

Gibbs Hill mountain biking

Abel Tasman National Park



Track grade



INTERMEDIATE

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

Length: 10 km one way from Wainui to Totaranui. Can be a 23 km loop using unsealed roads as well as track.

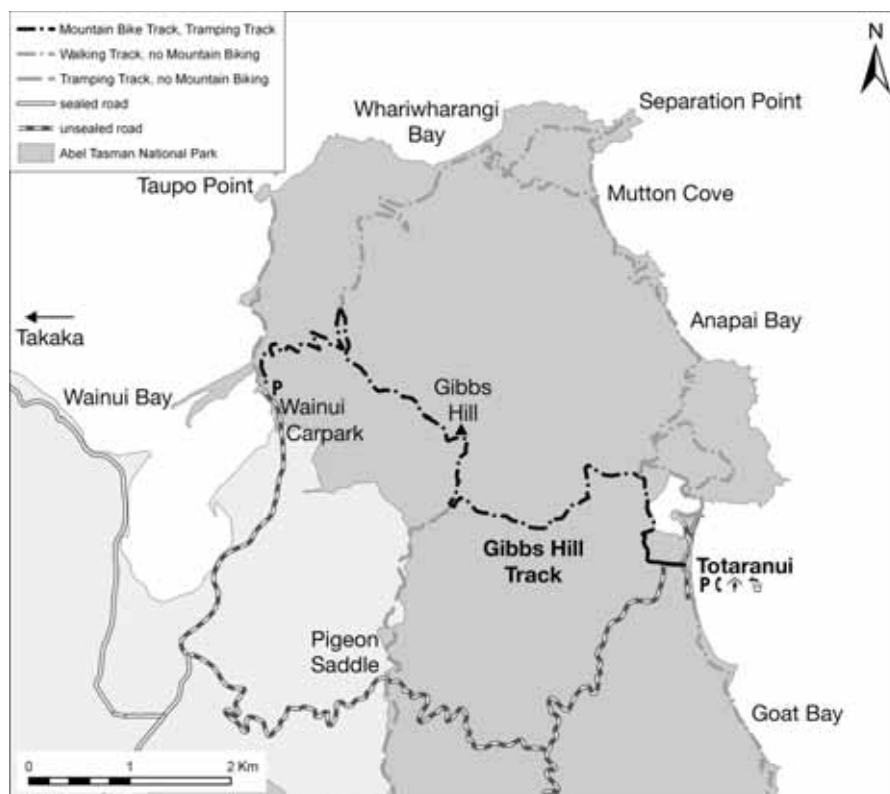
Mountain biking rules

Mountain biking Wainui - Gibbs Hill - Totaranui is allowed from 1 May to 1 October at any time of the day. There is a maximum group size of eight riders. Mountain biking is not allowed on other tracks in the area.

Comments: Forward any comments about Gibbs Hill mountain biking to mbtrialsnm@doc.govt.nz

Other users: Walkers, trampers, hunters.

Getting there: The road-ends of Totaranui and Wainui are north-east of Takaka. Totaranui is 32km from Takaka by road. For the last 13 km the road is unsealed. Wainui is 21 km from Takaka. For the last 2km, the road is unsealed.



Rides

Loop: Wainui – Gibbs Hill – Totaranui – road back to Wainui 23 km, 2 hours 30 min

The circuit is easier to do in a clockwise direction to take advantage of the gentler uphill from Wainui to Gibbs Hill. From Wainui car park follow the Coast Track to the saddle and then turn right up the ridge towards Gibbs Hill. Near Gibbs Hill the track is very steep and most riders will need to walk. If you wish you can leave your bike and take a short walk to the summit. Continue south along the ridge and turn left towards Totaranui at the next intersection. Some sections of this track are steep and slippery in wet weather. It's 10 km of track from Wainui to Totaranui. From Totaranui use the road for the 13km return to Wainui.

Totaranui - Gibbs Hill return 9 km

From the Totaranui camp office, follow the avenue road and then Abel Tasman Coast Track past the Ngarata Homestead north towards Anapai. At 1.4km just past the concrete bridge turn left at the start of the Gibbs Hill track. The track crosses a ford before a 3km long uphill section begins which has steep sections. At the ridge and next intersection, turn right to Gibbs Hill. From the saddle leave your bike and follow a narrow track to the summit a few minutes walk away. Great views. Return the same way.

Please remember

Other users: Gibbs Hill track is shared with walkers and trampers (particularly on the section of the Coast Track at the Wainui end), and with other bikers who may be coming the other way.

Gorse: There is gorse next to the track. The native forest is regenerating from historical clearance. Gorse is a nurse crop in the regeneration process. Take plenty of patches and/or spare tubes in case of punctures due to gorse thorns.

For further information

Department of Conservation
Golden Bay Area Office
62 Commercial St, Takaka 7110
PO Box 166, Takaka 7142
Ph: (03) 525 8026, Fax: (03) 525 8444
Email: goldenbayao@doc.govt.nz

Department of Conservation
Nelson Regional Visitor Centre
Millers Acre/Taha o te Awa
79 Trafalgar Street, Nelson 7010
Ph: (03) 546 9339
Email: nelsonvc@doc.govt.nz

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.