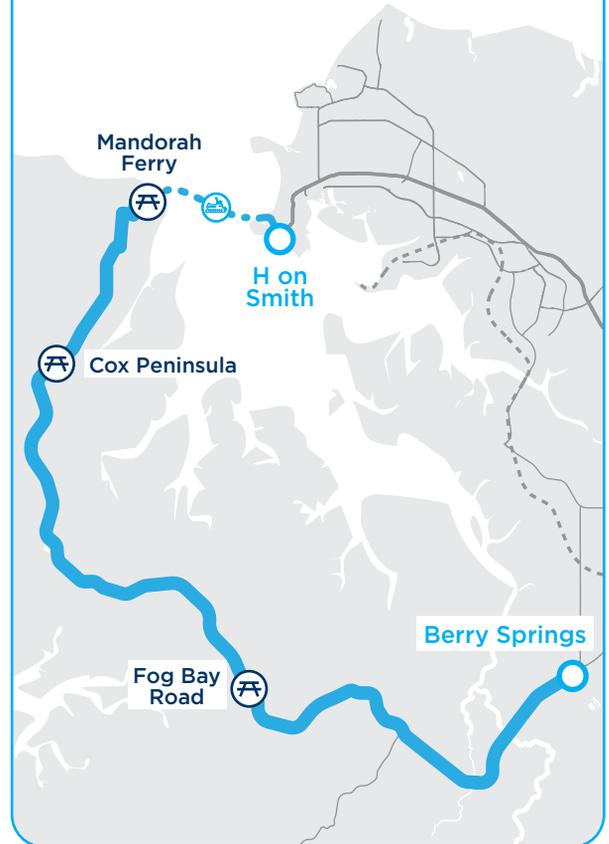
TOP TIPS



If you plan to go for a swim at Berry Springs, we recommend wearing your bathers underneath your casual clothes during the coach ride and tour.



5km



Note: Spectacular Jumping Crocs tour groups will be allocated on event

Riders arriving at the Cox Peninsula rest site after 3.45pm will be asked to jump on the SAG to be shuttled forward to ensure everyone makes the 5.20pm ferry back to Darwin.

KEY REST STOPS



DAY 9

SUNDAY 19 JUNE

FAREWELL

Day nine brings us to the end of our incredible adventure through some of the most untouched natural landscapes in the world.

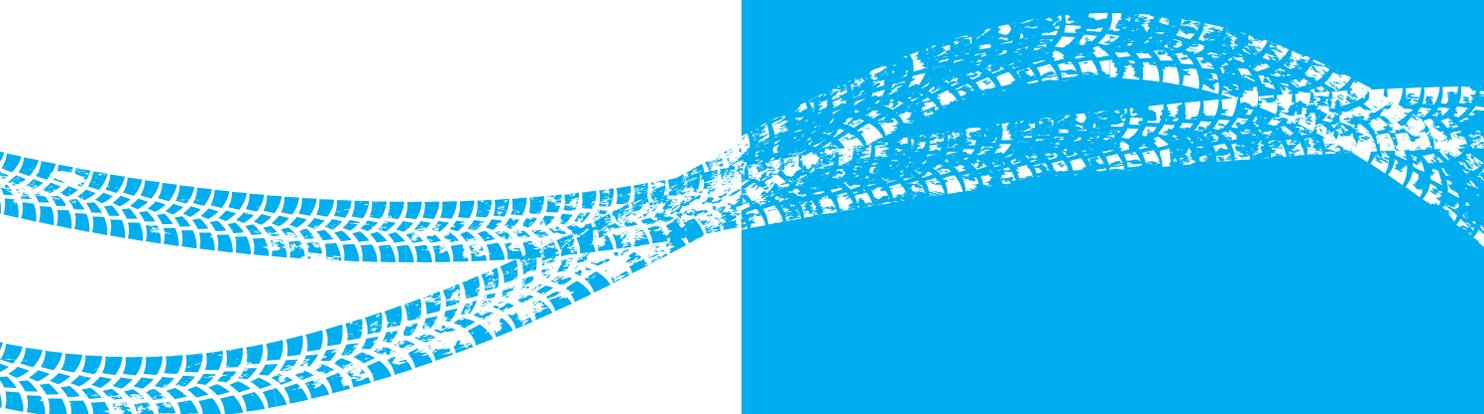
Farewell and have a safe journey home!

KEY TIMES

7.00am  Breakfast

8.00am - 10.00am  Mechanic & bike pack down services available if not completed on Saturday.

 Airport transfers available. Times TBC.



GREAT TOP END ESCAPE



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