MACEDON RANGES



## ROAD / GRAVEL / MOUNTAIN



#### Welcome to the Macedon Ranges

This guide showcases rides for all ages and abilities. There are easy options for folks just starting out or looking for a leisurely weekend activity, and plenty of challenging road and gravel rides to excite the fittest cyclist.

The quiet country roads, naturally cool climate, gorgeous landscapes and proximity to Melbourne make the Macedon Ranges a ripper riding destination. You can pedal for miles and hardly encounter a car, although you'll see plenty of wildlife and farm animals along the way. And when you're done for the day and want to chill, there's an abundance of cellar doors, rustic bakeries, cafés and pubs in our historic villages to enjoy.

If flowing single-track is more your thing, there's the brilliant Wombat Loop, that weaves its way through the Wombat State Forest.

It's more than just 'a ride' in the Macedon Ranges, it's an experience.



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The Macedon Ranges is home to nine distinct and charismatic villages, from small and sleepy to country-cosmopolitan. Linking these historic villages and tiny hamlets are stunning, seasonally changing rural landscapes, eucalyptus and pine forests, and boutique vineyards.

For more about where to eat, drink, stay and explore go to visitmacedonranges.com or follow us on:

@macedonrangesnaturallycool
@@visitmacedonranges

Why not plan a riding holiday?

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"The Macedon Ranges offers something for cyclists of all ages, abilities and interests"

> The Macedon Ranges is less than an hour's drive from Melbourne. You'll also find many rides conveniently start and finish at our village railway stations (we recommend travelling during off-peak times as bike spaces are limited). Whatever your preferred mode of transport, you'll be clipping into your pedals in not time.

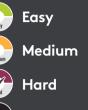
There's also a variety of overnight accommodation options to create a fantastic biking getaway, from boutique guesthouses to caravan parks.

Get inspired for a cycling holiday: visitmacedonranges.com/where-to-stay





#### Ride Guide



#### Advanced

This Guide uses a colour coded grading system to help you identify which rides are suited to your fitness level, skill and ability.

These classifications are based on a combination of ride distance, elevation and bike type. It's expected riders are of reasonable fitness and assess their ability before selecting and embarking on a ride.

#### Safety

There are inherent risks to riding on any roads. Please be aware of your surroundings and ride to the conditions. Some roads listed in this guide do not have a designated bike lane or shoulder and may contain imperfections or obstacles. Look carefully for vehicles and pedestrians entering and exiting driveways and pathways, and always obey the road rules. Ride carefully, stay safe and enjoy!

**Carry sufficient water** as potable water may not be readily available along a ride route.

**Make yourself visible.** Always carry working lights and reflective gear where possible.

**Respect the local area.** Take all rubbish with you and do not enter any private property, including farmland.

Know the weather conditions. During summer be aware of fire warnings. Do not ride on Code Red days. Monitor cfa.vic.gov.au for updated fire information.

**Mobile blackspots.** Don't get lost. We recommend downloading our rides (particularly gravel and MTB routes) to a GPS device, as mobile devices may be impacted by black spots.

**Ride times** have been suggested by Strava and will vary depending on rider ability.

#### Join the Ride Macedon Ranges community.

Strava is a free, online GPS mapping tool that allows you to discover rides, monitor performance, challenge yourself, friends and others who join the Ride Macedon Ranges Strava Club.



STRAVA This guide uses Strava to map and share rides.

www.strava.com/clubs/ridemacedonranges



#### Road Rides 🚳

This Guide offers ten road rides that take you on a journey across the Macedon Ranges. Many keen cyclists start out tackling the steep climb up Mt Macedon. In summer, the mountain's high elevation provides a cool respite from the city heat.

The photo-worthy views to Hanging Rock also make cycling in the region a unique experience. A cold craft beer at a Woodend pub rounds these rides off nicely too.

