



Munda Biddi Trail Background information

Munda Biddi Trail

- The Munda Biddi Trail is a world-class, nature-based, off-road cycling experience.
- Munda Biddi means 'path through the forest' in the Noongar Aboriginal language.
- The trail meanders through scenic river valleys and the magnificent eucalypt forests of WA's South West.
- There are few places left in the world where a 1000km track could be built through an undeveloped natural corridor.
- Western Australia's vast areas of unspoilt forests and bushland, gentle terrain and year round cycling weather combines as the ideal setting for an off-road cycle trail.
- Every day is different - towering eucalypt forest and ancient unspoiled bushland, unique plants and wildlife, camping in shelters or quaint country towns.
- Cyclists can learn about Aboriginal culture, the rich heritage of the region and visit wineries and other attractions in WA's South West.

Munda Biddi Epic 1000

- The Munda Biddi Epic 1000 will be the first time cyclists have ridden the length of the track from Albany to Mundaring.
- The Epic will start in Albany and pass through all towns on the trail including: Cosy Corner, Denmark, Walpole, Northcliffe, Pemberton, Manjimup, Donnelly Mill, Nannup, Donnybrook, Collie, Lake Brockman Tourist Park, Dwellingup, Jarrahdale, Carinyah and Mundaring.
- An official launch will mark the start of the Epic in Albany on April 7 and a celebration event and an official closing ceremony will mark the end of the ride in Mundaring on April 28.
- The Munda Biddi Epic 1000 will become a biennial event, organised by the Munda Biddi Trail Foundation.

Geocaching on the Epic

- Geocaching is a free outdoor treasure hunt. Riders taking part in the Epic will hide treasure along the path for future trail riders to find.
- GPS coordinates are given out for the 'treasure' and participants use a GPS or smartphone to find their cache.
- Full details are on the website: www.mundabiddi.org.au.

Munda Biddi Trail Foundation

- The Foundation is an incorporated, not-for-profit organisation, set up by the Department of Environment and Conservation to promote and develop the trail.
- It provides a range of events, publications, free trail information, maintenance and upkeep of the trail, with assistance from volunteers, members, government, cycle friendly businesses and sponsors.
- Vision: Provides the platform for everyone to benefit from a sustainable, world-class off-road, nature-based cycling trail.
- Mission: To foster member, partner, community, volunteer, tourist and user involvement in the sustainable development, maintenance, marketing and enjoyment of WA's world class, off-road, nature -based cycling trail.
- The Board of Directors consists of 12 people representing various stakeholders of the cycling industry and community interest groups, who govern the Foundation's operations.

History of track construction:

- Construction of the first leg from Mundaring to Collie started in January 2001 and was opened in July 2004.
- By 2008 construction finished on the Collie to Jarrahdale leg where it joined up with the existing Sidings Rail Trail, taking it to Nannup and halfway to Albany.
- The Nannup to Manjimup leg opened in July 2011.
- The Albany to Denmark leg opened in May 2012.
- The final leg from Manjimup to Denmark will open in April 2013.

Local Governments along the trail

- City of Armadale, Shire of Mundaring, Shire of Kalamunda, Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale, Shire of Murray, Shire of Collie, Shire of Waroona, Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup, Shire of Nannup, Shire of Denmark, City of Albany.

Munda Biddi Trail Foundation's Cycle Friendly Business Program

- The program aims to create a cycle tourism industry by supporting the growth of cycle tourism in each community along the trail, by increasing the number of cycle tourism and cycle-friendly businesses, increasing the number of cycle tourism packages and increasing the tools and mechanisms to support the growth of cycle tourism.
- There are 88 cycle-friendly businesses between Albany and Nannup.
- These businesses partner with the Foundation to share in the benefits of cycle tourism.

Economic Impact and benefits of cycle tourism

Cycle Tourists are considered 'super tourists' because:

- Cycle tourists can generate significant economic benefits in host destinations because, unlike tourists travelling by car, they have to travel 'light' and are very reliant on local services.⁵
- Research in NSW found that cycle tourists stay longer than 'other' tourists as they are more independently mobile and subsequently generate a higher total spend per trip.³
- In NSW in 2007, cycle tourists stayed on average 5.1 nights, whereas all other types of tourists stayed an average of 3.5 nights.
- Cycle tourists in NSW engaged in an average of six activities during a trip compared with three activities for total tourists, making them a great source of income for regional communities.

