Respect others, respect the rules, respect the track

Follow the mountain biking rules below.

- You are not permitted to take a mountain bike into any hut or shelter, or onto hut porches.
- Stay on the formed and designated mountain bike tracks.
- Electric bikes are not allowed on the track.
- Bikers must give way to walkers.
- Night riding is not permitted.

You are responsible for:
- obeying the mountain bikers code. The track is shared with hikers and other bikers – show respect for other users.
- following signs and other markers that clearly identify where mountain bikes can be ridden and where they are not allowed.

Can I do it?
The Heaphy Track is a tough ride – to ride safely you need to be fit, experienced and have good equipment. The track is suited to riders with advanced skills (Grade 4). Read up on the distance, remoteness and the technical skills needed for wet and cold weather before deciding to ride the track.

You can expect:
- a well-formed 78.4 km track, maintained to the Department of Conservation’s Great Walk standard.
- to spend two nights on the track. There are bike stands at Perry Saddle, Saxon, James Mackay and Heaphy huts.
- changeable weather, including extremely cold temperatures, rain, wind and possibly snow. There are steep slopes, many bridges, avoidable obstacles and sections of track prone to deep flooding.
- some rough track on the West Coast side. This area is more vulnerable to damage from rutting and erosion.

MTB grade: Advanced (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 track’s outside edge. Most riders will find some sections easier to walk.

Mountain bike through tussock landscapes, lush forest and beside roaring seas on the Heaphy Track. Walkers and mountain bikers share the track between 1 May and 30 November. Biking is not allowed at other times.

3 days and 2 nights
Brown Hut to Perry Saddle Hut 17.5 km, 2 hr 30 min
Perry Saddle Hut to Saxon Hut 12.4 km, 2–3 hr
Saxon Hut to James Mackay Hut 11.8 km 2–3 hr
James Mackay Hut to Lewis Hut 12.5 km, 1–2 hr
Lewis Hut to Heaphy Hut 8 km, 1 hr 30 min – 2 hr 30 min
Heaphy Hut to Kohaihai Shelter 16.2 km, 3–4 hr

Photo: Shakey Finger Photography – Stephen Roberts

Photo: Helibike Nelson

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