

*Ride the*

# TOP END

**RIDE  
GUIDE**



**GREAT  
TOP END  
ESCAPE**

29 JUNE - 6 JULY 2024

# WELCOME

There is nothing quite like roaming across remote landscapes on your bike, surrounded by new and old friends, discovering breathtaking beauty at every turn.

Our vast country offers many places to experience natural wonder, but no place is more special than the Top End. It offers unique terrain and sacred sites and is home to the oldest living culture on earth.

As we share precious moments over eight days, we will pedal through otherworldly national parks, dip in and out of plunge pools and delight in natural watering holes.

You can expect stunning sunsets over delightful dinners, chances to admire historic rock art and to be captivated by tales from the Dreamtime.

We will make sure there are plenty of surprises between the landmarks and attractions, too.

But the best part? We will be taking it all in from the seats of our bikes and I can't wait to get the wheels turning.

See you on the road!

## Alison McCormack

Chief Executive Officer  
Bicycle Network

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 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.

# CONTENTS

<b>EVENT ASSISTANCE</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>GENERAL INFORMATION</b>	<b>5</b>
Meals	5
On-event bike transport	5
Riding times	5
<b>ITINERARY</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>DAY 1</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>DAY 2</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>DAY 3</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>DAY 4</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>DAY 5</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>DAY 6</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>DAY 7</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>DAY 8</b>	<b>22</b>



# 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

**CALL EVENT ASSISTANCE**  
0425 381 816  
or  
0425 777 484

YES

**STEP 1:**  
Call EMERGENCY SERVICES **000**  
  
**STEP 2:**  
Call EVENT ASSISTANCE  
0425 381 816 or  
0425 777 484

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 tea		✓	✓	✓					
Lunch		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Afternoon tea							✓	✓	
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 onto buses each morning as you hop on the bus.

Ensure all luggage is removed from the coach after each journey. Some days our team will take your day pack between stops for you, and this information will be shared at dinner briefings the night prior.

## RIDING TIMES

You will begin each day of riding as a group at the times indicated in your daily itinerary. Please stay together 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 each 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 eight days, you'll get the chance to ride through and marvel at world heritage-listed national parks, 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 29 JUNE

### DARWIN - ARRIVAL






#### LARRAKIA PEOPLE

Meet and greet your new travelling companions and the 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.

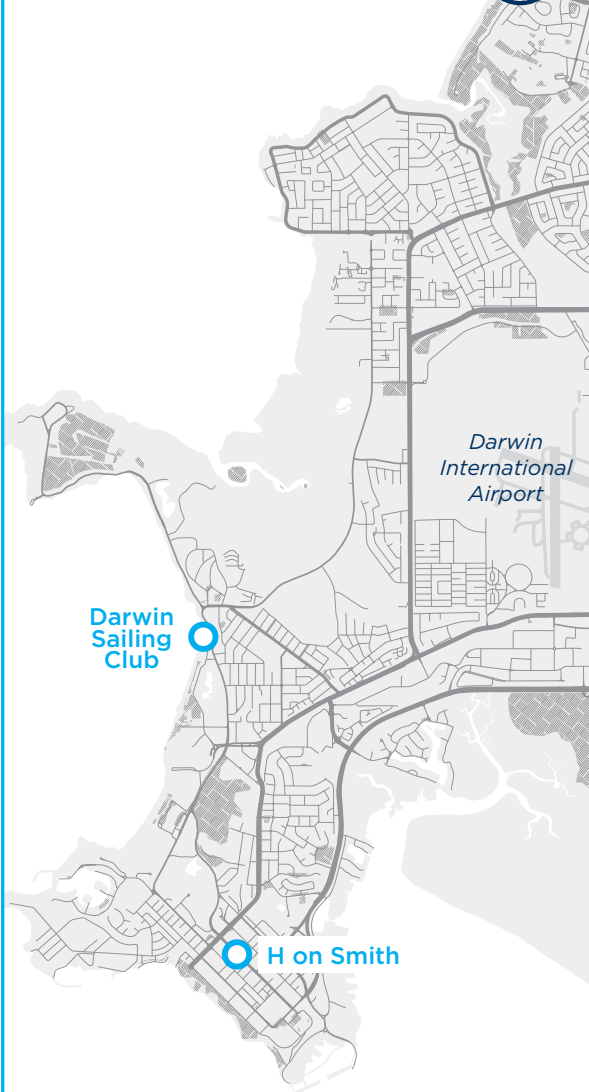
All guests will be able to check into their accommodation from 2:00pm.

