Mountain biking around Nelson Lakes
### MTB track grading

**Easy**
Mostly flat with some gentle climbs on smooth track with easily avoidable obstacles such as rocks and potholes.

**Intermediate**
Steep slopes and/or avoidable obstacles, possibly on a narrow track and/or with poor traction. There may be exposure at the track’s edges.

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

**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.

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**Porika Road**
**MAP 1**
9 km (one way)

Approximately 13 km west of St Arnaud is the Howard Valley turn-off on State Highway 63. Follow the gravel road for about 4 km and turn right into Porika Road.

From here the 4WD road passes through stream fords and beech forest before arriving at an excellent viewing point overlooking Lake Rotoroa. The descent to Rotoroa township is steep and rough. Return the way you came.

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**Braeburn Road**
**MAP 2**
10.5 km (one way)

At Gowan Bridge at Lake Rotoroa, turn west into Braeburn Road. The gravel road passes through farmland, stream fords and beech forest before arriving at the Tutaki-Matakitaki valley turn-off.

Either continue for 35 km on the gravel road to the Matakitaki valley (Note: there is no exit along the road), or follow the tar-sealed road for 22 km to Murchison, via Mangles valley.
The turn-off for the Teetotal Recreation Area's mountain bike trails is about 1.5 km west of St Arnaud on State Highway 6. Follow the short road to the start of the trails, which range from easy to expert. Leave gates as you find them.

The Teetotal mountain bike tracks cross both public conservation land and Nelson Forests Ltd leasehold land and are all multi-use. All visitors must be aware that other people, including hunters, could be in the area. Please report any damage to trails or signs to the Rotoris/Nelson Lakes Visitor Centre.

The Big Bush ridge. Follow east along the ridge to access the top of 1.3 km (one way) the Teetotal Recreation Area's mountain bike trails. The track then meanders through the mature beech forest of the Big Bush conservation area, climbing steadily to the ridgeline. From here you can turn left and follow the Big Bush Track for 3 km before descending steeply to the forestry roads and eventually Teetotal Road. Alternatively, you can turn right and follow the ridge until you get to a junction – from here you can either descend via the technically advanced Duck Down Track or expert riders can use the Rocky Horror Track.

Note: Mountain biking is not permitted beyond Downie Hut.

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Glenroy Valley  MAP 6
14 km (one way)

From Murchison, head south up the Matakitaki valley to the Glenroy Valley Road turn-off. A 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 continues beyond the hut for another 8 km.

**Note:** The gate at the start of the 4WD road on private land is often locked so you are advised to contact the landowner, G Thurlow (03) 523 9436, before starting your ride. The track is unformed with numerous river crossings and should not be attempted after heavy rain.

Further information
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MTB Trails Trust volunteers have helped build the track network and assist the Department of Conservation with track maintenance. To become a Friend of the Trust and assist with this work see www.mtbtrailstrust.org.nz.

Cover image: View back towards Beebys.
Photo: Alan Eskrick