

Cycling

Rockingham to Perth bike route

Ride 1 - Rockingham to Wellard

There are two bicycle routes from Rockingham that link up with the Kwinana Freeway shared path. Both options are a combination of shared path and on-road routes.



Route Summary

Option 1 is a 17km trip commencing at Rockingham Beach then following the coast around Warnbro Sound foreshore to Waikiki and along Safety Bay Road to the southern most end of the Kwinana Freeway where the shared path commences.

Route Detail

Rockingham's heritage as an early Western Australian settlement is highlighted with the original Rockingham Beach School, Police Station and Timber Railway sites featured in this area. In addition, the Rockingham Hotel built in 1898, the Art Deco style Rockingham Museum built in 1946 and the Trocadero Dance Hall built in 1933 are all located at the start of the route.

From Rockingham Beach, a shared path will take you west along the beach front to Safety Bay Road then south past Lake Richmond. Turn into Boundary Road to access the coastal path.

The path along Shoalwater Bay and Safety Bay passes Penguin Island and several heritage sites including the Safety Bay Yacht Club built in 1947. This path is very popular with cyclists and walkers, particularly on weekends.

The route is very flat but exposed to strong ocean winds particularly during the afternoon in summer. There are several shops in Safety Bay, should you want some refreshments whilst taking in the coastal views.

Continue along the Safety Bay Road shared path for about 6km to the Warnbro Train Station (pictured below). From Warnbro Station, continue eastward along Safety Bay Road towards the Kwinana Freeway.



Between Warnbro Station on the east side of Ennis Ave, and the Freeway shared path you will ride past Lake Walyungup on the south side of Safety Bay Road. This wetland area provides an important habitat for waterfowl, migratory wading and other birds as well as the rare Black Gloved Wallaby.

The on road route along Safety Bay Road has sealed shoulders (bike lanes) but it should be noted that the road also carries a large volume of freight traffic and may be less appealing to inexperienced cyclists. Extra care should be taken where the route intersects busy roads, particularly at roundabouts.

The Kwinana Freeway shared path commences on the western side of the Kwinana Freeway. The path connects with the Rockingham – Kwinana route at Mortimer Rd in Wellard, about 9kms north of the start of the path at Safety Bay Road. (Option 2 on the following page).

Experienced and energetic cyclists might consider riding the 38km Rockingham round trip by using the path section to connect the two Rockingham options.

Route Features

- Rockingham Beach
- Lake Richmond
- Point Peron
- Warnbro Sound & Penguin Island
- Lake Walyungup
- Warnbro Train Station

Ride 2 - Rockingham to Kwinana



Route Summary

Option 2 is a 14km trip from Rockingham Beach, along Rockingham Beach Road to Kwinana Beach. The route then continues east through East Rockingham and Kwinana and connects with the Kwinana Freeway shared path at Mortimer Road in Wellard.

Route Detail

The route commences at Churchill Park with its distinctive peppermint trees planted in the 1920's.

The 4km bike route along Rockingham Beach Road follows the coast where you can take advantage of any of the several picnic areas and enjoy the views across Cockburn Sound. As well as playgrounds, picnic facilities and public toilets, there are also a number of cafes along this route section.

From Kwinana Beach at the northern end of Rockingham Road, follow the PBN route signs east (paying particular care when crossing Patterson Road).

About 2.5kms from Kwinana Beach, you will come to Mandurah Road where you can deviate south to the East Rockingham Heritage Precinct to visit more early settlement sites such as the East Rockingham Cemetery established in 1842.

If you choose to take this deviation, a little further south around Chesterfield and Day Roads, you should be able to identify Chesterfield House built in 1855, Woodbine (Bell Cottage) ruin built in 1868, and Ellendale (Day Cottage) which for a short time in the 1880's operated as the Rockingham Inn. Mandurah Road does not have bicycle lanes or sealed shoulders but traffic is not usually heavy and there are good sightlines along the road. If you take this deviation, you might consider making the return 5km trip to Rockingham west along Dixon Road.

Continuing along the main route option from the Mandurah to Wellard Road intersection, it is approximately 7km to the Freeway shared path. Along the way, you can deviate north at Gilmore Ave to access the Kwinana Town Centre, about 1km from the bicycle route.

Route Features

- Rockingham and Kwinana Beaches
- Churchill Park and surrounding heritage sites
- East Rockingham heritage sites
- Access to Kwinana Town Centre



Ride 3 - Kwinana to Wattleup



Route Summary

This section of the route is about 8km in length and will take you from the Kwinana area, north toward Perth on the Freeway shared path. The path has underpasses at, and access to, all major roads including Thomas, Anketell and Rowley Roads.

Route Detail

Thomas Road provides access to the Kwinana Train Station as well as the suburbs of Orelia and Medina. Immediately north of Thomas Road, the route takes you past The Spectacles in Beelihar Regional Park - a 3.7 square kilometre wetland.

To explore this remarkable wetland by the walk and cycle trails, take the Anketell Road exit from the shared path and cycle about 50 metres west to Spectacles Drive then about 1.5kms south. Bird hides provide locations to observe some of the 100 different bird species inhabiting the wetlands.

Anketell Road also provides a connection with a Local Bicycle Route (LBR) SW34, an on road bike route providing an alternate route north to South Lake.