If you arrive early on Saturday, the Bicycle Network team will be on hand at H on Smith hotel lobby from 12pm to assist with storing your luggage and bike until check-in time.

### KEY TIMES

- 1.30pm  Airport shuttle from Darwin Airport to H on Smith Hotel (boarding from 1pm).  
If you require transport at a different time, please either book a taxi or ride share
- 2.00pm - 5.00pm  **Bicycle Network check-in open.**  
The team will assist you with the following 3 things:
  - 1. Collect rider pack
  - 2. Collect room key
  - 3. Prepare your bike
- 5.45pm  Shuttle to the welcome dinner at Darwin Sailing Club.
- 6.00pm  **Welcome dinner at Darwin Sailing Club**
  - Welcome to Country
  - Rider briefing for Day 2
- 8.30pm  Shuttle to H on Smith Hotel.

## DARWIN



### ACCOMMODATION

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











# DAY 2

## SUNDAY 30 JUNE

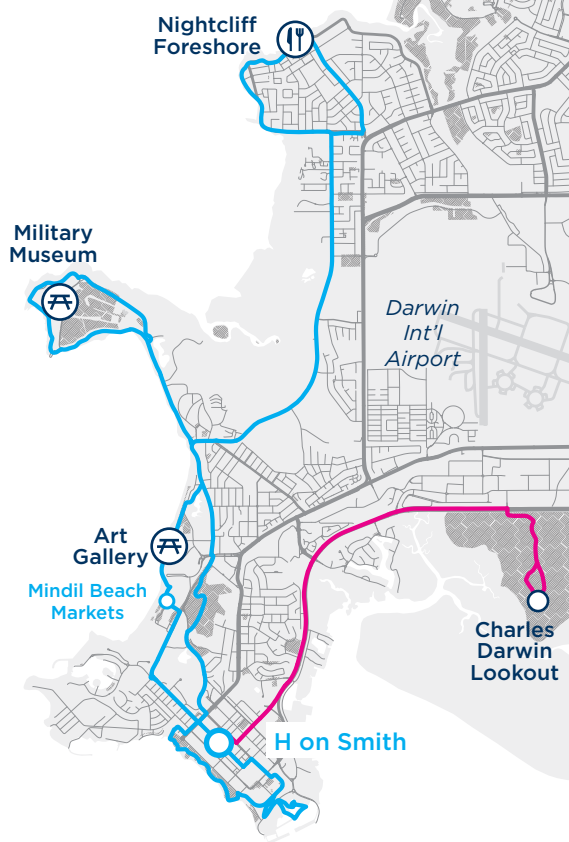
EXPLORE DARWIN  
38KM | OPTIONAL EXTRA 15KM | 208M ELEVATION  
LARRAKIA PEOPLE

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

- 7.00am - 9.00am  Breakfast at H on Smith Hotel
- 8.00am - 8.15am  Riding route opens  
Optional extra to Charles Darwin Lookout (53km)
- 9.00am - 9.30am  Riding route opens (38km)
- 9.30am - 12.00pm  Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory  
10am - 4pm (Art Gallery open hours)
- 9.30am - 2.30pm  Darwin Military Museum  
10am - 3:00pm (Museum open hours)
- 10.00am - 3.30pm  Nightcliff Foreshore  
(Lunch stop)
- 4.30pm  Riding route closes
- 2.00pm - 5.00pm  Bike loading  
All bikes must be loaded onto the truck by 5:00pm
- 5.30pm  Coach departure to Mindil Beach Markets
- 7.30pm  Coach departure to H on Smith Hotel

### 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 1 JULY

**RIDE TO FLORENCE FALLS, LITCHFIELD NP**  
**56KM | OPTIONAL EXTRA 23KM | 254M ELEVATION**  
*LARRAKIA, WOOLNER AND DJOWEI PEOPLE*









On day three we venture to Litchfield National Park on a 33km or 56km journey through vast outback landscapes and undulating terrain.

