

OUTBIKE

ALICE SPRINGS TO COOBER PEDY GRAVEL RIDE

ASCP 2025, 2026 RIDER INFORMATION

Enjoy a gravel ride across a variety of remote Central Australia landscapes, from the iconic town of Alice Springs to the opal mining outpost of Coober Pedy.

Includes Simpson Desert, Old Andado Station, Finke River Floodplain, Mt Dare, Dalhousie Hot Springs, Old Ghan Railway ruins, Oodnadatta, the Painted Desert and the Moon Plain.

Weather: Rain is a rare event throughout the route in the months April to July. But over the month, chances are we'll encounter some rain somewhere. Hopefully light. Heavy rain is a problem as the roads can close!

Bikes: MTBs recommended. Hybrid, cross-country and gravel bikes are good too but wider tyres run best over loose gravel, bulldust and sandy patches. Best with generous knobblies 45-55mm.

Be Fit and Ready: You don't have to 'ride hard' each day to do this event – it is more about going the distance (and preserving yourself). Riders should have recent experience at completing multiple 100km days (sealed roads) and competence at riding on dirt roads. Make sure your bike and body are compatible for successive long days. Riders should ensure they are 'butt-ready' as groin wear and tear is the #1 reason for taking a softer seat on the sag vehicle. For riders who tend to be tender, dual-suspension MTB may be the best choice.

Hire: We will have 27.5 or 29/700c light MTBs for hire at \$500 for the 14 days with knobby tyres for dirt (50-55mm). You may like to bring your own saddle, pedals and bar-ends.

Transfers to Alice and from Coober Pedy: At least six months prior to the event we will advise.

Camping: We provide the tents, pop-ups or hiker domes, for double or solo use (no sharing required)). For mattress, we provide at least 2 layers, a closed cell insulation mat and a self-inflating soft foam mat – so you'll have at least 5-6cm of comfort under you. Sleeping bags are available for hire. Sacks of spares bags and blankets are carried for colder nights. We have tables, stools and comfortable chairs. There are gazebos (some with insect mesh) and shade cloths we can set up. We have pop-ups for showers (solar heated water bags) and toilets (porta-potty and thunder-buckets). There are basins and buckets aplenty for washing your kit. Hygiene is a priority.

On many nights we will have a campfire.

Entertainments: There'll be books, games and sports gear. Maybe a 'talent quest' and other silliness. On many nights we're all in bed by 8pm!

Power: We have solar panels, batteries and 'power stations' to provide power in remote locations. We've had a bulky, noisy petrol-powered generator in the past but won't bring it 2024-25 as we now find our increased solar/battery kit sufficient for the fridges, campsite lighting and keeping everyone's gizmos powered up.

Breakfasts and Lunches: Fuel up on healthy buffet breakfasts. Enjoy a second helping on the porridge. Pack lunch before setting out and we'll keep it cool for you to have at the lunch rendezvous.

Dietary requests can be advised and we cater for these.

Morning Tea: Our crew and vehicles will be typically at 20-30kms intervals with thermoses, filter coffee and tea, cold drinks, fruit, cake, biscuits and other snacks.

Lunch stop: Typically at 40-50kms with one of our crew and a vehicle on site.

Afternoon Tea: On our longer days we may add an afternoon refreshment stop at 60-70 kms. We may also add water points on long/warm days.

Cups, crockery, cutlery: We ask riders to bring their own plate, bowl, cutlery and coffee mug and cup, best kept in a calico bag or similar. Check out the collapsible kits now popular.

Please carry a collapsible cup in your jersey pocket or on your bike.

Support vehicles: We plan to use two 4x4s, most likely a Landcruiser and our Nissan X-Trail or similar. One vehicle will always be to the rear and act as a sag-wagon for riders in distress or who have fallen well behind. The other vehicle will move through the ride during the day, setting up morning tea, lunch and camp locations.

Chores: We will have most things covered with our crew and helpers. For the bush campsites where we have more camp set-up and to prepare dinners, we'll run a roster for riders to assist.

Crew: Our 2 crew will each drive a support vehicle and between them manage the ride, campsites and catering. They are cyclists too and have some mechanical skills.

Volunteer non-rider helpers: We can use up to 2 non-riding helpers for campsite, rider support and catering tasks. It's a great way to see a lot of Outback Australia at next to no cost.