For adventurers up for a challenge, discover brilliant rides along roads less travelled. Traverse the famous Burke and Wills Track. Cycle alongside the magnificent Cobaw Ranges. And ride through farmland distinguished by amazing granite rock outcrops. For the ultimate training ride in our Guide and excuse for an overnight getaway, check out the 117km Ultimate Endurance Loop.

With so many rides to choose from you'll want to keep coming back again and again.

"Here you have the best of road cycling; quiet tree-lined country roads, plenty of variety, enough climbs to challenge anybody, and towns with a great coffee culture." Brett Ellis, President, Macedon Ranges Cycling Club



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570

#### The Hanging Rock Cruiser

Rating **Easy** Distance **27km** Elevation **205m** Ride Time **1h05m** 



Beginning your journey from Woodend Railway Station, this low-gradient ride passes through beautiful tree-lined residential streets as you exit Woodend. You'll travel along country roads through open farmland, with many views of both Hanging Rock and Mt Macedon as you approach Hanging Rock Reserve.

Although rated easy, this ride is not suitable for children.

#### Places of interest on this ride

A Stop and admire the view of Mt Macedon.

- Drop by Hanging Rock Reserve for a Devonshire tea or lunch at the licensed Hanging Rock Cafe.
- C Finish with a coffee at one of the great local cafés in Woodend.

#### Start

Woodend Train Station

#### **Finish**

Woodend Train Station



#### Historic Village Loop

Rating **Easy** Distance **27km** Elevation **333m** Ride Time **1h10m** 



Leaving the historic village of Kyneton, this return trip takes you on a scenic journey past farms and along quiet roads to tranquil Malmsbury. Both villages offer options for a lazy lunch and Kyneton's Piper Street is ideal for a post-ride retail fix. Or, pick up local fare from the Kyneton or Malmsbury Farmers' Markets and enjoy a picnic in the Malmsbury Botanic Gardens, overlooking an 1800s bluestone viaduct bridge.



- B Drop by Malmsbury Village Farmers' Market on third Sunday of the month.
- C For history buffs, drop by the Malmsbury Cemetery, gazetted in 1861.

#### Finish

Kyneton Train Station



#### The Reservoir Rippa

Rating **Medium** Distance **29km** Elevation **362m** Ride Time **1h15m** 



Take in the scenery as you cycle through flat, open farmland along Lauriston Road. Test your legs up the tree-sheltered Shepherds Hill Road, then be rewarded with stunning views and a fun descent toward the twin reservoirs. It's a great place to stop for a rest and take in the views, before finishing with a nice and easy flat ride back into Kyneton.



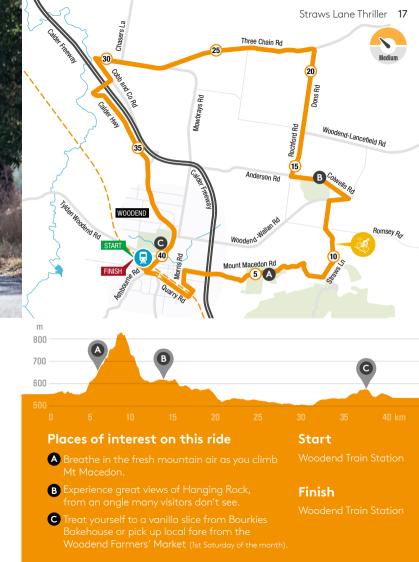


Rating **Medium** Distance **40km** Elevation **410m** Ride Time **1h40m** 

ROAD RIDE 🚲



This ride takes you part way up the Woodend side of Mt Macedon, through tall eucalypts and a beautiful forest setting. Your efforts are rewarded with a satisfying descent down Straws Lane towards the iconic Hanging Rock. Expect a challenging climb, wildlife and picture-worthy scenery on this ride, followed by a relaxing cruise along Woodend's tree-lined Avenue of Honour.





Rating **Medium** Distance **48km** Elevation **557m** Ride Time **2h15m** 

ROAD RIDE 🚲



This ride takes you around the outskirts of Gisborne on quiet, remote roads. Travelling along some of the locals favourite routes, you'll experience stunning views of Mt Macedon from many aspects, particularly as you wind up towards the township of Macedon. Ride along tranquil Glen Drouin Road and down the popular and beautiful Barringo Road to finish.