There are two ride start locations for this day. You can opt to do a 56km ride from the park entrance or start at the first rest stop (Wangi Falls) for a 33km ride.

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. If you wish to maximise your leisure and swim time at Florence Falls, we recommend starting at Wangi Falls.


For dinner, we'll be dining in style under the stars in the Darwin Botanic Gardens in the heart of the city.

### KEY TIMES

- 6.00am - 7.15am  Breakfast at H on Smith Hotel
- 7.30am  Coach departure for Litchfield National Park
- 9.30am  Start A: Riding route opens
- 10.30am  Start B: Riding route opens
- 10.00am - 11.15am  Rest Stop 1: Wangi Falls open
- 11.00am - 12.45pm  Rest Stop 2: Lost City Road open
- 11.15am - 1.30pm  Finish: Florence Falls
- 1.30pm  Riding route closes
- 2.30pm  Coach departure Darwin, H on Smith Hotel (arrive back at 4:30pm)
- 5.45pm  Coach departure to Botanic Gardens for dinner
- 6.00pm  Dinner at Botanic Gardens  
Rider briefing for Day 4
- 8.30pm  Coach departure for H on Smith Hotel

## DAY 3 RIDE MAP

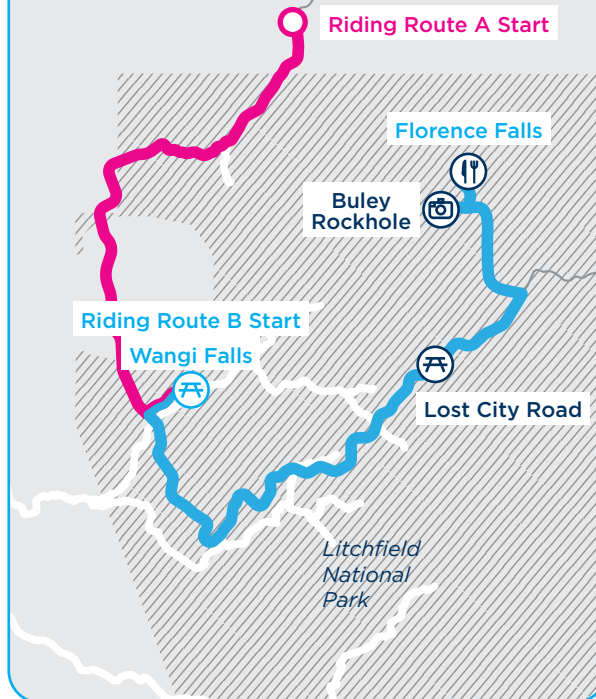
### TOP TIPS

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

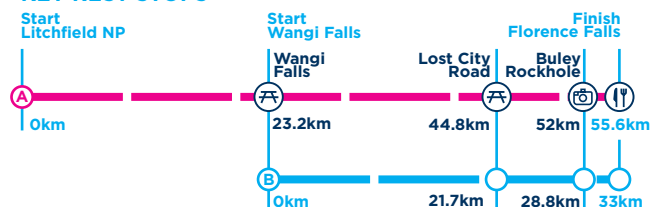
 Enjoy a post-ride swim at Florence Falls! If you want to enjoy more swimming time, we suggest starting your ride at Wangi Falls



5km



### KEY REST STOPS



# DAY 4

## TUESDAY 2 JULY












### JAWOYN, DAGOMAN, AND WARDAMAN PEOPLE

It's time to move onto our next location and spend a few nights exploring Katherine and surrounds.