Medical: Registrants will be required to advise of medical conditions on the registration and waiver form. We reserve the right to ask for a doctor's letter. If the Ride Manager becomes concerned on the event for an entrant's ride-fitness or ability to ride on safely, they may discuss with the rider possibilities to tackle shorter distances for a day or more – combined with rest and recovery, riding on the vehicles. Crew have current First Aid training.

Communications: Several UHF hand-helds are available for issue amongst riders. Ride vehicles have UHF radio. Satellite message devices are carried by at least 2 crew. Telstra has the best mobile coverage on the route. We'll have Starlink internet on the April 2025 and May 2026 ASCP rides.

First Aid and measures vs mozzies: Comprehensive first-aid kits will be on all vehicles. We carry plenty of sunscreen and personal insect repellent (good to bring your own too). Riders should do all they practically can to avoid mosquito and other insect bites (loose light-coloured clothing that covers limbs, footwear and using personal repellent).

Traffic: The full ride does approx. 900 kms along remote roads. Only 50 km is bitumen (2025). The roads are very quiet however care still needs to be taken. We recommend riding with a mirror and being prepared to pull over if a large vehicle is likely to pass closely or create serious dust.

Ride Guide: We issue a descriptive day by day ride guide.

Signage: Our vehicles will display 'CYCLISTS ON ROAD' signs. Be advised we do not place marshals and signage along the daily route. Instructions will be given ahead of any route aspects that may be confusing.

Weather and Road Conditions, Floodwaters & Route Diversions: Conditions in the Outback are subject to change due to occurrences such as rains and floods. Diversions could range from a few hours to several days and may involve travel on our buses.

Deposits and payment schedule for confirmed events:

- Registration form, signed waiver and \$100 deposit holds a ride place
- A second deposit payment of \$900 is due by 30 September
- Full payment is due by end of February

NAB Account: My Europe Base Pty Ltd BSB 085 005 AC 85859 9966

Participation and cancellation conditions: See below.

Fund raising for charity: While we have not linked our events to any charity, if any rider seeks to raise funds through their participation they are welcome to advise us of the cause. We can put items on our website and Facebook with links to help promote.

Images on the event: We do take images during events that we may later use on social media and in promotion. Participating in any Outbike event, you acknowledge that you may appear in such images. Note that we will not use a close-up photo of any rider without asking their approval.

OUTBIKE

Ride beyond The Beyond!

Outbike is a trading name of My Europe Base Pty Ltd ABN 41053515834
HOME ADDRESS: 12 WANDOO COURT, NOOSAVILLE, QLD 4566
Owner / Rides Manager: Ralph Jackson, phone 0406 440418 (Intl. 61-406 440418)
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ASCP 2025, 2026

Conditions of participation

Liability: The operator (and their staff and agents) aim to conduct the event as advertised, professionally, safely and to the best of their abilities but shall not be held liable for the ultimate safety of riders.

Health and experience: Riders should be in good health and have suitable experience including long days and safe riding with vehicle traffic. The operator reserves the right to terminate the participation of a rider if the operator feels it is unsafe for the rider to continue. In this case the rider will be given the choice of assisting instead.

Covid19: The event will operate to any Covid-safe requirements applying. See also 'Cancellation Conditions' below.

Alterations: The operator is not responsible for inconvenience or extra costs incurred in circumstances beyond the operator's control such as delays or alterations caused by weather events, road conditions, other transport or equipment failure. The operator reserves the right to alter the schedule according to circumstances.

Images: During the event images will be taken by our crew and other riders. All participants on the event agree that their image may appear on social media of Outbike and possibly elsewhere. Images may be used by Outbike for promotion.

Cancellation Conditions:

1. Deposit payments are NOT REFUNDABLE on cancellation but may be deferred to future events.
2. By 28 February participants will be paid in full or liable to lose their place. Cancellation between these dates and the start of the event will receive a 50% refund. In circumstances of unavoidable cancellation, we may agree to deferring any payment lost towards a future event.
3. If the event is cancelled by Outbike due to Covid or other circumstance, full refunds of any payments will be made.

Travel insurance: Consider a policy to cover cancellation or other unseen events. Note that ambulance costs are either free (including RFDS) or unlikely to exceed \$1500 maximum (varies QLD/SA and where you are resident). International entries should have travel insurance anyway.

Min/max numbers: To proceed, the event is subject to minimum numbers of 8 riders. We aim for a maximum of 12 riders but may accept up to 14 entries to allow for late withdrawals and deferrals.

Ralph Jackson, Rides Manager / Director of Outbike & Arcadia Travel

Mobile: 0406 440418 / outbike.rides@gmail.com

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