

THE GENTLE CYCLING COMPANY

ROUTE INFORMATION : THE GREAT TASTE TRAIL RAIL ROUTE & COASTAL ROUTE

Last updated: 12/2/15

The first two sections of the Great Taste Trail are completed, making a total of 87.5km of off-road trail so far. The Great Taste Trail route is marked from the Nelson iSite. The trail follows the Old Railway Route from the city to Stoke. The Gentle Cycling Company is situated less than 1km from the trail in Stoke, 9km from the iSite. Just south of Stoke, the trail splits into the Rail Route (to travel south to Brightwater and Wakefield) and the Coastal Route (to travel west to Mapua, Motueka and Kaiteriteri).

The Great Taste Trail surface includes asphalt, gravel and a little sand. In some areas the trail runs along the side of a road, separated by a grass verge. There is one short section where the trail runs along a wide road shoulder with no separation. The trail also uses shared cycle/walk ways. There are some sections where the trail is on road when traffic volumes are very low. Trail widths range between approximately 1.5 and 3 metres.

THE RAIL ROUTE

The Gentle Cycling Company to Wakefield 22km

> The Gentle Cycling Company to Brightwater 14km

Easy grade, flat terrain, asphalt & gravel surface

From The Gentle Cycling Company, you can take the Old Railway Route cycle trail to the Great Taste Trail, which is initially a separated asphalt trail running alongside the state highway. This continues to a point near the town centre of Richmond. After crossing a main road at traffic lights the trail carries on along the back of the town following an old railway route. The surface then changes to gravel for the remainder of the ride to Brightwater. There are two short sections on very quiet roads. Near Brightwater, a suspension bridge crosses the Wairoa River. The last section follows a gravel road and then an asphalt road and a small alleyway into the village.

> Brightwater to Wakefield 8km

Easy grade, flat terrain, gravel surface

From Brightwater the route to Wakefield is straight almost all the way. For most of the route, the gravel trail runs alongside and separated from the road. A short section dips and climbs through farmland and native bush before emerging onto the road into the village.

Highlights:

Wineries, winery cafes. Heritage rural landscapes. Historic architecture: farm buildings, houses, churches. Charming villages of Brightwater and Wakefield.

Foodie tips:

Stop off for a glass of local craft beer, detour to a cheese shop, call at a café in a vineyard just 50 metres off the trail or take some more detours and visit wineries all the way to Brightwater.



THE COASTAL ROUTE

The Gentle Cycling Company to Mapua 22km

> The Gentle Cycling Company to Rabbit Island foreshore 17km

Easy grade, flat terrain, asphalt & gravel surface

From The Gentle Cycling Company, you can take the Old Railway Route cycle trail to the Great Taste Trail, which is initially a separated asphalt trail running alongside the state highway. There is a trail junction 2.5km from The Gentle Cycling Company. Turn right for the Coastal Trail, which is a gravel trail following the edge of the estuary. There is a short section on a road with very infrequent traffic but otherwise the meandering route includes boardwalks, a stop bank section and a suspension bridge. The last section to the Rabbit Island beachfront is a trail which is well separated from the road on the edge of a pine plantation.

> Rabbit Island foreshore to ferry landing 5km

Easy grade, flat terrain, gravel & sand surface

This section follows the beachfront along the foreshore to the western tip of the island where the ferry landing is situated. The trail is gravel with a little sand in places. The ferry crosses to the Mapua Wharf once an hour and takes about 10 minutes. The ferry is occasionally cancelled during high winds.

Highlights:

Boardwalks, estuary birds (including spoonbills). Safe swimming at Rabbit Island. Ferry crossing

Foodie tips:

Relax with a craft beer or cider in the retro café at McCashins Brewery in Stoke. Take a short detour off the trail to visit a vineyard or relax on a picnic blanket at a café in a paddock. Relax on the wharf at Mapua with a craft beer and some smoked fish

Mapua to Motueka 26 km

> Mapua to Tasman village 10km

Easy grade, flat & hilly terrain, asphalt & gravel surface

From Mapua the trail starts on the wharf and follows the street, then a shared cycleway/walkway before taking a gravel trail through to the beachfront. The gravel trail continues along the beachfront to Ruby Bay. The next section again follows a street, a shared cycleway/walkway and then a road. There is a short hill climb here and a gravel section leads onto another road which meanders gently downhill, passing apple orchards and olive groves. The last section into Tasman village is a gravel trail.