#### Mountain Climb Challenge

Rating **Hard** Distance **42km** Elevation **832m** Ride Time **1h45m** 



Mt Macedon is naturally one of the highlights of the region. The northern side is considered the 'easier' of the two ascents but still a real challenge, even for well-rounded riders. Be transported to another world as you climb and navigate the winding roads through this lush forest. Upon reaching the summit, take a moment for quiet reflection at the Memorial Cross, before winding down tree-lined roads through quaint Mount Macedon village and back to Woodend.



C Follow the path taken by bushrangers and

hopeful prospectors to Woodend for a pub lunch.



#### Backcountry Explorer

Rating **Hard** Distance **74km** Elevation **851m** Ride Time **3h05m** 



Discover less-travelled parts of the region. Turn onto the famous Burke and Wills track and ascend the largest climb of the ride. Cycle alongside the Cobaw Ranges into historic Kyneton, before winding your way through Macedon Ranges backcountry. Sidonia Road has a few tough climbs, but granite rock formations and farmscape scenery make it worthwhile. This ride can also start and finish from Kyneton Railway Station.



Lancefield

**Finish** 

Lancefield

- A End your ride with a brewery session and lunch at The Lost Waterhole opening 2021.
- B If riding on the fourth Saturday of the month, fill your jersey pockets or panniers with delicious local produce from the Lancefield Farmers' Market.



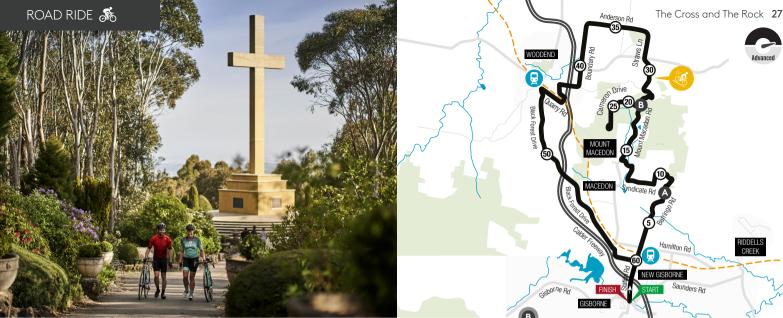
#### The Ring of Kerrie

Rating **Hard** Distance **54km** Elevation **1011m** Ride Time **2h15m** 



A ride for hill lovers, the Ring of Kerrie kicks off from Riddells Creek along open country roads. From Bolinda, enjoy an 11km steady climb past grand horse properties and through quiet, deeply forested landscapes around the side of Mount Kerrie. Upon reaching Romsey Road, either drop by Hesket Estate's cellar door or continue your journey with the sharp pinch of Straws Lane and then up and over Mt Macedon, followed by a rewarding scenic descent all the way back to Riddells Creek.



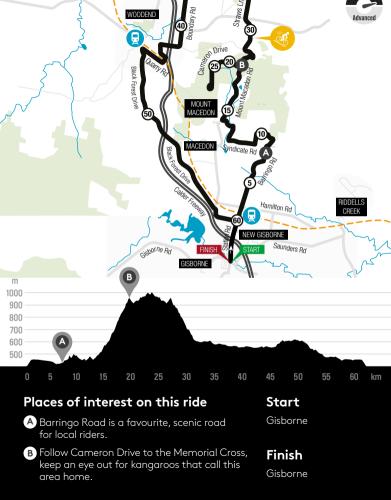


#### The Cross and The Rock

Rating **Advanced** Distance **63km** Elevation **1074m** Ride Time 2h35m



Many riders travel to the region specifically to conquer Mt Macedon. If that sounds like your cup of tea, then this is the loop for you. Starting in Gisborne, you'll climb the renowned south face of Mt Macedon. winding through lush forest. Once on the summit, take in the views and visit the Memorial Cross, before descending towards iconic Hanging Rock. Stop in Woodend for a coffee break before the final leg back into Gisborne. For an easier climb complete this ride in reverse.



