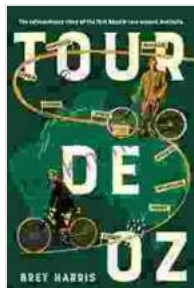


# The Extraordinary Story of the First Bicycle Race Around Australia



**Tour de Oz: The extraordinary story of the first bicycle race around Australia** by Mandy Hubbard

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 3458 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 336 pages

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In 1897, Australia was a vast and unforgiving land. The population was sparse, and the few roads that existed were often rough and treacherous. But for two young men, Alfred Goulet and Tom Finn, these challenges were nothing compared to the thrill of the bicycle race they were about to embark on: a race around the entire continent.

The race was the brainchild of Goulet, a former bicycle racer who had recently returned to Australia after a successful career in Europe. He believed that a race around the country would be the perfect way to promote cycling and to showcase the beauty of the Australian landscape.

Finn, a young and ambitious cyclist, was immediately drawn to the challenge. He had grown up in the Australian outback, and he was confident that he could handle the tough conditions. The two men quickly joined forces and began planning their epic journey.

The race would start in Melbourne and follow the coastline around the country, covering a total distance of over 14,000 kilometers. The route would take the cyclists through some of the most challenging terrain in Australia, including the rugged Simpson Desert and the unforgiving Nullarbor Plain.

Goulet and Finn knew that the race would be a grueling test of their endurance and skill. They trained relentlessly, and they spent months preparing their bicycles for the long journey. They also knew that they would need to rely on the kindness of strangers along the way, as there were few towns and settlements in the remote areas they would be passing through.

On January 26, 1897, Goulet and Finn set off from Melbourne with a small group of supporters. The race was on!

The first few days of the race were relatively easy, as the cyclists followed the coastline through Victoria and South Australia. But as they entered the Northern Territory, the conditions became much more challenging. The roads were rough and dusty, and the heat was oppressive.

Goulet and Finn pushed on, determined to overcome these obstacles. They rode through the night to avoid the worst of the heat, and they often slept in the open, under the stars. They also relied heavily on the kindness of strangers, who offered them food, water, and shelter.

As the race progressed, Goulet and Finn faced a number of setbacks. They had several flat tires, and they even had to replace their bicycles at one point. But they never gave up. They were determined to finish the race, no matter how difficult it became.

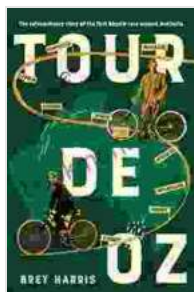
After months of grueling riding, Goulet and Finn finally reached Sydney on November 26, 1897. They had completed the first bicycle race around Australia, a journey of over 14,000 kilometers. They had broken the record for the longest bicycle race ever ridden, and they had proven that anything is possible with determination and perseverance.

Goulet and Finn's achievement was a major milestone in the history of Australian cycling. Their race inspired a new generation of cyclists, and it helped to promote cycling as a popular sport in Australia. The race also helped to put Australia on the map as a cycling destination.

Today, the first bicycle race around Australia is still remembered as an extraordinary achievement. It is a story of courage, determination, and perseverance, and it is an inspiration to cyclists all over the world.

## Further reading

- The First Bicycle Race Around Australia
- The first bike race around Australia: 120 years on
- Around Australia by Bicycle (film)

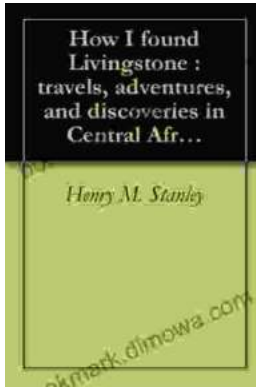


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