The riding this day will be short but sweet, finishing at an oasis known as Edith Falls (Leliyn) situated on the outskirts of Katherine. Here you'll have the opportunity to enjoy some free time and a swim, relax by the waterhole or take a walk to stretch those legs after the morning coach journey.

The evening will be well spent at the Katherine Outback Experience, where the group will enjoy dinner under the stars followed by a one-hour performance and a working dog and horse show by musician Tom Curtain.

### KEY TIMES

- 6.00am - 7.30am**  **Breakfast at H on Smith Hotel**
- 7.45am**  Coach departure for Edith Falls, expected arrival at 11:45am. Includes morning tea break.
- 12.30pm**  **Riding route opens Section A**  
Towards Edith Falls
- 1.30pm**  **Riding route closes Section A**  
Towards Edith Falls
- 1.30pm**  **Lunch**
- 2.30pm**  **Riding route opens Section B**  
Optional return from Edith Falls
- 3.30pm**  **Riding route closes Section B**  
Optional return from Edith Falls
- 3.30pm**  Coach departs for Katherine Contour Hotel (expected arrival 4pm)
- 4.00pm**  **Check into rooms**
- 6.15pm**  Coach to dinner
- 6.30pm**  **Katherine Outback Experience**
- 9.30pm**  Coach departure for Katherine Contour Hotel

## DAY 4 RIDE MAP





# DAY 5

## WEDNESDAY 3 JULY

### YELLOW WATER BILLABONG | REST DAY

*BININJ/MUNGGUY PEOPLE*

Today we park our bikes, hop on a coach and travel to Yellow Water in Kakadu National Park. Once we arrive, lunch will be served at the Cooinda Lodge, followed by a 90-minute cruise through the Yellow Water billabong. On this cruise you'll feel as though you are in another world as you immerse yourself in nature. Spot crocodiles, birds and other wildlife in their natural habitat.

If waterfalls are more your thing, then 10 lucky riders can opt in for the Maguk Waterfalls day trip instead (operated by Bicycle Network). The day trip involves a transfer to Maguk Waterfall, a short walk through the forest before arriving at the secluded watering hole where you can enjoy a relaxing swim and lunch.

#### KEY TIMES

5.30am - 6.45am

Breakfast at Katherine Contour Hotel

7.00am

Tour departure Group 1:

**Yellow Water Billabong Cruise**

- Cruise 11:30am

- Lunch 1:30pm

- Depart for hotel at 3:00pm

7.30am

Tour departure Group 2:

**Maguk Waterfall**

- 2.5 hours travel time each way

- Up to 3 hours at Maguk Waterfall for swimming and lunch

3.30pm

Group 2 expected arrival back at Katherine Contour Hotel

6.30pm

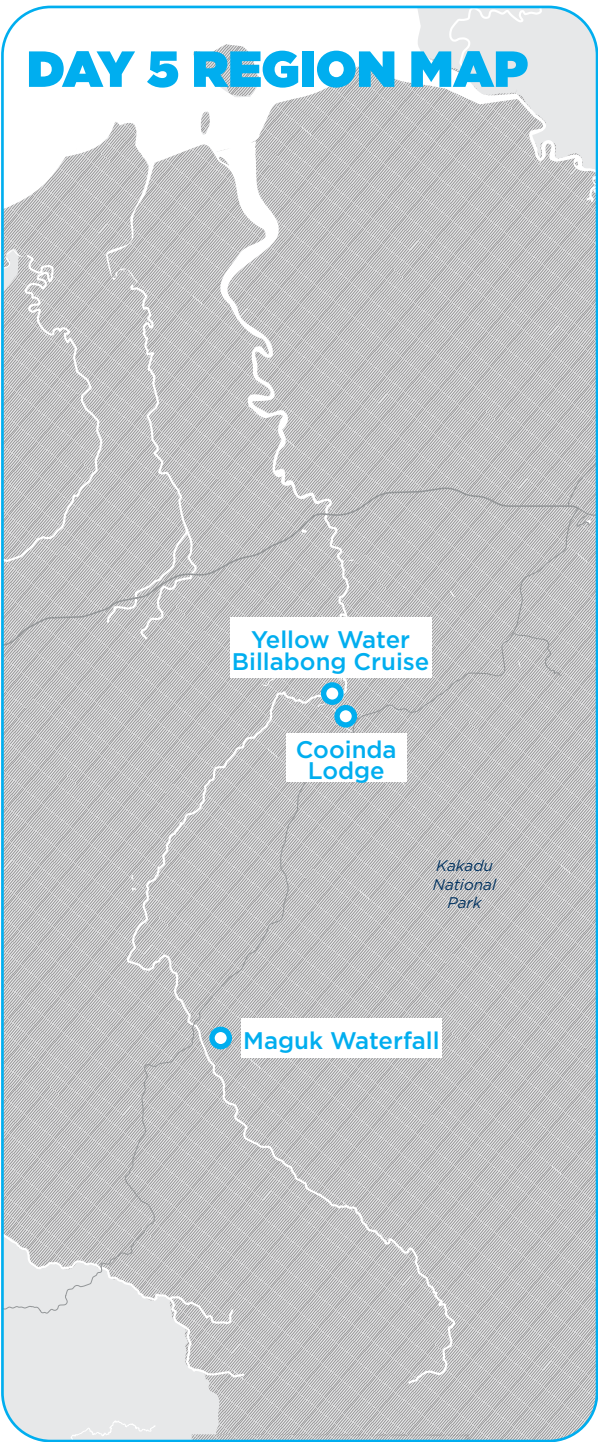
Group 1 expected arrival back at Katherine Contour Hotel

7.00pm

Dinner at Katherine Contour Hotel

Rider briefing for Day 6

### DAY 5 REGION MAP



# DAY 6

## THURSDAY 4 JULY

### RIDE TO NITMILUK

66KM (33KM EACH WAY) | 142M ELEVATION

JAWOYN PEOPLE

Today we will ride to one of the Northern Territory's most famous landmarks, Nitmiluk Gorge. In the morning, enjoy some free time to explore Katherine, the hot springs, or the Cutta Cutta Caves before pedalling to Nitmiluk after lunch.

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 are 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

- 6.30am - 8.00am**  **Breakfast at Contour Katherine**
- 7.00am - 10.00am**  **Coach departure for Cutta Cutta Caves**  
- Tour 8am (1 hour)  
- Depart for hotel at 9am
- 8.00am - 11.00am**  **Hot Springs shuttles**
- 11.00am**  **Lunch**
- 12.00pm**  **Riding route opens**  
- for riders that purchased a helicopter ride
- 12.30pm**  **Riding route opens**  
- all other riders
- 1.00pm - 2.30pm**  **Rest stop 1: HeliSpirit Katherine**  
- Helicopter rides between 1pm - 2:30pm
- 1.30pm - 3.15pm**  **Rest stop 2: Nitmiluk Tours**
- 3.15am**  **Riding route closes**
- 4.30pm**  **Timeless Land Three Gorge Tour**
- 6.30pm**  **Dinner at Nitmiluk Visitor Centre**  
- Rider briefing for Day 7
- 8.00pm**  **Coach departs for Katherine Contour Hotel**
- 8.30pm**  **Expected arrival back at hotel**

## DAY 6 RIDE MAP

#### TOP TIPS

-  Exploring the gorge by helicopter? 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 tour and dinner.



