DESIRE
LINES

CYCLING CLUB

First up, a massive thank you for your interest in contributing to desirelinescc. We're stoked you'd like to help build the Australian adventure cycling community by sharing your route, photos, story, and other ideas. These guidelines are here to help answer some of the questions you might have about contributing to the site.

Don't let a bad photo get in the way of a great route!

We're trying to build a space for everyone, and that means we'd like to be inclusive as possible. While we love beautifully crafted language and stunning photography, the last thing we want is for your self-assessed lack of skills behind the camera, or behind the keyboard, to be the thing that stops you from sharing. Cycling is elitist enough already, and we're here to help you.

If you've ridden somewhere rad and want to share, we're here for you. We'll help edit your writing and give you pointers on structure etc. If your photos aren't amazing, maybe ask a friend you rode with, or sling them our way and maybe we can give them a little polish in photoshop.

Use your first article as a starting point and then, if you've enjoyed sharing, start thinking about how you could improve your photos or report next time. You could always do the ride again another time and send us updated photos.

How many words and photos do you need?

There's no one size fits all answer to this question. But roughly speaking, you'll struggle to tell your story in less than 300 words, and any more than 2000 is probably too long for a story on the internet. If the route you're sharing is short, then the writing will probably be shorter. Longer stories, likely equal a longer piece of writing.

We'd like to suggest a minimum of 3 photos for each piece. But if you've only pulled the camera out once on your adventure, and we don't blame you if this is the case, then that one photo might just do it. In terms of an upper limit, that depends on the route/story just like the word count. Generally we'd like to cap the piece at 10 photos, but if more photos will add to the story, then there's flexibility here too.

File sharing and file sizes

We prefer receiving content packaged nicely in a google drive, but we'll accept dropbox links and other file sharing methods. It's easiest if you just share your original/highres files and we can optimise them for web. However if you do want to provide smaller files, then a file around 300kb and no smaller than 1800px on the long edge works.

Language

If you haven't written for the internet before, no worries. Just tell your story as if you were chatting to a mate. Speak in your own voice and use expressions and words that feel natural. If the odd swear word slips through, leave it in there, but please don't cross the line into demeaning, offensive or derogatory language, we just won't publish it.

As part of the editing process, we'll clean up any grammatical errors, add in some subtitles where necessary and let you know if we think the piece needs any additions or reductions.

Route specifics

If you're sharing a route report, please include some details about the start and finish points, where you camped, and water sources (if relevant to the route). If you have the route on ride with gps, please share a link to that to go along with the piece. If not, we can help put together a route file for sharing.

Personal bio

When we publish your piece, we'll include a short bio that you can write about yourself. This will be short and sweet and can say whatever heck you'd like to say about yourself. We'd also appreciate a photo that'll appear alongside. We don't mind if this is a portrait shot, you and your bike, or just your bike. Contributor's choice.

Photo credits and blog links

If you've used someone else's photos, please let us know so we can credit them for these. When we share your story on our instagram page, we'll credit you (or your mate) for the photo and link to your own instagram account. If you also have a personal blog, or represent a cycling brand/business, we're also happy to link to that site too, when relevant.

Further questions

If you want to know more about any of these submission guidelines, want to chat about an idea or just talk bikes, shoot us a message and say hello.

Where to send everything

Please send all files, links, etc to submissions@desirelinescc.com.au.