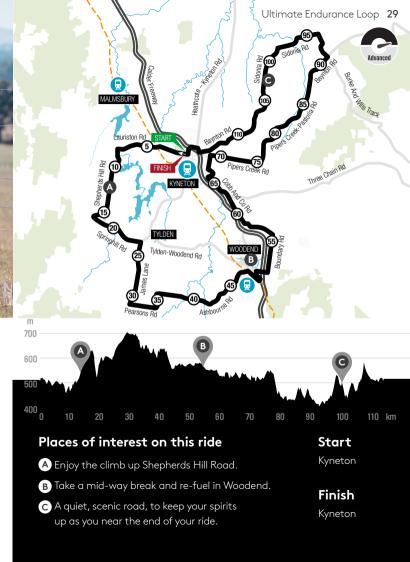


Rating **Advanced** Distance **117km** Elevation **1606m** Ride Time **4h50m** 

ROAD RIDE 🚲



Consider this a serious training ride or one epic journey. You'll want to set aside a full day out, or better still, turn it into a mini getaway. Expect lots of interesting variations in landscape, including scenic farmland, rolling granite rock hills, and some less-travelled, winding gum treelined roads. Celebrate with a big meal in the gastronomic town of Kyneton when you return from this highly rewarding loop.



#### Gravel Rides 🚳

Gravel riding enables you to enjoy Macedon Ranges scenery from a different perspective, where you feel more 'in nature' than when road biking. With six gravel rides to choose from, you'll soon become intimate with the Macedon Ranges backcountry.

What makes gravel riding in the Macedon Ranges different from other parts of Victoria is the variety of the terrain. You'll get everything from straight, flat gravel roads, to steep climbs, rock and sand. Everywhere you turn, there's something different to look at.

Our gravel rides will take you through the hidden gem of the Cobaw State Forest, pine plantations in Macedon, forestscapes on Mt Macedon and the iconic Hanging Rock. And the best part is how the gravel roads themselves change with the seasons – they are different every time you ride them.

Don't get lost. We recommend downloading our rides to a GPS device, as mobile devices may be impacted by black spots.

"Gravel riding in the Macedon Ranges is outstanding, not only because of the incredible scenery, but also because of the diversity of the tracks you explore: from sheltered forests and challenging climbs to windswept farm plains."

Tiffany Winchester, local ultra endurance cyclist



#### The Federation Trail

Rating **Easy** Distance **16km** Elevation **159m** Ride Time **40m** 



Running parallel to Melbourne-Lancefield Road on the Federation Trail, this ride mostly travels along a dedicated shared path for cyclists and pedestrians. As you leave Romsey's main street, the trail becomes a well-formed granitic sand surface and the surroundings transform from classic Australian architecture to expanses of rolling farmland. Enjoy a meal in Lancefield or treat yourself post-ride with lunch at one of Romsey's cafés or restaurants.



#### Places of interest on this ride

A Take in the picturesque rural vistas as you make your way between Romsey and Lancefield.

Fill your hamper at the Lancefield Farmers' Market on the fourth Saturday of the month, then ride back to Lions Park Reserve in Romsey for a picnic.

#### Start

Lions Park Reserve Romsey

#### Finish

Lions Park Reserve Romsey



#### Wombat Wanderer

Rating **Easy** Distance **25km** Elevation **383m** Ride Time **1h** 



After warming up your legs on Mahoneys Road, follow all the "No Road" signs to explore the quiet backroads into the Wombat State Forest. You'll be immersed in lush, shaded forest as you wind your way around these quiet gravel roads.

There is quite a bit of undulation in the first 15kms, but the last 10km of largely downhill makes it all worthwhile.



#### Places of interest on this ride

- A You'll be spoilt for choice on winding gravel roads.
- B Reward yourself with some chips and craft beer at Holgate Brewhouse or The Victoria Hotel.