#### KEY REST STOPS



# DAY 7

## FRIDAY 5 JULY

**RIDE BERRY SPRINGS TO WAGAIT BEACH**  
**74KM | 288M ELEVATION**  
*LARRAKIA PEOPLE*

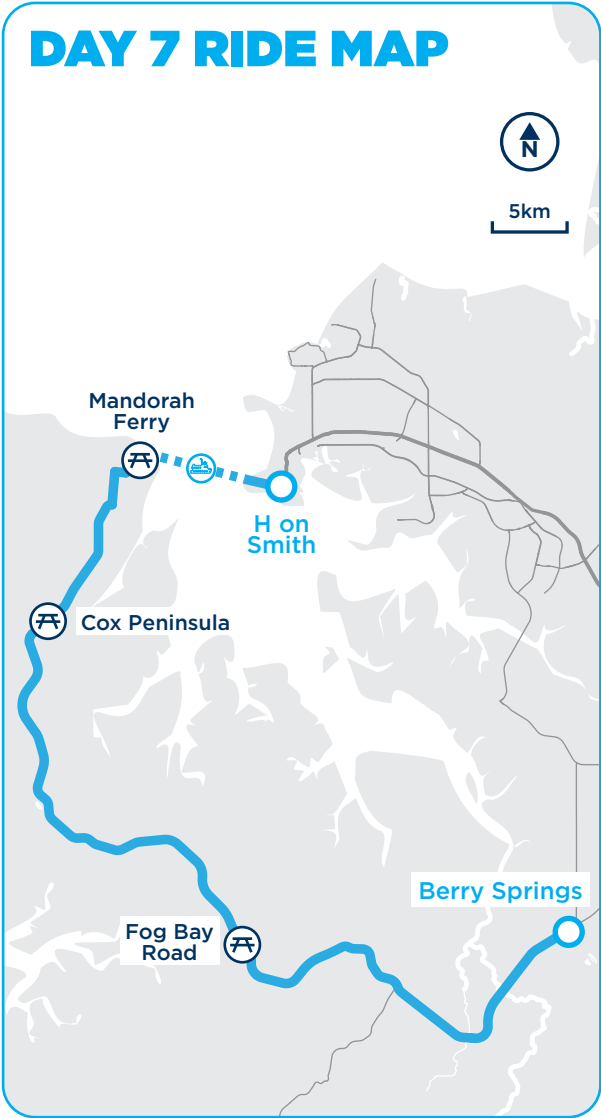
Just when you thought it was all over, there's one more ride day to top it all off! We'll travel to Berry Springs to enjoy lunch and swim before pedalling our way back to Darwin.

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.

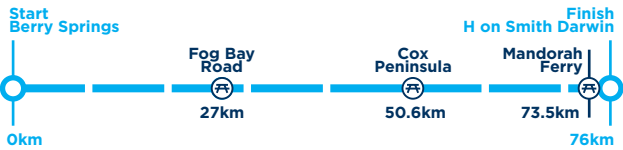
### KEY TIMES

- 6.00am - 7.30am Breakfast at hotel
- 7.30am Coach to Berry Springs
- 11.30am-12.30pm Lunch and swim at Berry Springs
- 12.30pm Riding route opens
- 1.15pm - 2.30pm Rest stop 1: Fog Bay Rd
- 2.00pm - 3.45pm Rest stop 2: Cox Peninsula
- 2.45pm - 5.20pm Rest stop 3 Mandorah Ferry
- 3.20pm Ferry departure
- 4.30pm Ferry departure
- 5.20pm Ferry departure
- 6.00pm Riding route closes
- 3.45pm - 6.45pm Mechanic Bike pack down service operates
- 7.00pm Coach departure to Wharf One
- 7.15pm Dinner at Wharf One
- 9.30pm Coach shuttle back to hotel



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. If you require transport at a different time, please either book a taxi or ride share

### KEY REST STOPS



# DAY 8

## SATURDAY 6 JULY

### FAREWELL

Day eight 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 - 10.00am



Breakfast

10.15am



Airport transfer from H on Smith Hotel to Darwin Airport (Board from 10am)  
If you require transport at a different time, please either book a taxi or ride share



# GREAT TOP END ESCAPE





**BICYCLE**  
**NETWORK®**

*We've got your back*