> Tasman village to Lower Moutere 11km

Intermediate grade, moderately hilly terrain, gravel surface

From Tasman village the trail leaves the flat. There is a steady uphill section of approximately 3 km. The next section of 4.5km has a few steep ups and downs while climbing to the high point of 100m above sea level from where there is a panoramic view of the surrounding countryside and mountain ranges. This section is exposed and can be hot. The last section is a gentle gravel road downhill through farmland and the Riverside Community.

> Lower Moutere to Motueka 5 km

Easy grade, flat terrain, asphalt & gravel surface

From Lower Moutere, the first section of the trail runs along the shoulder of a highway. At time of writing, this section is not separated from the highway. The next section takes a shared cycleway/walkway to the outskirts of Motueka.

Highlights:

Great views. Rambling café gardens and tame eels. Craft galleries. Detour to Kina Peninsula. Apple orchards, vineyards, olive groves. Motueka coastal trail and sandspit with significant bird species.

Foodie tips:

Stop off at some of the cafes. Call in to a local store selling regional produce

Motueka to Kaiteriteri 17.5 km**> Motueka to Riwaka 10km**

Easy grade, flat terrain, asphalt surface

Entering Motueka township, the trail follows the footpath for a short distance. The next section is a gravel trail, then it is footpath again before reaching the estuary foreshore. The foreshore trail is a meandering gravel trail of approximately 5 km. The last section is sand, following the edge of the Motueka Sandspit and Raumanuka Scenic Reserve. From here the trail follows quiet roads and shared cycleway/walkways to Riwaka.

> Riwaka to Kaiteriteri 7.5km

Intermediate grade, flat & hilly terrain, gravel surface

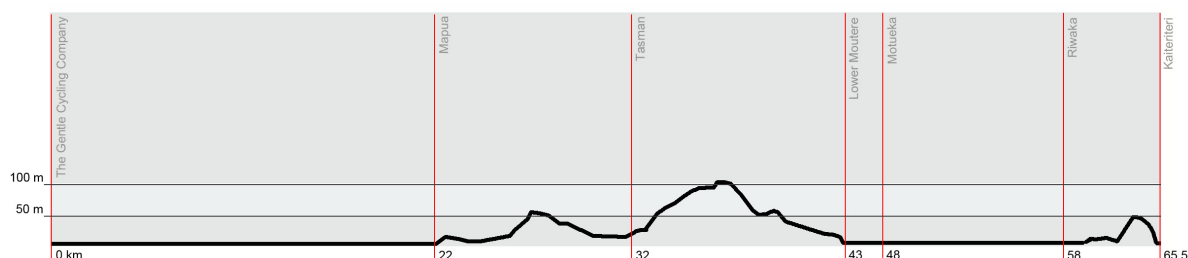
From Riwaka, the first section of the trail is well separated from the highway. There is then a short section on a gravel road before passing through a private kiwifruit orchard. After following the estuary edge on a gravel trail and boardwalks the route rises and falls on a trail along the edge of the road. An underpass provides access to the last section which uses an existing trail through the Kaiteriteri Mountain Bike Park. This 3.1km section is surfaced with compacted sand and is at least one metre wide. It climbs and drops and there are some tight, banked corners where less experienced cyclists, tandem riders or those on bikes pulling trailers may need to dismount. Some prefer to walk through the mountain bike park. The last short section into Kaiteriteri is on the road and then on a path next to the road

Highlights:

Fruit orchards and interesting farm buildings. Coastal trail and boardwalks. Bush trail, views of golden sands at Kaiteriteri Beach and a swim when you get there!

Foodie tips:

Stop off for fruit at a trailside fruit stall for melons, cherries, apples, nashi and plums. Cafes and stylish craft brewery in Riwaka.



The Great Taste Trail - signage, surfaces & terrain



Signage at the start of the Coastal Route near Richmond



Trail with hidden driveways on the Coastal Route



Trail with barrier separation on the Coastal Route



On-road trail on the Rail Route

On-road trail on the Coastal Route



Hill section on the Coastal Route, between Tasman village and Lower Moutere



Hill section on the Coastal Route, between Tasman village and Lower Moutere



View from the summit of the hill section on the Coastal Route, between Tasman village and Lower Moutere



Beach-front trail on the Coastal Route near Motueka



Kaiteriteri Mountain Bike Park section on the Coastal Route, near Kaiteriteri



Kaiteriteri Mountain Bike Park section on the Coastal Route, near Kaiteriteri



Kaiteriteri Mountain Bike Park section on the Coastal Route, near Kaiteriteri