#### Start

Woodend Train Station

Wombat Wanderer 35

V A

#### **Finish**

Woodend Train Station



#### Cobaws Joyride

Rating **Medium** Distance **32km** Elevation **659m** Ride Time **1h20m** 



Head north along the quiet gravel Boundary Road, taking in the views to your left. Rolling along Goochs Lane you'll be rewarded with sweeping scenic views before the descent into the Cobaws. The granitic Cobaw Batholith is in full display along this next section - keep your eyes out for large boulders on both sides of the road. Descend through the Cobaw State Forest before rolling gently back into Newham.







#### Plantation Prowl

Rating **Hard** Distance **56km** Elevation **1015m** Ride Time **2h20m** 



Hopefully you've had a coffee in Macedon before heading out because your first treat on this loop is a climb up through a pine tree plantation. Explore the quiet backroads on your way up to Woodend before heading west to play deeper into the Wombat State Forest.

Weave your way through the forested fire trails and enjoy the peace and quiet of these tranquil surroundings.

#### Places of interest on this ride

A Want a shorter loop? Turn left on Fingerpost Road (15.6km in) then follow the telegraph poles onto Blackwood Road that leads back into Macedon.

**B** Keep an eye out for wildlife around the water points on your way through the forest...though don't drink the water! (38km mark).

#### Start

Macedon Train Station

#### Finish

Macedon Train Station



#### **Riddells Revenge**

Rating **Hard** Distance **57km** Elevation **1037m** Ride Time **2h20m** 



After stocking up on supplies in Riddells Creek, head up Mount Charlie Road and you'll soon be swept up in the fabulousness of the Flora Reserve. After quite a long climb, you'll be grateful for the downhill on Hesket-Boundary Road, but it's worth stopping to take in the views of Hanging Rock and the Cobaw Ranges. Head back through Macedon Regional Park and Barringo before enjoying your revenge on Riddells with that last 5km of downhills.



#### Places of interest on this ride

- A Start with a visit to Riddells Creek Farmers' Market held on the third Saturday of the month.
- B This view of Hanging Rock on Cowells Rd is only visible when you ride gravel.

**Start** Riddells Creek

#### Finish

**Riddells** Creek



#### Malmsbury Mixer

Rating **Advanced** Distance **87km** Elevation **1182m** Ride Time **3h40m** 



This loop mixes up the terrain (50% gravel. 50% road) and the scenery. Tree canopied roads along Shepherds Hill Road and through Woodend change to drier farmland and sweeping views as you head back north towards Green Hill.

Look to the left around 16km into the ride for views to Mt Macedon.

Finish your mammoth ride with a wellearned lunch in historic Malmsbury, or enjoy an overnight getaway.



#### Places of interest on this ride

#### Start

A Time your ride with the Malmsbury Village Farmers' Market every third Sunday of the month.

B Depending on time of year the 35.4km mark might be a river crossing. If so, stay on Ashbourne Road into Woodend. Malmsbury

#### Finish

Malmsbury



The Wombat State Forest and village of Woodend is the heart of the Macedon Ranges mountain biking scene.

The forest is also well-known for its annual Wombat Classic mountain biking event.

And yes, there are wombats too.

This Guide features two of the best mountain bike adventures in the area. Both are perfect for a 'quickie' with plenty of time left over to explore Woodend's cracking good pub scene. Particularly handy with the town's location on the Melbourne-Bendigo V/Line train route.

Or if travelling by car, you can always take a drive to nearby Hanging Rock or Mt Macedon afterward, to double up on your nature fix for the day.

Don't get lost. We recommend downloading our rides to a GPS device, as mobile devices may be impacted by black spots.

"I love mountain biking in the Macedon Ranges, the passionate riding community and the variety of trails to explore make it quite special. The single track in the Wombat State Forest is famous for being handmade old school cross country and rewards those with a sense of adventure."

