

THE GENTLE CYCLING COMPANY

ROUTE INFORMATION : THE GREAT TASTE TRAIL PIGEON VALLEY LOOP & MOUTERE LOOP

Last updated: October 2014

PIGEON VALLEY LOOP

The Pigeon Valley loop uses an on-road link route from Wakefield to Woodstock and on to Motueka near Riwaka. This official NZ Cycle Trails route is recommended for confident, experienced cyclists with a good level of fitness as it includes a gravel section up and over the Pigeon Valley saddle (326m.) The best direction to ride the Pigeon Valley Loop is to head south to Wakefield, as the Motueka Valley is a very gentle downhill all the way when riding in this direction. A shorter on-road route (see Moutere Loop below) links Mapua through Upper Moutere.

The Great Taste Trail begins at 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 and Kaiteriteri.)

THE RAIL ROUTE

The Rail Route is complete to Wakefield

The Gentle Cycling Company to Wakefield 22km

The route to Wakefield via Brightwater is virtually flat. The trail surface is asphalt and gravel. The trail takes a very quiet road for two short legs, with the rest using an old rail corridor or running alongside and separate from the road.

> The Gentle Cycling Company to Brightwater 14km

From The Gentle Cycling Company the Old Railway Route cycle trail links with the Great Taste Trail Coastal Route. The flat trail continues to Brightwater and is off-road apart from two short sections on very quiet roads.

> Brightwater to Wakefield 6 km

From Brightwater the route to Wakefield is virtually straight all the way. It is off-road apart from the last short section into the village.

Highlights:

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

Foodie tips:

Take time for some wine tasting along the way or enjoy lunch in one of the cafes along the trail. Visit a cheese shop or linger in a beer garden and try the craft beer made with local Nelson hops.

ON-ROAD SECTION

The section from Wakefield to Motueka via Pigeon Valley and Woodstock is on roads

Wakefield to Woodstock 31km

This section includes 14km of gravel over the Pigeon Valley Saddle (325m). The road can be very dusty in summer and while it is generally quiet, it does get used by logging trucks at times. There are no shops or cafes between Wakefield and Riwaka / Motueka.

Highlights:

Soft, lush farming landscapes. Sheltered valleys, old hop kilns and interesting farm buildings.

Foodie tips:

Stock up with food and drink at Wakefield because there are no shops or cafes on this leg. Linger over lunch at a café with a pretty garden courtyard or sit street-side and watch the life of the village over a pizza.

Woodstock to Motueka 32km

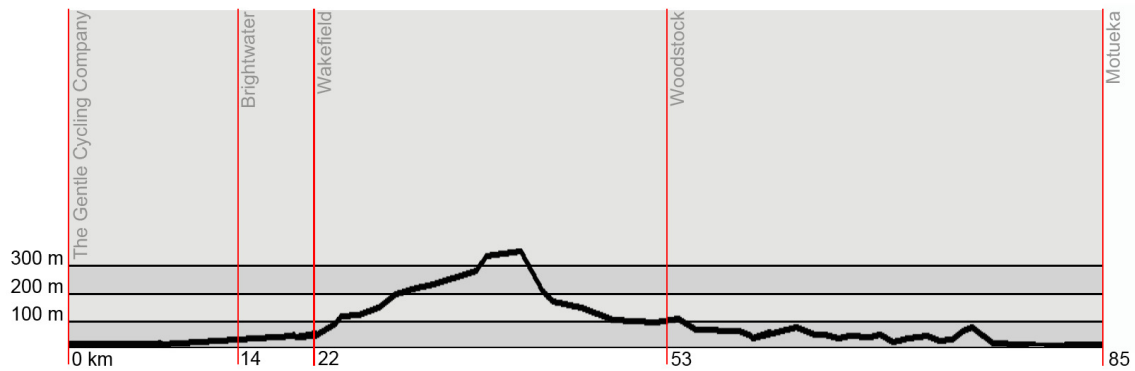
At Woodstock, the route crosses the Motueka River to follow the west bank on a road that is generally quiet. It is asphalt and a gentle downhill virtually all the way to Motueka. The route meets the Great Taste Trail Coastal Route between Riwaka and Motueka.

Highlights:

A beautiful, easy ride following a lush river valley. Hop gardens and hop kilns, interesting old homes and farm buildings. Raumanuka Reserve Restoration Project and sandspit.

Foodie tips:

There are no cafes until either Riwaka or Motueka. So bring a picnic as there are plenty of shady spots beside the river.



MOUTERE LOOP

The Moutere Loop follows the same route from Wakefield taking Pigeon Valley Rd for 26.5km to Dovedale. Here, the route turns off to take Neudorf Rd through to Upper Moutere village. From Upper Moutere the route follows the rolling foothill before the last beautiful descent to Mapua. From Dovedale to Mapua the route is asphalt and uses quiet roads.

Dovedale to Upper Moutere 15km

Leaving the Dovedale Valley, the route climbs slowly to a 226m saddle. The remainder of the ride through to Upper Moutere down Neudorf road is gently undulating. The last 3km into Upper Moutere is on a secondary road with no shoulder which can be busy during holiday periods.

Highlights:

The Neudorf Valley is a beautiful area for cycling, with vineyards, olives and charming rural homesteads. Upper Moutere Village is a must-visit for foodies and art-lovers. Visit a stylish pottery gallery and pantry store. Visit a gallery in a beautiful old school house in the valley.

Foodie tips:

Enjoy a tasting tray of local craft beer at the oldest pub in NZ. Visit a vineyard for premium wines in an achingly beautiful setting

Upper Moutere to Mapua 13km

Leaving Upper Moutere the route again takes a secondary road for 3km. (The road has no shoulder and can be busy during holiday periods). The remainder of the route is on quiet roads with one gravel section of approximately 2 km. The route travels across rolling foothills and then takes an underpass under Highway 60. From here the ride is downhill to the coast at Mapua.

Highlights:

Stop in at a winery with a gallery dedicated to the paintings of a Nelson artist of national significance. Savour the views of Tasman Bay during the gentle ride from the Moutere foothills down to Mapua.

Foodie tips:

Enjoy a vineyard platter and a glass of wine in one of the most beautiful sites in the Nelson Tasman region.

