

Mountain Bike Rides

Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy

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.

Mountain Bike Grading – most rides become more difficult when wet

Easy



Grade 1: Fairly flat wide, smooth or gravel road.

Grade 2: Mostly flat with some gentle climbs on smooth track with easily avoidable obstacles such as rocks and potholes.

Moderate



Grade 3: Steep slopes and/or avoidable obstacles possibly on narrow track and/or with poor traction. There may be exposure at the tracks outside edge.

Grade 4: A mixture of long; steep climbs, narrow track, poor traction and obstacles that are difficult to avoid or jump over. Generally exposed at the tracks outside edge. Most riders will find some sections easier to walk.



Hard



Grade 5: Technically challenging. Giant climbs, narrow track and numerous hazards including dangerous drop-offs, sharp corners and difficult obstacles. Expect walking and possibly bike carrying.

Grade 6: Downhill/free ride specific tracks.

Extremely steep sections with large drop offs and other unavoidable obstacles. May include man-made structures and jumps.



Golden Bay

Aorere Goldfields



20 km round trip, 2-3 hours from the Aorere Goldfields car park, 9 km from Collingwood. The first part of the ride past the goldfields is of intermediate grade. Do not bike on the walking track. Follow the vehicle track to Plain Road and turn left back down to Devils Boots and the Goldfields car park.

Green Hills Track



From Wharariki Carpark, follow the vehicle track through the farm park to Green Hills Stream. Via right around a loop ending back at the carpark

Heaphy Track



2-3 days 78.4 km. Mountain biking is being trialled for three seasons (1 May - 30 September), until 30 September 2013, on the Heaphy Track. A good level of fitness is required, self reliance and an intermediate level of skills, to ride in a backcountry environment across a variety of landscapes.

Kill Devil Track



1 day 18.7 km. "A there-and-back" or overnight ride for advanced (Grade 4) and expert (Grade 5) riders, starting and finishing in Upper Takaka, Golden Bay. Technically challenging, on rough, remote terrain. You may need to walk or carry your bike at various points.

Canaan Downs



Near the top of the Takaka Hill turn off State Highway 60 where it's sign posted Canaan. From the Canaan roadend a variety of trails start for beginner to the advanced rider. Follow the trail markers and signs from the car park.

Knuckle Hill



From Dry Road (Westhaven Inlet), turn off to Knuckle Hill. An old logging track, 6 km takes you to an old carpark. Leave your bike here and continue on foot up the short 20 minute climb to the top of Knuckle Hill for excellent views of Farewell Spit, Westhaven Inlet and Kahurangi National Park.

Pillar Point Lighthouse



From Puponga, continue along Wharariki Road past the turnoff to Puponga Farm Park and

Farewell Spit. A parking sign on the left indicates the carpark for Pillar Point Lighthouse where the track starts. 20 minutes one way.

Rameka Track



65 km round trip via Takaka Hill. From Canaan roadend on the Takaka Hill in Abel Tasman National Park, a rugged track leads downhill to the Rameka Reserve in the Takaka Valley (1-2 hours). It is also possible to return to Canaan via the East Takaka Road back onto State Highway 60 and the Takaka Hill. This loop will take 4-6 hours.

Gibbs Hill



A 10 km one way or 23 km loop ride in Abel Tasman National Park from Totaranui to Wainui. From Wainui carpark either ride the 13 km unsealed road back to Totaranui or arrange for a pick-up. This ride can also be ridden from Wainui to Totaranui. The Totaranui - Gibbs Hill - Wainui ride is a two year trial. Open from 1 May to 1 October. Maximum group size is eight riders. Mountain biking is not allowed on other tracks in the national park.

Motueka and Nelson

Dun Mountain



2-4 hours, 22km return (Third House). Beginning in Brook Street approximately 6km from Nelson city the ride follows the historic Dun Mountain railway line. The purpose built 10km Codgers MTB Trail Network is situated between Tantragee Saddle and Brook Street, with the Dun Mountain Track forming its backbone.

Flora to Barron Flat



1 day. 36.8 km one way. The ride from Flora Saddle to Barron Flat traverses through a variety of landscapes and terrains. It follows a historic pack track, connecting the Flora carpark (Graham Valley Road end, Motueka River valley) with Barron Flat (Upper Takaka, Golden Bay). The track is mostly downhill and so less difficult if you start at the Flora Saddle end.