Cam McFarlane, Member, Wombat Mountain Bike Club





#### Wombat Loop

Rating **Medium** Distance **17km** Elevation **62m** Ride Time **1h20m** 



This 17km mountain biking track takes you through the Wombat State Forest surrounding Woodend. Weave and flow along hand-built single track, established and maintained by the Wombat Mountain Bike Club.

The Wombat Loop is in great condition for most of the year, although can be wet during the winter months. The track has two distinct loops of equal distance. Loop 1, beginning from the car park, offers slightly more technical riding. To complete the full 17km Wombat Loop you must ride both loops.





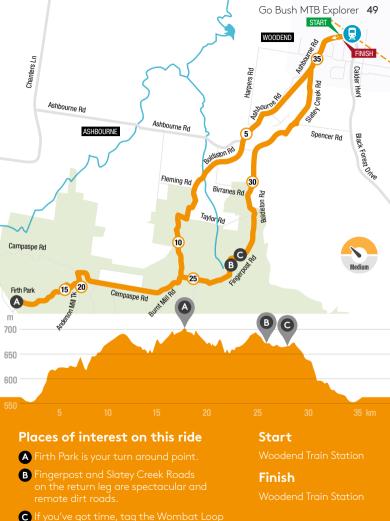
#### Go Bush MTB Explorer

Rating **Medium** Distance **37km** Elevation **582m** Ride Time **1h30m** 



After turning off Ashbourne Road, at the 5km mark, this ride takes in thick bushland, remote dirt tracks, and great undulating 4WD tracks. Navigation can be a challenge so be sure to download the map and GPS navigation file.

The return to Woodend is best achieved following Fingerpost Road and Slatey Creek Road. The blast down Slatey Creek Road is an awesome reward for all the earlier climbing.



## Picture The Big I

### Public Toilets

**Newham** - Newham Mecho

- **Gisborne**  Gardiner Reserve, Hamilton Street
- £ Kyneton - Botranic Gardens, Ebder - Hurton Street - Merchanics Reserve, Barynton Street - Mineral Springs Reserve Burton Ave - Kyneton Visitor Info Centre, High Street

**Romsey** - Lions Park, Melbourne-Lancefield Road

e Road

**Riddells Creek** - Lions Park, Gisborne-Kilma

**Tylden** - Tylden-Woodend Road

- etreet Lancefield - High Streetr

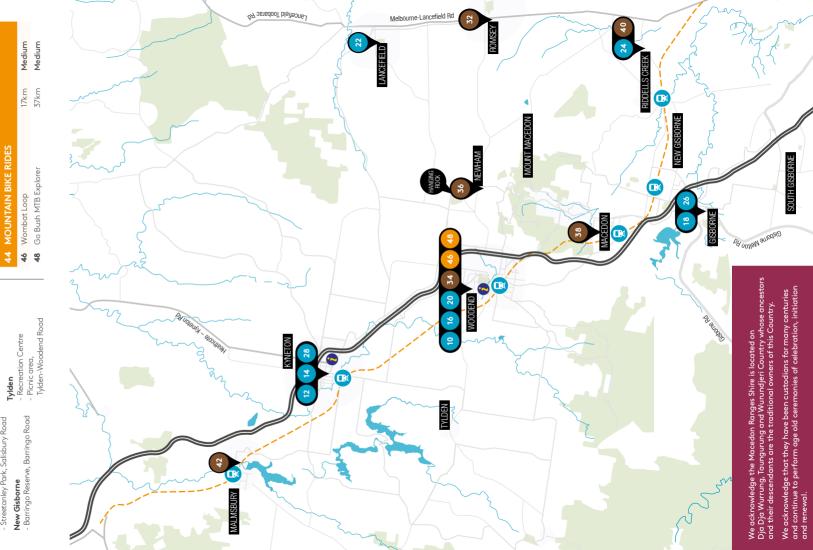
- Malmsbury Malmsbury Lauriston Reservoir Malmsbury Botanic Gardens
- Macedon
- Centennial Park, Mt Macedon Road
- **Mt Macedon**  Memorial Cross Streetanley Park, Salis
- **New Gisborne**  Barringo Reserve, Barringo Road