Route Features

- The Spectacles : Beelihar Regional Park
- Kwinana Railway Station
- Local Bicycle Route SW34



Ride 4 - Wattleup to Success



Route Summary

The section of route between Rowley Road and Beeliar Drive is about 6 km in length and is entirely on shared path.

Route Detail

Rowley Road is a designated Perth Bicycle Network Local Bicycle Route (SW18) and provides access to Henderson, approximately 6km to the west, and Armadale, approximately 18km to the east. About 2.5km to the north is the Russell Road intersection. Russell Road is also a designated Local Bicycle Route (SW17) and provides access to Thomsons Lake Nature Reserve and Henderson Industrial area on the coast.

Thomsons Lake contains about 150ha of semi-permanent wetland surrounded by woodland providing a habitat for local and migratory birds and native animals including grey kangaroos, brush wallabies, brush-tailed possums and short-nosed bandicoots.

There are several paths providing convenient links into new urban areas adjacent to the route. Shops to the west on Beeliar Drive at Gateways Shopping Centre provide an opportunity for refreshments. There is a bike shop and bicycle parking at the Centre.

Route Features

- Thomsons Lake Nature Reserve
- Local Bicycle Route SW17
- Local Bicycle Route SW18



Ride 5 - Success to Murdoch



Route Summary

The section of route between Beeliar Drive and South Street is about 7km in length and provides access to Berrigan Drive, Farrington Road and South Street.

Route Detail

Immediately north of Beeliar Drive, there is a connection from the shared path into the Cockburn Central Train Station (pictured below). The Station has high quality bicycle parking rails and lockers that you may consider using if you take the train.

Further north at the intersection of Roe Highway and Kwinana Freeway, with its distinctive urban art, there are several path links into the Bibra Lake suburban area.

From here is a short ride to Bibra Lake, a very popular picnic destination named after Benedict von Bibra. There is a 7km cycle path around the lake that is popular for bird watching, offering a wide variety of habitats. Long-necked Tortoises are often seen in this area.

The South Street exit provides access via shared paths to Murdoch Train Station, Murdoch University and Murdoch Hospital. If you live in the area and commute to Perth or other locations on the suburban rail network, you might consider making use of the high quality bicycle parking facilities at Murdoch Station. A short ride to the station is an invigorating way to start your day.

Route Features

- Cockburn Central Train Station
- Bibra Lake "Walliabup"
- Murdoch Train Station,
- Murdoch University
- Murdoch Hospital



Ride 6 - Murdoch to Canning Bridge



Route Summary

The section of route between South Street and Canning Bridge is about 6 km in length and provides access to the Cities of Melville, Canning and South Perth, as well as the Bull Creek and Canning Bridge Train Stations.

Route Detail

Bull Creek Train Station is located at the Kwinana Freeway – Leach Highway intersection. It has good bicycle parking facilities for those who might consider cycling from surrounding areas to the train station.

It is an easy 2km ride from South Street to Leach Highway. Between Leach Highway and Mount Henry Bridge, there is a short on road section of route along Selway Road, a quiet suburban street, and a crossing over Cranford Avenue. After crossing Cranford Avenue you will connect with the shared path for a short section before coming across a fantastic panoramic view of the city skyline and Kings Park, across the Swan and Canning Rivers.

From the southern end of Mt Henry Bridge you can ride on paths on either the west or east sides of the Canning River. The western route will take you via Deep Water Point Reserve to Canning Bridge. This is a popular location for water skiing and other river based activities and can get very busy on weekends. There is a café overlooking the River and change rooms with showers and toilets.

The eastern route will take you through revegetated bushland to Canning Bridge. Along this section, there are two overpasses across the Freeway providing access to Manning and to Curtin University, approximately 3km to the east.

Route Features

- Bull Creek Train Station
- Canning River
- Deep Water Point Reserve



Ride 7 - Canning Bridge to Narrows Bridge



Route Summary

The final 6km section of the Southern Suburbs route will take you from Canning Bridge along the edge of the Swan River to the Narrows Bridge. This section of path provides unrestricted access from the southern suburbs to central Perth and is very popular with commuter and recreational cyclists as well as pedestrians and joggers.

Route Detail

Canning Bridge Train Station is located in the centre of the Freeway and accessible from shared path links on the south and north sides of Canning Bridge.

About 2km north of Canning Bridge is Como Beach and Jetty. The Jetty was built in 1907. In the 1920's, the area was promoted as a recreation area for residents and visitors and is still a popular recreation area for residents and a pleasant rest area for cyclists.

South Perth was one of the earliest developed areas following settlement of the Swan River Colony. On the other side of the Freeway is the Preston Street Precinct, a compact mixed-use area with shops, cafés, restaurants, a tavern and the classically beautiful art deco Cygnet Cinema. Closer to the Narrows Bridge along Labouchere Road is Perth Zoo that was established in 1898 but more recently committed to conservation of native and exotic species to ensure the survival of species in the wild.

Close to the Narrows Bridge is the Old Mill, a stone structure with simple clear lines. It a picturesque early colonial building that has been restored and is open to the public.

From the Narrows Bridge, it is just a short ride across the Narrows Bridge to Perth City and other bike routes extending into northern, western and eastern urban areas.

Route Features

- Canning Bridge Train Station
- Swan River
- Como Foreshore Reserve
- Preston Street & Cygnet Theatre

