

The section of the Omeo Highway between Omeo and Mitta Mitta is widely regarded as one, if not the most demanding and rewarding motorcycle rides in Australia. Running through the Victorian Alps and the Alpine National Park, it combines very technical road riding with remote high-country scenery, making it a bucket-list route for experienced riders.

## **Route Overview and Riding Time**

The distance between Omeo and Mitta Mitta is approximately 108 km, theoretically a driving time of around 1 hour 15 minutes, however, for motorcyclists, this is misleading. The road's constant curves, elevation changes, and scenic stops mean most riders will take between 2 and 3 hours to complete the section comfortably.

The route passes through isolated locations such as Anglers Rest and Glen Valley, with long stretches lacking services or fuel.

## **Curves and Road Character**

This stretch is defined by relentless corners, you will encounter a mix of tight hairpins, medium sweepers and blind bends, often linked together with little or no respite. The road climbs and descends through mountainous terrain, following river valleys and ridgelines.

Community feedback often highlights just how intense the riding is. Comments such as “4 hours of non-stop turns and bends... utterly shattered” are not uncommon.

The section between Mitta Mitta and Glen Wills has historically been particularly tight and repetitive, demanding sustained concentration.

## **Road Surface and Conditions**

The Omeo Highway is now fully sealed, with completion achieved in 2014. However, the surface varies significantly from smooth well-maintained bitumen to occasional rough patches and repaired areas. You will likely encounter rough gravel wash onto corners, especially after rain. Loose debris and blind corners remain a hazard.

## **Speed Limits**

Speed limits vary along the route, generally ranging from 80–100 km/h on open sections, dropping to 60 km/h or lower through tighter curves and settlements. In practice, most riders travel well below posted limits due to the technical nature of the road and limited visibility.

## **Traffic Load**

Traffic is generally very light compared to more famous routes such as the Great Ocean Road. The northern section is particularly quiet, as many vehicles take alternative faster highways.

However, riders should watch for logging trucks and service vehicles, touring motorcycles in groups and occasional caravans and 4WDs.

## **Ideal Time of Year**

The best riding period is between November and April, when weather is milder and roads are clear. Winter presents significant challenges which include snow and ice being common along with road closures. Additionally at the higher elevations the temperature can drop rapidly.

Spring and autumn generally offer excellent riding conditions, with cooler temperatures and far fewer tourists.

## **Suitable Motorcycles**

This road suits a wide range of bikes but some are far better suited to the road:

- Sports and naked bikes: Nimble and ideal for cornering performance.
- Adventure bikes: Excellent for comfort and handling the rough patches.
- Lighter Touring bikes: Suitable but heavier machines will require more effort in tight 25-35kph curve sections

Very large cruisers can be used but limited cornering clearance will mean they'll struggle with the continuous tight bends.

## **Safety Considerations**

Safety is a major concern on this route due to its remoteness and technical difficulty. The key risks include blind corners with limited sight-lines, loose gravel and changing surfaces. Additionally you'll probably encounter wildlife at dawn and dusk.

Also consider that there is limited mobile reception across much of the route and possible rapid weather changes in alpine areas

Fuel planning is critical, there is no fuel between Omeo and Mitta Mitta.

## **Scenery and Viewing Locations**

The ride is visually spectacular throughout, featuring alpine forests and high plains river valleys following the Mitta Mitta River, fabulous mountain vistas and rugged ridge-lines.

Along the way the notable stops include Mount Wills area lookouts, River crossings near Anglers Rest and access points to Lake Dartmouth.

The overall region is known for fishing, camping and hiking, adding to its appeal as a multi-day touring destination.

## **Accommodation and Amenities**

Accommodation options are limited but characterful:

- Blue Duck Inn – a well-known historic pub offering meals and lodging
- Mitta Mitta Hotel – classic country pub accommodation
- Golden Age Motel – basic but convenient lodging

Camping is widely available throughout the Alpine National Park.

Food and coffee stops are sparse, but small cafes and pubs exist in Omeo, Mitta Mitta, and Eskdale.

## **Nearby Towns**

Key towns servicing the route include, Eskdale, Tallangatta and Mount Beauty (via connecting roads). All these towns provide fuel, supplies and additional accommodation.

## **Comparison to Other Australian Rides**

The Omeo Highway is often compared to iconic Australian rides such as the Great Alpine Road which is more accessible but less remote, Black Spur Drive shorter and more polished and the Oxley Highway technically similar riding but with better infrastructure.

The Omeo Highway stands apart in isolation and intensity. It offers fewer services, longer stretches of uninterrupted corners and a stronger sense of wilderness than almost all other similar rides, no wonder many riders consider it the most challenging and rewarding sealed road in Australia.

## **Conclusion**

Riding the Omeo Highway between Omeo and Mitta Mitta is a very demanding but unforgettable experience, endless curves, remote alpine setting and minimal traffic, deliver a pure riding challenge rarely matched.