- Woodend Anslow Streetreet Campaspe Park, Campaspe Drive Manging Rock, South Road Raceourse Reserve, Forest Street Woodend Visitor Info Centre, High Street
- Drinking Water

- **Gisborne**  Gardiner Reserve, Hamilton Street
- **Tylden**  Recreation Centre Picnic area, Tylden-Woodend Roa

# **Ride Details**

ø	ROAD RIDES	DISTANCE	DIFFICULTY
9	The Hanging Rock Cruiser	27km	Easy
12	Historic Village Loop	27km	Easy
4	The Reservoir Rippa	29km	Medium
16	Straws Lane Thriller	40km	Medium
18	Barringo Beauty	48km	Medium
20	Mountain Climb Challenge	42km	Hard
22	Backcountry Explorer	74km	Hard
24	The Ring of Kerrie	54km	Hard
26	The Cross and the Rock	63km	Advanced
28	Ultimate Endurance Loop	117km	Advanced
30	<b>GRAVEL RIDES</b>		
32	The Federation Trail	16km	Easy
34	Wombat Wanderer	25km	Easy
36	Cowbaws Joyride	32km	Easy
38	Plantation Prowl	56km	Medium
40	Riddells Revenge	57km	Hard
42	Malmsbury Mixer	87km	Advanced
44	44 MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDES		



We acknowledge th of this region.

## Help?

Need more information about the Macedon Ranges? The list below provides a range of information and contact details to ensure you have a great time riding the Macedon Ranges

## Visitor Information

Visitor Information Centres can help with maps, information on accommodation, places to eat and drink, things to see and do, and other useful information. Phone, or drop in:

# Kyneton Visitor Info Centre

High St, Kyneton Dpen 7 days, 9am −5pm P +61 3 5421 9732 E vic@mrsc.vic.gov.au

# i Woodend Visitor Info Centre

High St, Woodend Open 7 days, 9am-5pm P +61 3 5421 9709 E vic@mrsc.vic.gov.au

### V/Line.

Bikes can be carried free of charge on V/Line trains, but only if space is available. You should only travel with bikes during off-peak times.

Note: bikes are not permitted on V/Line coaches. More information at www.Nine.com.au

## Bike shop & MTB hire

Woodend Cycles 68 High Street, Woodend. **P** +61 3 5427 2662 www.woodendcycles.com.au

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he time of publication. R

## Local clubs

Macedon Ranges Cycling Club www.macedonrangescycling.org.au

Wombat Mountain Bike Club www.wombatmtb.com.au

### MTB Tours

Small group mountain bike tours in the Macedon Ranges. Melbourne return transfers & optional equipment hire. Contact ANIT Touring on 1300 35 33 35

### Visit Online

www.visitmacedonranges.com

AccedonRangesNaturallyCool

VisitMacedonRanges
www.strava.com/ridemacedonranges

www.mrsc.vic.gov.au



#### **BIKE SAFE CODE**

STOP

#### Be seen. Use lights and wear bright clothes

Give motorists a chance to see you. Don't wear dark tops and use lights. \* Riding at night is illegal unless the bicycle or rider has a white light (flashing or steady) on the front, a red light (flashing or steady) at the back and a red reflector at the back.

#### Obey all road signs and traffic lights

Under the Road Rules, bicycles are considered to be vehicles and riders must obey traffic signals, stop signs and give way signs.

#### Ride no more than two abreast

Riders must not ride more than two abreast. If riding two abreast riders must not ride more than 1.5 metres from the other rider.



#### Cyclist may use the full lane at roundabouts

\* Enter the roundabout in the middle of the lane and go through it the same way as you would if you were in a car. This will make you more visible to other vehicles... and prevent cars... trying to 'squeeze' past you.

\* SOURCE: VicRoads

#### Ride & drive with respect and courtesy.

Facebook.com/BikeSafeMacedonRanges Join today bikesafemacedonranges@gmail.com

