

# Day 4: Orford — Swansea

## Highlights

Today's highlight is the openness of the landscape, first of all, and then the spectacular coastal scenery.

## Destination

Swansea is a nice little seaside resort along the coast road. It was founded in 1827 under the name Waterloo Point as an army base and renamed in 1842 to Swansea. The oldest building in the town is Morris' General Store built in 1838. The Swansea Bark Mill was constructed in 1885 to process tree bark for staining leather and is a Museum today. By the way, Swansea belongs to Australia's oldest rural municipality called Glamorgan, founded in 1860.



**Accommodation: XXXX g g g g**

**00 XXXX Street, Swansea 7190**

**Tel: 03-XXXX**

This is a very comfortable and cosy historic B&B. No wonder it won the Tasmanian tourist award in 2006. The breakfast tomorrow morning is unbeatable!



## Breakfast

A continental breakfast is served.



## Provisioning

You can purchase food for the day here or 6km further along in the next town. After that there is nowhere else to shop for the rest of the day, until you arrive at the destination! You can enjoy your picnic in a lovely reserve along the route, close to the water.



## Dinner

You have some options for the evening meal.

A constant quality is served in the Bark Mill, about 700 m from your accommodation. Go down to the main street, turn left and follow the main street. You can't miss it, it's on the left side later at the edge of town.

New is the "Salt Shaker" with a great view but also narrow seating and therefore a high noise level.

There is also "the banc", a bit fancy and we believe overpriced.



## Physical requirements

The strength required is largely dependent on wind direction. Under normal wind conditions today's tour isn't as exhausting as yesterday's. The first and the last section are quite flat however, in the middle section, there are some steep, but not *too* big hills.

## Today's agenda

This section has much less traffic than yesterday. There are many tourists driving around and sometimes they have difficulties driving on the left side of the road or they are looking at the view instead of the road; so take care and don't cycle side by side, even if you haven't seen a vehicle for a long time.

It's only a few kilometres up to the village of Triabunna, where you could visit a little harbour. The highway then leads away from the sea for approx. 25km and goes through an open landscape instead. Just before the final destination you can have a look at 'Spiky Bridge' which was built by convicts and taste the delicious ice cream at a berry farm.

## Day's route description

- ◆ Cycle back to the supermarket where you should stock up your supplies for today.
- ◆ Then continue and cycle over the bridge. Just continue on this road. You will pass a filling station and the Blue Water complex.
- ◆ At 2.5km there is a turnoff to the right to the East coaster Resort and other attractions. Stay on the highway.

 At 4.5km you can see a bay on the right and in the distance you can make out a big cream-coloured pile. All this is woodchips, containing old-growth forests. Lots of it went to Japan for paper production. The monopolist company, Gunns, received about \$30 per tonne while the state only gets \$7 per tonne.

- ◆ At 5.5km you will see the first signpost for Triabunna.
- ◆ At 5.9km go straight over the bridge.

If you want to see the town (which has a nice harbour) turn right just after the bridge (it is signposted to the town enter). A minute later you will find yourself on the main shopping street of this tiny place. To the harbour turn right at the supermarket. When finished cycle back and turn right at the crossroads. Follow the shopping street, and turn left 100m further at the next crossroads.

Less than a kilometre further you are back on the highway, where you turn right.

- ◆ Continue on the Highway. You will pass a Shell service station with a roadhouse attached as well as the *Elphinstone Truck Workshop*. The highway then turns away from the water and leads through a marvellously open plain.
- ◆ At 9.5km, after a pass through rock, there is a lake on the right where it is common to see black swans.
- ◆ At 14km there is an hollow tree with a panel on the right.
- ◆ At 23km you will be at the Yellowstone Creek crossing
- ◆ At 28km the entry to Gumleaf Bush Holidays can be found.

- ◆ At 30km you will notice unusual post-boxes. Follow the arrows to the left.
  - ◆ At 32km the orange-coloured advertising banner of your accommodation in Swansea can be seen on a house wall. There is still a little way to go through....
  - ◆ At 38km you cross the Buxton River with its homestead. Shortly after this you will notice the sea on the right.
  - ◆ At 41km you get to the Mayfield Creek Caravan Park on the beach. This is an idyllic little spot with picnic benches. You should have a break here, at the very latest, because the middle section is coming up with many small hills. By the way, the first ascent (just after the picnic spot) is quite steep, probably the worst one for the day!
  - ◆ At 43km you get a terrific view of the water from the car park on the right, before another 'nasty' uphill section.
  - ◆ At 44km there is a noble Chinese restaurant with accommodation called 'Kabuki at the Sea'.
  - ◆ At 44.5km you will be able to make out the marvellous Kelwedon Beach in the distance.
  - ◆ At 49km Spiky Bridge is on the left. This bridge was part of the road from Swansea to Little Swanport and was built in 1840 by convicts. The interpretation signs will give you more information.
- From here you are on flat ground again, following the shoreline with terrific views of the water.



At 55km is the entrance to Kate's Berry Farm. It's about 1km down a sealed road to the farm but the setting and the ice-cream is well worth it! The serves are quite big, so the small portion (two scoops) is probably more than enough!

At 56km you will see the first signpost to Swansea. Soon the street widens and leads down into the town, passing many signs and houses. At the Caltex filling station (just across from a little supermarket) the road makes a sharp bend to the left and goes around the supermarket. Follow that road.

Just 100 m further, turn into the next street to your left. The house is on your right hand side about 150m up the hill. I am sorry for the up-hill ride!

👉 If you want to join the evening tour to a penguin colony in Bicheno (approx. \$20 pp. for approx. 45 min), you should also book it today by phoning 63 751333 or by calling your accommodation and they will arrange it for you (this won't cost any more). You will be picked up from the accommodation or the restaurant (your choice), times vary, but it will be after dark. Don't forget to take warm clothes with wind protection!

👉 If you want to go to Freycinet National Park by bus the day after tomorrow you should also book it now or by tomorrow at the latest.

**ALTITUDE CHART Orford - Swansea**