Fringed Hill



This ride begins at the start of the Dun Mountain Track. A 700m climb up Fringed Hill Rd rewards with a fantastic view - 2-4 hours, 12-18km. Fringed Hill summit is also the starting point for several technical rides into the Maitai Valley, creating 4-8 hour loops back to Nelson city via Maitai Valley Rd.

Hacket Track



From the Hacket Picnic area in Aniseed Valley 16km from Richmond riding the Hacket Track gives options to head to Whispering Falls, grade 2 , 1hour, 8km or Hacket Hut, grade 3, 2 hours, 12km. Another option is to follow the Pelorus Track to Browning Hut.

Hira Forest



Entrance off Maitai Valley Rd where there is access information for this working plantation forest. A map board showing forestry roads and MTB specific trails is situated at the Kaka/Sharlands Rd carpark. Hira Forest offers everything from forestry roads, steep firebreaks, purpose built downhill trails and the 10km Tuckers Trails network at Bobs Fern. This area is suitable for a wide range of abilities from beginner to expert.

Kaiteriteri MTB Park



A network of benched single-track and firebreaks in regenerating native bush that cater for all levels of riding ability. Park entrance is at the Trailer Park off Martins Farm Road, Kaiteriteri. Check at Store or with bike hire operators for trail maps.

Maungatapu Track



Beginning at the top of the Maitai Valley, it's a 4-6 hour trip to Pelorus Bridge. There is a steep descent into the Pelorus Valley from the Maungatapu Saddle (740 m). The Maungatapu Track is a 35km 4WD track.

Wangapeka Valley



Wangapeka River Road as far as Courthouse Flat is an easy and pleasant ride. There are short walks into historic gold workings from Courthouse Flat.

Nelson Lakes

Beebys Knob



9km 3 hour return ride. Turn off State Highway 63 onto the southern end of Tophouse Road, (approximately 8km from St Arnaud). Follow the road to the DOC sign beside the locked gate indicating the start of Beebys Knob Track. The trail follows a 4WD track initially through private land climbing steeply with fantastic views over the upper Wairau Valley. Beebys Hut is 9km from the road end with the track going beyond the hut for another 5km.

Braeburn Road



10.5 km ride. From Lake Rotoroa turn west onto Braeburn Road. The gravel road passes through farmland, stream fords, and beech forest before arriving a few kilometres north of the Tutaki-Matakitaki Valley turn off.

Two further options are available at this point; continue on the gravel road to the Matakitaki Valley (no exit), 35km or the tar sealed road to Murchison, via the Mangles Valley, 22km.

Glenroy Valley



14km one way ride south of Murchison. Head up the Matakitaki Valley to the Glenroy Valley turnoff.

The 4WD road starts here and passes through privately owned farmland, open grassland, and beech forest before arriving at the private Mid Glenroy Hut. The route is unformed and involves numerous river crossings. It should not be attempted after heavy rain. The route continues beyond the hut for another 8km.

Matakitaki Valley



15 km, 4 hour one way ride north of Murchison. Head north to the Mangles-Tutaki Road turn off on State Highway 6. Continue to the South Tutaki Road turnoff and then onto Mt Ella Station. Follow the signs to the carpark.

The 4WD road starts here and follows the true right hand side (looking down stream) of the Matakitaki River passing through privately owned farmland, open grassland and beech forest with a number of side streams to cross before arriving at historic Downie Hut (4 bunks). No cycling beyond this point.

Mt Robert Road



Approximately 2km west of St Arnaud on State Highway 63 is the turn off to West Bay and Mt Robert in Nelson Lakes National Park. Follow the road past the West Bay camp ground, across the Buller Bridge where the seal stops, and up to Mt Robert carpark where good views can be gained of the lake and surrounding district. Bikes are not allowed off the formed roads in Nelson Lakes National Park.

Porika Road



4km ride starts off the Howard Valley road approx 13km west of St Arnaud. The road passes through farmland, stream fords and beech forest before arriving at an excellent viewing point

overlooking Lake Rotoroa. The descent to the township is steep and rough. 1 hour one way.

Teetotal Trails



Approximately 1.5km west of St Arnaud on State Highway 63 is the Ice Skating Pond turnoff. Follow this short road to the ponds and the start of the MTB Teetotal Trails. There has been significant snow damage to trees making the intermediate and advanced trails impassable.

Contact the Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre (03 521 1806) for further information.

Marlborough

Archers Track



A 9 km ride between Elaine and Penzance Bay in Tennyson Inlet. The track follows the coastline and partly through cut over exotic forest. Park in the designated area at Elaine Bay and respect the private driveways.