Cycle Tourists - Profile

- Australian cycle tourists are predominantly male.
- Aged between 45 and 59 years of age.
- Generally well-educated, with the majority holding a university qualification, employed in professional or managerial positions and earn above average incomes.^{1,4}
- Research indicates that baby boomers have and will continue to drive growth in the cycle tourism sector.¹

Cycle tourists in Australia

- Cycle tourists on the Murray to Mountain Rail Trail in north-eastern Victoria spent an average \$258 a day on accommodation, food and beverages, transport and cycling associated expenses.¹

Bibbulmun Track Economic impact (for comparison)

- Estimated annual expenditure by Bibbulmun Track users is \$39,158,040 based on 167,206 track walks each year. Source: Evolve Solutions. (Bibbulmun Track has been around for 10 years longer than the Munda Biddi Trail and stretches 1000km from Perth to Albany).
- Munda Biddi annual expenditure is expected to be significantly more due to the characteristics of cycle tourists.

Economic Impact around the world:

- In Europe cycle tourism is projected to increase in value to approximately A\$37.3 billion by 2020.¹
- In the United Kingdom cycle tourism was estimated to be worth approximately A\$1.69 billion per year.¹
- Along Canada's Route Verte in 2006, cyclists spent a total of \$134 million. This corresponds to approximately 2,800 jobs and \$38 million in government revenue.²
- The Bodensee Cycle Way which winds its way around Lake Constance which borders Germany, Austria and Switzerland attracts 380,000 riders every year and contributes \$120 million to the region annually.²
- In New Zealand it was estimated that cycle tourism was worth more than cruise ship tourism, because of the long length of stay of cycle tourists. In the South Island, cycle tourism was worth \$72 million per annum to the economy. Independent bicycle tourists in the South Island of NZ spent on average approximately A\$55.13 per day which was lower than the average daily spend by international visitors of approximately A\$119.92 per day. However, as bicycle tourists stay substantially longer than other tourists, this resulted in a higher average spend per trip of approximately A\$2,598 compared to approximately A\$2,387 for international visitors to NZ.¹

Ability level

- The Munda Biddi Trail suits anyone's cycling ability and pace.
- The Munda Biddi Foundation [website](#) contains information about trip planning according to fitness levels and experience and advice on gear to take, technique and safety.
- The website suggests day rides rated at easy, medium and challenging.
- Maps are available for purchase from the online shop.

Trail Conditions

- A [trail conditions report](#) is published on the Department of Environment & Conservation (DEC) website with current alerts or closures.

Trail Facilities

- Purpose-built cycle-friendly campsites have been built every 30-45km between towns. Campsites have a composting toilet, two water tanks, picnic tables, undercover bike storage facility, sleeping quarters for about 25 people, and cleared tent sites, not accessible by car.
- Nearby public campsites are marked on trail maps and are accessible by car.
- The trail is well marked with markers on yellow posts and trees, every few hundred metres and at critical intersections.

Getting to the trail

- Vehicle access points are marked with a red car on the Munda Biddi maps.
- Some companies run guided tours or can assist with transport. View the [Trail Services Directory](#) for a list of businesses.
- View the website for public transport options: [Mundabiddi Transport](#).

Munda Biddi Trail - Awards and Recognition

- Named as one of the "Ten great cycling routes" around the world: [Lonely Planet](#).
- Named as one of "The 50 best bike rides" by The Independent, UK: [Independent story](#).
- Named as one of the "Top 10 cycle routes" by National Geographic: [National Geographic story](#).
- WA Tourism Awards:
 - 2007 Bronze Medal Winner in the Tourist Attraction Category.
 - 2008 Finalists in the Adventure Tourism Category.
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- Other awards:
 - 2007 Sport and Recreation Industry Awards.
 - 2010 Bicycle Friendly Business Award - Cycling Promotion Fund Bicycle Achievement Awards.

Sponsors

Premier Partner: Alcoa

Gold Partner: Mountain Designs

Bronze Partner: Deuter

Other funding partners include: DEC, Alcoa Australia, Department of Justice, Lotterywest, Waters and Rivers Commission, the Water Corporation and the Department of Local Government and Regional Development.

Other contributing organisations include: The South West Development Commission, Peel Development Commission, Great Southern Development Commission, shires along the trail route, WA Mountain Bike Association, Department of Sport and Recreation, Department for Planning and Infrastructure, Healthway, WestNet, Cycling Promotion Fund.

References

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2. Cycle Tourism Australia. Media Fact Sheet. Cycle Tourism Really Means Business. October 20, 2005.
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4. Faulkes P, Ritchie B, Brown G and Beeton S. Cycle Tourism and South Australia Destination Marketing. CRC for Sustainable Tourism Pty Ltd 2008.
5. Cycle Tourism Australia. Benefits of Cycle Tourism. No date.