

Cutting through the heart of historic gold mining country, this iconic ride connects picturesque townships, quiet forests and gentle undulating pastoral land. There are sweeping views across to extinct volcanos and sections traverse historic tracks cut for the Cobb & Co coaches over 150 years ago.

Immerse yourself in the heritage and beauty of Victoria's central goldfields. The 91 km, 4 day tour offers a mix of forest and farming tracks with each day ending at a charming historic township.



BALLARAT- MARYBOROUGH HERITAGE TRAIL

CYCLE TOUR



DAY 2 Talbot – Clunes

Day 2 starts along dirt tracks through scrubby bushland, darting the occasional wallaby, before bursting into a wide-open landscape offering spectacular views to Mt Beckworth. Aged eucalypts line the quiet lanes before the day finishes in the old gold glory of Clunes.

TIME	Day ride – plan about 2-3 hours.
DISTANCE	25 kms
DIFFICULTY	Moderate
TERRAIN	Terrain varies from easy to moderate

DAY 1 Maryborough – Talbot

Day 1 begins in Box-ironbark country. Bird watchers rejoice, for when these trees bloom in spring, parrots and honeyeaters descend in droves. As you break out to open grazing land look for an old bluestone ford scarred with deep ruts from the passing of countless wagon wheels – perhaps even from the Cobb & Co.

TIME	Day ride – plan about 2-3 hours.
DISTANCE	18 kms
DIFFICULTY	Moderate
TERRAIN	Terrain varies from easy to moderate

DAY 4 Creswick – Ballarat

Your last day is among eucalypts until you hit the outskirts of Ballarat. The ride dips and climbs as it weaves through forest lanes, made seasonally colourful by wildflowers. Finally you follow the Varroee River trail all the way to town where a well-deserved rest awaits you.

TIME	Day ride – plan about 3-4 hours.
DISTANCE	24 kms
DIFFICULTY	Moderate/difficult
TERRAIN	Varies from easy to steep in places

DAY 3 Clunes – Creswick

Day 3 is filled with reminders of the past. Historic pastoral holdings, grand homesteads and vineyards line the quiet lanes as you meander the undulating terrain. The day ends in a rush of adrenalin as you descend into the heritage forestry town of Creswick.

TIME	Day ride – plan about 2-3 hours.
DISTANCE	24 kms
DIFFICULTY	Moderate
TERRAIN	Terrain varies from easy to moderate

The Ride

Immerse yourself in the heritage and beauty of Victoria's central goldfields.

DISTANCE: 91 kms
DAYS: 1-4, depending on rider ability.

Suitability

The Maryborough – Ballarat Cycle Tour is suitable for active families, pleasure seekers and mountain adventure cyclists. It is not suitable for sprint cyclists.

The terrain varies each day, but is generally suitable for town cycles to mountain bikes.

Getting There Train

Take advantage of V/Line train services between Melbourne, Ballarat, Creswick, Clunes, Talbot and Maryborough. Bicycles can be carried for free on V/Line trains (if space permits). Bikes are not permitted on timetabled V/Line coach services with the exception of folding bikes.

Visit the vline.com.au or ptv.vic.gov.au for timetables and maps or download their app.

Car

From Melbourne to Ballarat:
1.5 – 2 hours via the Western Freeway.

From Melbourne to Maryborough:
2 – 2.5 hours via Castlemaine or Ballarat.

Parking

Cars can be left at railway stations at your own discretion. Please obey parking restrictions should they apply.

Be Prepared

Towns only occur at the beginning and end of each day. So be prepared to carry all your needs: water, food, repair kit and first aid.

Pack the right clothing and equipment for the season and expect the unexpected in weather. Take a map and compass and – importantly – know how to use them.

A mobile phone is useful near the towns. If you find yourself in trouble without mobile connection, either wait for a passing vehicle or walk to a more populated road.

Safety: Your Responsibility

Before you travel, check the Bureau of Meteorology website for the latest weather forecasts and the emergency.vic.gov.au for fire and flood warnings. Regular fire warning updates can be accessed through the CFA website at warnings.cfa.vic.gov.au.

Do not ride on Code Red Fire Warning days.

For More Information

Central Goldfields Visitor Information Centre
Corner Alma & Nolan Streets, Maryborough
Ph (03) 5460 4511, 9:00am – 5:00pm daily

Creswick Visitor Information Centre
41 – 43 Albert Street, Creswick
Ph (03) 5345 1114, 10:00am – 5:00pm daily

Ballarat Visitor Information Centre
Town Hall, 225 Sturt St, Ballarat
Ph (03) 5337 4337, 9:00am – 5:00pm daily



Arriving by train or bus

The Ballarat – Maryborough Cycle Tour is easily accessible from each of the railway stations or regional bus stops. Visit vline.com.au or ptv.vic.gov.au for timetables and maps and download their mobile apps.

Maryborough

Talbot

Clunes

Creswick

Ballarat

HERITAGE TRAIL : Ballarat - Maryborough

Please follow these markers along the trail

MAP LEGEND

- YOU ARE HERE
- Points of Interest
- Bus Stop
- Train Station
- Bicycle Track
- Suggested route to connect with Cycle Tour (see maps to left)

Elevation Profile

Min Elevation 221m

Max Elevation 597m

Location	Distance (km)	Elevation (m)
Maryborough	0	221
Talbot	25	300
Clunes	50	375
Creswick	75	597
Ballarat	91	450