Branch and Leatham Valleys



Starting from the confluence you can follow 4WD tracks up both these valleys for approximately 20 km. The Leatham Valley has three huts that are bike accessible and the Branch has one or two depending on how adventurous you want to be.

Clarence Reserve



1-2 days 50-100 km 25 km west of Kaikoura. The 4WD track starts on the northern side of the Kahutara River Bridge on SH 70. Return the same way as you came. Pick up a copy of the Clarence Reserve fact sheet from a DOC office in Nelson or Marlborough or print your own from www.doc.govt.nz.

D'Urville Island



Boat transport from French Pass across to Kapowai on D'Urville Island can be arranged through boat operators at French Pass. You can bike to Moawhitu in Greville Harbour. On this retired farm, now part of D'Urville Island Scenic Reserve, there are numerous tracks suitable for mountain bikes and a DOC campsite. Another option for accommodation is the community hall. To book the hall phone Sue Savage (03) 576 5170.

Molesworth Road



200 km Blenheim to Hanmer. Three to four days journey from Blenheim to Hanmer Springs. Permission should be sought from DOC South Marlborough Area Office (03) 572 9100 outside of the open season 28 December to 1 April. Accommodation is available in the Awatere Valley. On Molesworth Station there are camp sites at Molesworth and at Acheron. Mountain bikers need to be completely self-sufficient. An easy alternative to the whole trip is the 56 km Molesworth to Acheron section.

Mt Fyffe



Mt Fyffe summit is 20 km from Kaikoura, a full-on climb from 200 metres to 1602 metres in the space of 8 km up a 4WD track.

Mt Patriarch



14 km ride starting at the Lake Chalice carpark at 1200 metres, follow the 4WD track to the roadend on the flanks of Mt Patriarch, 1460 metres. This 2-4 hour return trip can be turned into a full day by starting from Top Valley.

Nydia Track



27 km, 5-8 hours one-way. This ride can be technically difficult in places. 80-90% rideable starting from Duncan Bay but far less rideable from Kaiuma. Accommodation options at Nydia Bay are: DOC campsite and DOC Lodge (lodge must be booked, contact DOC Picton (03) 520 3002), and private lodges.

Okiwi Bay-Half Moon Bay



4-5 hours, 20 km Loop. Okiwi Bay is 98 km south of Blenheim or 31 km north of Kaikoura and is signposted from SH 1. The tracks are displayed on an orientation sign in the carpark and are well signposted.

Queen Charlotte Track



A 71 km ride with views of Queen Charlotte and Kenepuru Sounds best ridden from Ship Cove to Anakiwa. Boat transport is required to Ship Cove. Private accommodation and DOC campsites are available along the track. Parts of the track are steep and technical with substantial drop offs to the sea below. Anakiwa to Te Mahia and return is a popular day trip combining the track and road.

Note; Ship Cove to Kenepuru Saddle is closed 1 December - 28 February each year.

Rainbow Road



112 km, 1-2 day ride. There are three DOC huts along the way and camping is also available from St Arnaud to Hanmer Springs. Permission does need to be sought for mountain biking from April to Christmas beyond the Rainbow Ski Field turn off. Rainbow Station charges a small fee. Bikers should be self sufficient. Highest point is Island Saddle at 1372 metres.

Waikakaho/Cullen Creek Walkway



33km, 4-6 hour ride following an old gold miners' trail across the range between Wairau Valley and Linkwater. From Waikakaho Carpark to the saddle (800m) allow 1-2 hours, followed by a 2km rough mostly un-rideable section to Cullen bush edge. From here the walkway zigzags to the valley floor. This ride is best ridden from Waikakaho Carpark or be prepared for at least an hour of bike carrying if riding from Linkwater.

Wakamarina Track



From Onamalutu Reserve on the Northbank Road of the Wairau River a 1-2 day track leads through to Canvastown on the Nelson-Blenheim Road, If choosing to spend a night there is Fosters Hut on the main ridge of the Richmond Range and Devils Hut in the Wakamarina Valley is around halfway. 45 km.

More options

Mt Richmond Forest Park

Many of the forest access roads (crown easements) into park are rideable when the forest owners are not harvesting. A list of these roads can be found on the DOC web site www.doc.govt.nz on the Mt Richmond Forest Park plan and prepare page.

The Parkmap, 274-06 edition 2, 2009 for can be purchased from: Nelson Regional Visitor Centre, Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre, Picton i-SITE, from a DOC Area Office in Motueka, Picton or Renwick or by downloading an order form from www.doc.govt.nz and posting the order to the Nelson Regional Visitor Centre.

For further information

Contact:

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