

Kill Devil mountain bike trial

Kahurangi National Park

Mountain bike trial

Mountain biking is now being trialed for three years (till the end of 2013) in Kahurangi National Park on part of the Kill Devil Track, as shown on the map below.



ADVANCED

A mixture of long, steep climbs, narrow track, poor traction and difficult obstacles to avoid or jump over. Generally exposed at the track outside edge. Most riders will find some sections easier to walk.

Track grade

The Kill Devil is a "there-and-back" one day or overnight ride for advanced (Grade 4) and expert (Grade 5) riders, starting and finishing in Upper Takaka, Golden Bay. It is technically challenging, on rough, remote terrain, and you may need to walk or carry your bike at various points.

The ride

Camp Creek (off Uruwhenua Road, Upper Takaka) to Skeet Creek (13.3 km)

This part of the track is on a former stock route (unformed legal road outside the national park). It is mostly of benched construction with a rock base. Climbing up to the Lockett Range the track is mostly in good condition with minor areas of erosion.

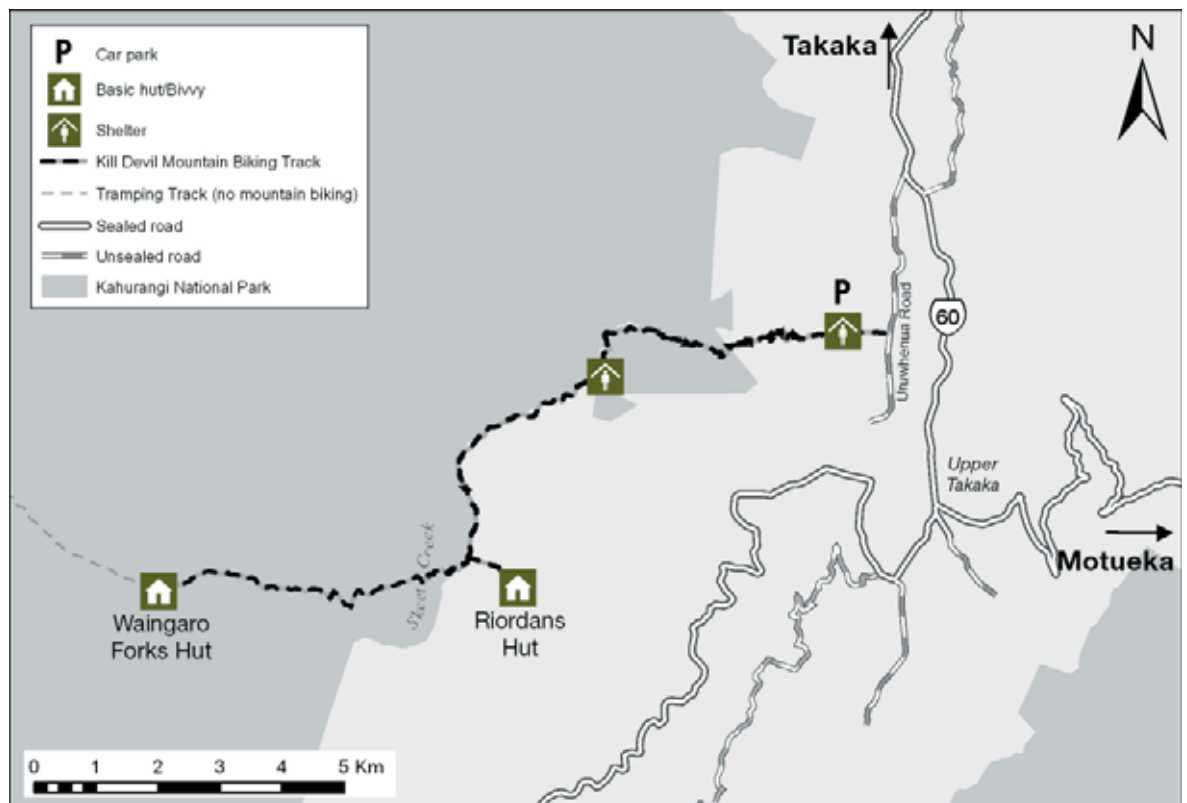
Skeet Creek to Waingaro Forks Hut (5.4 km)

On the Lockett Range the track is characterised by rough rocky sections mixed with short lengths of smooth packed dirt. The track is generally well drained and follows a mixture of moderate to steep gradient along the ridge top. It is a technically challenging ride for an experienced mountain biker with a high level of fitness.



EXPERT

Technically challenging. Giant climbs, narrow track and numerous hazards including dangerous drop-offs, sharp corners and difficult obstacles. Expect walking and possibly bike carrying.





The track can be ridden in a day or you can overnight at either Riordans Hut or Waingaro Forks Hut. Riordans Hut and the branch track to it are on conservation land outside of the national park.

There are spectacular views from the ridge tops of the Lockett Range including west towards the Devil River Peak, Devil Range and down into the Waingaro River Valley. One of the features of the track is the historic huts and shelters which have been or are being restored using techniques sympathetic to the character of the original structures.

The rules

You can ride mountain bikes on part of the Kill Devil track (as identified above):

- all year round during the trial period (to the end of 2013);
- in a group, provided there is no more than six riders in the group;
- at any time of the day.

You are not permitted to take a mountain bike:

- into or out of the national park by helicopter;
- into any huts or shelters;
- beyond the Waingaro Forks Hut;
- off the formed and designated route.

Signs and other markers clearly identify where mountain bikes can be ridden and where they are not allowed. At the Uruwhenua Road end there are several side roads and tracks coming off the legal road across private land. Please stay on the marked track and respect private land.

Please park your motorised vehicle at the designated vehicle parking area off Uruwhenua Road (see the map for the exact location). There will be clear on-site signage indicating vehicle parking areas.

Please remember

Please remember that this mountain biking track is shared with walkers and trampers, and with other bikers who may be coming the other way.

It should be ridden in accordance with the "Mountain Bikers Code".

Comments

If you have any comments to make about this mountain biking trial you can email mbtrialsnm@doc.govt.nz. Or you can contact the Department of Conservation directly.

Mountain Bikers Code

Respect others

- Stay in control. So you can safely avoid others and keep yourself intact. Make sure you can stop within the visible distance.
- Give way to walkers, runners, uphill riders and horses. If the track is narrow, stop and move off the track.
- Signal your approach and pass with care. Walkers don't like being surprised by bikers. Use a bell or a friendly greeting.
- Ride shared-use tracks in small groups. Large groups of a dozen or so riders displace other users. 6–8, or less, is a better number.

Respect the rules

- Ride only where permitted — including those trails that are seasonally closed to protect the surface or minimise conflict with other users. Land managers are generally pretty reasonable so talk with them about issues or ideas you may have.
- Obtain permission from private land owners before you set out.
- Leave gates as you find them.
- Be prepared — take food, water, tools, First Aid and warm clothes. Plan for the unexpected — a change in the weather, an accident or getting lost and being late.

Respect the track

- Don't skid, cut corners or make new lines. Skidding creates water channels that cause erosion. Use both brakes to slow down without skidding as you approach a corner. Cutting corners widens the trail and cuts up the terrain.
- Avoid riding in the mud and rain. Both bikes and walkers damage soft, wet tracks.
- Take rubbish home — like banana skins, old tubes and snack wrappers. Rubbish in the outdoors detracts from everyone's experience.
- Clean your bike to prevent spreading weeds — like gorse and didymo.

For further information

Further information can be found on the Department of Conservation's website www.doc.govt.nz or contact:

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